



*Inspiring Minds  
Empowering Achievement  
Building Community*

# GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**KUSUM SINHA, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

November 19, 2020

Dear Garden City School Community,

I am writing to inform you of two additional positive COVID-19 cases (one at the MS and one at the HS) that were reported to us today. This brings our total number of positive cases within our schools to 17, of which 11 were reported since last weekend. The increase this week stems from cases within families. With each case, we continue to work closely with the Nassau County Department of Health to investigate close contacts and determine our next steps.

The overall number of positive cases in our schools continue to remain low, and we are able to follow our strong contact tracing and cleaning protocols to keep our schools open. This week we have heard from parents who have expressed fears and concerns regarding the increase in positive cases in our District. While this is understandable, please know most of these cases originated from a contact outside of our schools. We believe that our schools are a safe place for students as we have strong safety measures in place, such as cleaning and disinfecting protocols, mask wearing, social distancing, and hand hygiene. If there are any parents who want their child to move to a fully remote schedule, please contact your building principal.

You may have heard about New York City closing its schools yesterday. At this time, we plan to keep our schools open because our positive case numbers are low and we have not received any such directive.

The Governor and New York State Department of Health have put in place a micro-cluster plan to mitigate COVID-19, as I shared at the BOE meeting Tuesday evening. The micro-cluster plan designates areas with high transmission rates into yellow, orange or red zones. The zones are based on a 10-day rolling average of positive COVID-19 testing results in each specific geographic (zip code) area. If you are not familiar with the State's micro-cluster strategy, you can read more about it [here](#).

The State determines our status based on how our entire community is faring, not just the number of cases connected to our schools. At present, we don't fall into any of the micro-cluster zones.

Please see the chart for requirements if our transmission rates cross into any of the zones.

Yellow Zone	Orange Zone	Red Zone
<p>Geographic area has 7-day rolling average positive COVID-19 testing average above 2.5% for 10 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schools can remain open with 20% testing of in-person students and staff.</li></ul>	<p>Geographic area has 7-day rolling average positive COVID-19 testing average above 3% for 10 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School buildings must close for at least four days.</li><li>• In order to reopen, ALL students, faculty, and staff must test negative before returning to campus.</li><li>• Following reopening, schools will be required to provide weekly testing results of 25% of the combined student, faculty, and staff population.</li></ul>	<p>Geographic area has 7-day rolling average positive COVID-19 testing average above 4% for 10 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School buildings must close for at least four days.</li><li>• In order to reopen, ALL students, faculty, and staff must test negative before returning to campus.</li><li>• Following reopening, schools will be required to provide weekly testing results of 25% of the combined student, faculty, and staff population.</li></ul>

Below are some helpful links to help you understand the micro-cluster metrics and school guidelines.

[Micro Cluster Metrics](#)

[School Guidelines for Yellow, Orange and Red Zones](#)

[Garden City School COVID Information](#)

It has been reported that the Nassau County transmission rate is increasing. It has been at 3.1% for the past six days. We monitor this rate on a daily basis and we will inform our community of any news that will impact our District. The impact of being designated in any of the zones will be challenging.

I will continue to keep you updated with any important developments and I thank you again for your continued partnership in keeping our entire school community safe and healthy for our children.

Sincerely,

*Kusum*

Kusum Sinha, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools