



December 11, 2020

Dear Green Chimneys School Families,

On Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, the New York State Department of Health updated its guidance for schools in relation to Orange and Red Zones. With continued review of positivity rates in school settings, they have determined that schools in these designated zones may remain open if they adhere to updated testing requirements. Please see requirements below:

### **Schools in an Orange Zone**

For schools located in a geographic area designated as an Orange Zone, a total of 20% of in-person students, faculty and staff must be tested for COVID-19 over the one month period following the zone designation. The numbers tested should be proportionately spread across the month with 10% the maximum/minimum to be tested biweekly.

### **Schools in a Red Zone**

For schools located in a geographic area designated as a Red Zone, a total of 30% of in-person students, faculty and staff must be tested for COVID-19 over the one month period following the zone designation. The numbers tested should be proportionately spread across the month with 15% the maximum/minimum to be tested biweekly.

### **Schools in either an Orange or Red Zone**

If the random sampling generates 9 or more positive cases in any school, or if for a sample size of more than 300 weekly tests, achieves a positivity rate of 2% or higher (6 cases or more depending on sample size) in New York City, or 3% (9 or more cases depending on sample size) outside of New York City, of one such discrete sample, then the school will be required to return to remote instruction.

**The new guidance also states that if your child's home district is located within a Red or Orange Zone, and Green Chimneys is not designated as such a zone, they may continue to attend in-person instruction without having to test.**

***At this time, our community has not been designated as Orange or Red.*** We will send notification if this should change.

Please complete the attached consent, if you have not already done so, and email to [Cburkhart@greenchimneys.org](mailto:Cburkhart@greenchimneys.org)

Sincerely,

Jerry Newell  
School Principal

\* On October 6, 2020, Governor Cuomo implemented a new cluster action initiative to address COVID-19 hot spots that have cropped up. This science-based approach will focus on addressing these clusters and aims to prevent further transmission of the virus, and includes new rules and restrictions directly targeted to areas with the highest concentration of COVID-19 cases and surrounding communities. The initiative divides clusters and the areas around them into three categories – the cluster itself (red zone), a warning zone (orange zone), and a precautionary zone (yellow zone).



## **AUTHORIZATION FOR COVID TESTING**

NAME OF CHILD:

DOB:

I am giving authorization for my child to receive COVID rapid testing. Results are held by Green Chimney's Health Center and part of my child's health record. Results will be reported to the Department of Health, as required.

This consent is active until my child is discharged or until it is revoked in writing.

Parent/Guardian Name:

Signature:

Date: