



Office of Family and Community Empowerment

Dear Parent Leaders,

We hope that you, your children, and loved ones are doing well. As you know, out of an abundance of caution, and to keep all NYC students, staff and families safe, we've had to take action to stop the spread of COVID-19, including closing all school buildings in areas experiencing elevated rates of COVID-19 transmission.

New York State has issued restrictions for hotspots of virus transmission and guidance around the closing of schools in affected areas. Many Education and Presidents Council members joined Dr. Jay Varma and Deputy Chancellors Adrienne Austin and LaShawn Robinson on Thursday night for a briefing on the COVID-19 testing process, and we thank you for attending and raising your questions and concerns.

Don't worry if you missed it – we've included the information and resources from last night in this week's wrap up. We have taken those questions from the chat feature of the webinar and working with agency partners to get responses.

UPDATES

COVID-19 Zone Finder

New York City released the "[Find Your Zone](#)" map. A new tool to help New Yorkers find out which COVID-19 cluster zone they may live, work or go to school in. Enter an address or intersection or click on the map to find out whether you are in a COVID-19 zone and get informed about the proper precautions to take for specific activities.

Monthly Random COVID-19 Testing Program

Keeping school buildings open depends upon awareness of and immediate action on any COVID-19 concerns in our buildings. To do this, we need students and staff in our buildings to get tested! That's why we're bringing testing directly into schools beginning today. Our testing partners will come to district schools, every month, and test a randomly selected group of staff and students from grades 1-12. The number of people to be tested will depend on the size of the school.

This testing initiative is organized by our partners at NYC Health + Hospitals, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and the NYC Test & Trace Corps. In addition to the random monthly testing, we are also working hard to offer in-school testing later this year for students who are showing symptoms of COVID-19, or are a confirmed close contact of someone in the school who has tested positive. The test is easy, quick, and safe. The whole test will take about two minutes. For more information, please see the [presentation](#) from yesterday's parent leader briefing on random testing in schools. We will share answers from the questions raised in the event's chat and Q/A session soon. Here are additional resources:

- See the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about the testing program

- If you have a [NYC Schools Account \(NYCSA\)](#), you can complete the consent form electronically through the web application. If you revoke consent for testing through NYCSA, please notify your child's school as well.
 - Don't have a [New York City Schools Account](#)? Get one today!
- Read the letter from [Chancellor Carranza about the testing](#) (translations also available).
- Paper consent forms are available [here](#).
- Video: [NYC Schools will keep our kids safe](#)
- Video: [5 Things to Know About COVID Testing in Schools](#)
- Video: [Sign your consent form for COVID testing in schools](#)
- Video: [What do you do if your child is sick?](#)
- Video: [Can Children Get and Transmit COVID-19?](#)

Medical News Resources from Dr. Jay Varma

For those of you who were able to attend Thursday's Parent Leader Briefing on COVID-19 Testing with DC Robinson, DC Austing and Dr. Varma, thank you for joining us. If you were unable to make the event, you can watch the recording [here](#). The PowerPoint presentation can be found [here](#).

- Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center - <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>
- Resolve to Save Lives / Prevent Epidemics - <https://preventepidemics.org/>
- World Health Organization - <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- Public Health Agency of Canada - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>
- European CDC - <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19-pandemic>

New York State Issues More Guidance on School Closures

On Tuesday, the State introduced new restrictions for hotspot areas experiencing spikes in COVID-19 cases. The new restrictions were divided into three color-coded zones — red, orange, and yellow — each with different rules for gatherings, schools, and businesses. School buildings in the Red and Orange zones (124 schools across 169 sites in Brooklyn and Queens) are closed for two weeks, transitioning to remote learning for all students. School buildings in the Yellow Zone will remain open and will begin weekly testing of teachers and staff next week. *Note: Some schools in the yellow zone had closed earlier this week, and out of an abundance of caution, they will remain closed.*

- List of schools that are closed for at least a two-week period starting 10/8: <https://on.nyc.gov/3jKPfiE>
- Map of school buildings closed for COVID infections: <https://on.nyc.gov/2Gw74nw>

Gifted and Talented Announcement

In prior school years, schools with district or grade 3 gifted and talented (G&T) programs have had a dedicated gifted and talented class. This year, given COVID-19-related programming and staffing challenges, many schools cannot maintain separate remote and blended gifted and talented classes for each grade. Thus, where flexibility is needed in serving students in district and grade 3 G&T programs for the 2020–21 school year, the following options are available:

- Students may be continued to be programmed in separate gifted and talented classes or;

- Students may be programmed in general education classes
Where students are programmed in general education classes, students identified as placed in a district or grade 3 G&T class should receive services in the form of differentiated instruction with adjustments to content, process, products, and activities from a teacher who has knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of gifted students. Principals and teachers have received instructional guidance, that provides strategies and instructional practices for challenging all students, including students in gifted programs.

October PA/PTA/SLT Elections

The election of parent members to the school's SLT is done at the same election meeting as the PA/PTA election but follows the election of PA/PTA officers. This ensures that SLTs will be hold their meetings in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-655.

Title 1 Timeline and Upcoming Trainings

Training opportunities on Title 1 programing will take place beginning October 19th through October 30th. All School Leadership Team (SLT) members, including principals, UFT chapter leaders, PA/PTA presidents, and the Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC) chairperson or designee, and other parent leaders are encouraged to attend these trainings.

Principals and staff will be given more information about the trainings in upcoming weekly digests.

In advance of this training, please see a summary of the Title I timeline:

- By October 30: Principals (or their designee) conduct Annual Title I Parent Meeting.
- By October 31: Principals (or their designee) facilitate PA/PTA elections.
- By November 20: Principals hold the meeting of parents to establish a Title I PAC; the PA/PTA president facilitates the meeting, explains the role of the Title I PAC, and conducts election of the Title I PAC chairperson and alternate.
- By November 30: Principals complete this survey attesting that they conducted the Annual Title I Parent Meeting and identify the names of Title I PAC chairperson and alternate.
- By March 1: Principal ensures all Title I one-percent set-asides are fully encumbered before the budget modification deadline in March.

Implementation of Mandatory Furloughs of Unrepresented/Managerial Employees Announced

On September 29, 2020, Mayor de Blasio signed a [Citywide Mayoral Personnel Order](#) that requires all managerial and non-union City employees to take five (5) unpaid workdays as furlough during the period from October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

DOE Meals for NYC Families – Students and Adults

NYCDOE is providing meals Remote Learning Students may pick up a free breakfast and lunch at select locations. The parents/guardians of those students may also pick up the take-out meals. Take-out meals for students and other NYC children will be available on school days from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. No registration, ID, or documentation required.

- Find [a Take-Out Meal Location Near You](#) (schools.nyc.gov/takeoutmeals)
- See what's on the menu for free [breakfast](#) and [lunch](#) this month.
- Dates, locations, and menus are subject to change.

Any New Yorker can pick up free meals from 200+ @NYCschools locations across the city. Please visit the [community meals](#) page for more information on meals for all New Yorkers.

UFT/DOE Reach Agreement

The DOE and UFT developed a joint [Memorandum of Agreement](#) that outlines duties and working conditions for all UFT-represented employees during the COVID-19 crisis. The MOA includes information about the following: Parent Teacher Conferences, per session, Operational and Grievance Processes. In addition, it outlines new information relative to teacher programs, related service providers, itinerant staff, the Centrally Funded IEP teacher, and paraprofessional duties during the COVID-19 crisis. Finally, the MOA details when UFT represented employees may perform work remotely.

DOE Is Purchasing an Additional 100K Devices – Sign-up Now

The DOE has loaned more than 320,000 internet-enabled iPads to students since transitioning to remote learning. We have made great strides in closing the digital divide and getting devices into the hands of our students who need them. In an effort to ensure that all students have access to electronic devices this school year, DOE has purchased an additional 100,000 internet-enabled iPads. If you need a device for your child for the fall, please [complete this form](#).

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Events for Parents/Caregivers

Immigrant Family Forums, October 28th & 29th

Join the New York City Department of Education, ImmSchools and Access NYC to discuss resources available to best support immigrant students and families, regardless of immigration status. We welcome ALL to this forum including educators, families, students, and caregivers with different types of immigration statuses including TPS holders, people who are undocumented, DACA recipients, asylum seekers, and others.

- Attendees will remain anonymous; no information will be collected.
- Topics will include: Protections in DOE schools regardless of immigration status, College Access & adult education, Emotional supports, Legal resources, Q&A

October 28th @ 6-7:30pm [Flyer](#)

[Register Here](#)

[Zoom Link Here](#)

Webinar ID: 875 5951 8267

Passcode: 434503

Zoom Call in #: 646 558 8656

October 29th @ 6-7:30pm [Flyer](#)

[Register Here](#)

[Zoom Link Here](#)

Webinar ID: 824 7813 5461

Passcode: 466820

Mandarin Conference Line: 347-966-4114 and enter ID: 823 420 645#

Haitian Creole Conference Line: 347-966-4114 and enter ID: 262 168 294#

Virtual Elections Training

FACE recently released [guidance on virtual elections](#) and is holding training sessions to support schools with getting their PA/PTA's up and running for the 20-21 school year. The next training session will be an in-language Spanish session **Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 4pm** in partnership with Queens Family Leadership Coordinators and Parent Leaders.

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Session in Spanish at 4:00pm [Zoom link](#)

Webinar ID: 863 4819 2281

Passcode: 461322

By Phone: Dial - 646 558 8656

Training on Zoom Meetings Platform

This training session focuses on using Zoom Meetings platform, it will help you get started with Zoom Meetings session. Our Zoom expert will guide you through a 60-minute tour of Zoom Meetings and taking you beyond the basics. This session will include Q&A.

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Session at 5:00pm [Zoom link](#)

By phone: Dial - 646 876 9923

Webinar ID: 910 7717 8798

NYCDOE is hiring Substitute Teachers!

We are looking for committed, compassionate, positive educators who are ready to make a difference for NYC students. [Apply today!](#) **Substitute teachers who work in person during the period of September 29 to October 30 are eligible to receive a financial incentive** in addition to the contractual rate of \$193.47 per day:

- \$100 per day for up to five days of in person substitute service for a total of up to \$500.
- An additional \$500 for a total of 15 or more days in person during this period for a total of \$1,000.

If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, [you can apply using this form](#). Your application will be reviewed and you will be notified about next steps.

This week has been an especially challenging and disappointing week for all New Yorkers. We thank you for your tireless advocacy for your communities, and your willingness to partner with us, and with each other, to get through these difficult days. We hope that this weekend gives you a chance to relax and recharge, and look forward to seeing you next week.

Warm Regards,

The FACE Team