

Suffolk County Community College

College Brief

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TO: The College Community

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SUBJECT: New York State Cluster Zones

Earlier this week, New York State modified its reopening plan to incorporate a three-tiered approach of new restrictions within a number of high-risk COVID-19 cluster zones and adjacent areas. The SUNY Chancellor has indicated that the new rules will apply to SUNY institutions, should they be located within any of these zones. Currently, the State has declared parts of Queens, Rockland, Orange, Nassau and Binghamton as cluster areas of concern. These “hot spots” have been color-coded as red, orange, or yellow. **If a SUNY institution falls within a red or orange zone, they must shift to remote-only instruction.** If a SUNY college is located in a yellow zone, they will have to implement mandatory testing of all students, faculty and staff for all in-person classes.

With this latest change, now is a good time to remind our college community regarding communications we issued in August. At that time, we cautioned everyone that if the COVID-19 infection rates in Suffolk County or New York State spiked above certain levels, it was possible that Governor Cuomo and/or SUNY would impose quarantine as happened in March. We also shared that faculty who are teaching BLENDED classes on campus should be prepared with an alternative plan to complete the semester in one of our other modalities, as a precaution. This latest New York State announcement shows us all how quickly such a conversion could occur. Faculty should consider reviewing their alternative plans with their Chairs now.