

Cluster Action Initiative

RESTRICTIONS WITHIN THE CLUSTERS

The initiative will divide clusters and the areas around them into three categories with successively higher restrictions within each one: Red Zones, Orange Zones and Yellow Zones.

New Metrics for Entering Cluster Zones

On December 10, Governor Cuomo announced new metrics by which micro-cluster focus zones will be determined to help control COVID-19 spread and protect hospital capacity.

Red Zone: A red zone will be implemented when a region, after the cancellation of elective procedures and a 50 percent increase in hospital capacity, is 21 days away from reaching 90 percent hospital capacity on the current 7-day growth rate.

Orange Zone: A geographic area will be eligible to an Orange Zone if it has a 4 percent positivity rate (7-day average) over the last 10 days and it is located in a region that has reached 85 percent hospital capacity. Alternatively, a geographic area may also become an Orange Zone if the State Department of Health determines the region's rate of hospital admissions is unacceptably high and a zone designation is appropriate to control the rate of growth.

Yellow Zone: A geographic area will be eligible to enter a Yellow Zone if it has a 3 percent positivity rate (7-day average) over the past 10 days and is in the top 10 percent in the state for hospital admissions per capita over the past week and is experiencing week-over-week growth in daily admissions.

Based on these new metrics, New York State will announce new cluster zones on Monday, December 14.

Indoor Dining Suspended in NYC

Governor Cuomo announced on December 7, following updated guidance from the CDC, that if a region's hospitalization rate does not stabilize by December 12, additional restrictions will be applied to indoor dining.

Hospitalization rates have not stabilized and indoor dining in New York City will be suspended beginning Monday, December 14. Takeout, delivery and outdoor dining will continue.

Outside of New York City, indoor dining is under review and no additional restrictions are in place for now.

Cluster Zone Restrictions

The chart below is a summary and is not exhaustive.

Where permitted to operate within the cluster action initiative, businesses and other entities must continue to follow the relevant industry-specific guidelines provided by Department of Health as available on the [New York Forward website](#) for their applicable operations and activities.

RESTRICTIONS BY CLUSTER ZONE

Type of Activity	Red	Orange	Yellow
Non-Residential Gatherings	Prohibited	10 people maximum, indoors and outdoors	25 people maximum, indoors and outdoors
Residential Gatherings	Prohibited	10 people maximum, indoors and outdoors	10 people maximum, indoors and outdoors
House of Worship	Lesser of: 25% of maximum capacity 10 people	Lesser of: 33% of maximum capacity 25 people	50% of maximum capacity
Businesses	Non-essential businesses are closed	Gyms, fitness centers and classes operate at 25% capacity; barber shops, hair salons, personal care services can provide services so long as employees performing services are tested for COVID-19 on a weekly basis.	Open
Dining*	Takeout or delivery only	Outdoor dining, takeout or delivery only, 4 person maximum per table, and bars and restaurants close at 10:00 PM for on-premises consumption	Indoor and outdoor dining permitted, 4 person maximum per table, and bars and restaurants close at 10:00 PM for on-premises consumption
Schools	Closed* Remote-only	Closed** Remote-only	Open 20% weekly testing of in-person students and faculty

*Indoor dining in New York City is suspended beginning December 14.

**Schools may reopen if they follow [new guidelines](#) that require mass testing in schools before they reopen followed by vigilant symptom and exposure screening conducted daily.