



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
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Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UPDATE ON AREAS OF CONCERN IN NEW YORK CITY

September 29, 2020 – COVID-19 cases continue to grow at an alarming rate in 9 neighborhoods in the city, outpacing the citywide average by 3.5 times over the past 14 days.

Today's reported citywide 7-day percent positivity is 1.38% and the daily percent positivity is 3.25%, the highest daily report since early June 2020. Daily reports are subject to greater fluctuation than a more prolonged period. These data are preliminary, and we will continue to monitor as we receive more complete data.

Last week, to safeguard public health, the Health Department issued a Commissioner's Order to nonpublic schools in 6 Brooklyn and 2 Queens ZIP codes requiring nonpublic schools to follow COVID-19 risk reduction measures. Today, in response to community feedback, the order was amended to allow for the use of barriers erected between individuals in a classroom and is consistent with State guidelines.

Seven of the 9 neighborhoods saw increases even from the prior day's report, based on our preliminary data.

These areas account for over 25.6% of new cases citywide over the past 2 weeks despite representing 7.4% of the city's overall population. The data below is based on a 14-day average, which can more accurately reflect sustained trends than data pulled from a single day.

- Gravesend/Homecrest [11223] (6.92%)
- Midwood [11230] (5.64%)
- Kew Gardens [11415] (3.31%)
- Edgemere/Far Rockaway [11691] (4.91%)
- Borough Park [11219] (6.23%)
- Bensonhurst/Mapleton [11204] (6.05%)
- Gerritsen Beach/Homecrest/Sheepshead Bay [11229] (4.05%)
- Flatlands/Midwood [11210] (4.73%)
- Kew Gardens Hills/Pomonok [11367] (3.60%)

In addition to these 9 ZIP codes, we have identified 3 additional ZIP codes that are showing increased growth of cases and test positivity between 2% and 3%, which are:

- Rego Park [11374] (2.64%)
- Kensington/Windsor Terrace [11218] (2.72%)
- Brighton Beach/Manhattan Beach/Sheepshead Bay [11235] (2.85%)

The 3 areas above have also increased in the percent of positive tests since the day before, according to preliminary data.

Williamsburg [11211/11249] remains an area where we are observing a faster increase in cases compared to other parts of the city, even though the test positivity rate is below 3% (1.89%).

We continue to monitor emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and intensive care unit admissions. With COVID-19, increases in hospital visits generally follow an increase in cases. Data show we are starting to see an uptick in the number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

The City is working with community leaders and community-based organizations to distribute face coverings and combat misinformation. To combat these rising rates, the City is conducting outreach to non-public schools about the new guidelines, canvassing commercial corridors in these neighborhoods, and using soundtrucks to reinforce COVID-19 guidance and precautions.

This week, the City deployed 11 mobile testing units to areas with high rates of COVID-19 positivity, with a focus on the neighborhoods above, tripled the capacity of the COVID Express testing sites in Crown Heights and Fort Greene, and is working with community provider offices to supply new rapid testing capacity.

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