



**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**

**October 2, 2020** –The Health Department continues to track 4 concerning clusters of COVID-19 cases in Southern Brooklyn, Williamsburg, Central Queens and Far Rockaway. Within these clusters there are 12 neighborhoods where cases continue to grow at an alarming rate, outpacing the citywide average by 3.3 times over the past 14 days.

These 12 are the only neighborhoods in New York City with positivity rates above 3%, accounting for nearly 30% of new cases citywide over the past 2 weeks despite representing 9.0% of the city’s overall population. The 7-day average percent positivity is 5.86% for the 12 neighborhoods, while the citywide average is 1.53%. With the 12 neighborhoods removed, the 7-day average positivity for the city is 1.17%.

In addition to the 12 neighborhoods, we have identified 7 neighborhoods, now including Auburndale/Fresh Meadows/Pomonok/Utopia, that, despite remaining under 3%, are areas of concern because of an elevated rate of case growth and proximity to the other clusters.

Yesterday, the Health Department issued a new [Commissioner’s Order](#) giving city agencies the power to issue closure orders to businesses for repeat non-compliance with State and local COVID-19 health and safety requirements.

<b>Neighborhoods of concern in cluster areas over 3% positivity</b>					
<b>Cluster</b>	<b>Case Growth case rate in cluster area compared to citywide</b>	<b>Neighborhoods</b>	<b>ZIP Codes</b>	<b>14-day positivity rate</b>	<b>Change from previous day</b>
<b>Far Rockaway</b>	3.77 times the citywide rate	Edgemere/Far Rockaway	11691	4.79%	-0.01%
<b>Southern Brooklyn</b>	1.61 times the citywide rate	Brighton Beach/Manhattan Beach/Sheepshead Bay	11235	3.61%	+0.21%
		Gravesend/Homecrest	11223	7.04%	-0.12%
		Midwood	11230	6.50%	+0.61%
		Borough Park	11219	7.52%	+0.43%
		Bensonhurst/Mapleton	11204	6.46%	-0.23%
		Gerritsen Beach/Homecrest/Sheepshead Bay	11229	4.42%	+0.43%
		Flatlands/Midwood	11210	5.28%	+0.37%

<b>Central Queens</b>	1.92 times the citywide rate	Fresh Meadows/Hillcrest	11366	3.08%	+0.10%
		Rego Park	11374	3.34%	+0.16%
		Kew Gardens	11415	3.61%	-0.56%
		Kew Gardens Hills/Pomonok	11367	3.72%	+0.12%
<b>Neighborhoods of concern in cluster areas under 3% positivity</b>					
<b>Williamsburg</b>	3.04 times the citywide rate	East Williamsburg/Williamsburg	11211/ 11249	1.91%	-0.08%
		Bedford-Stuyvesant (West)/Clinton Hill/Fort Greene	11205	2.05%	+0.17%
<b>Southern Brooklyn</b>	1.61 times the citywide rate	Bergen Beach/Flatlands/Marine Park/Mill Basin	11234	2.44%	+0.20%
		Kensington/Windsor Terrace	11218	2.73%	-0.04%
		Crown Heights (East)	11213	2.19%	-0.16%
<b>Central Queens</b>	1.92 times the citywide rate	Hillcrest/Jamaica Estates/Jamaica Hills	11432	2.47%	-0.30%
		Auburndale/Fresh Meadows/Pomonok/Utopia	11365	2.21%	+0.19%

### **Guidance for Residents**

- All New Yorkers should continue to follow the **Core 4**: [wear a face covering](#), practice proper hand hygiene, maintain safe physical distance from others, and stay home if you are sick.
- **Get tested!** All New Yorkers should get tested whether or not they have symptoms. Tests are free. [Find a testing site near you.](#)
- **Worship safely:** Avoid large gatherings, especially indoors. If your house of worship has reopened, wear a face covering, don't share chalices or utensils and avoid close contact with others including hand shaking and hugging — wave instead. If you're singing, you must stay at least 12 feet apart from others.
- As we begin a return to activities like [dining out](#) and [shopping](#), it is essential that we continue to take steps to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

The City continues to deploy additional testing resources to these areas in order to suppress the spread.

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