

As part of the [Stay Safe, Stay Open](#) plan, there will be a new cross-agency approach to COVID-19 investigations at schools—now referred to as assessments for transmission. An assessment for transmission will be conducted by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to determine if there is widespread transmission of COVID-19 cases occurring in a classroom or other area in a school.

A DOHMH assessment for transmission will begin when the total number of cases in a specific school setting, such as a classroom or sports team, exceeds the rate of COVID-19 transmission happening in NYC. Research shows that a school experiencing a high number of cases in a classroom suggests that these cases might be related (ex., a cluster and therefore a reason to be concerned about in-school transmission) and could be a sign that greater support is needed to implement mitigation measures (masks, ventilation, etc.). After DOHMH conducts their assessment for transmission, and if they find evidence of in-school transmission, they will work in partnership with the superintendent to ensure the impacted school has all the tools they need to mitigate future instances of transmission.

The Situation Room will monitor NYC transmission rates and adjust the threshold for a DOHMH assessment every two weeks, as needed. If the threshold is changed, you will be notified in Principals Digest and on InfoHub. As of January 10, the thresholds are as follows:

- For students in grades K–12, the threshold for an assessment of transmission is ten cases in a classroom, or on a sports team, because it represents a higher-than-expected number of cases per classroom based on [current positivity rates](#) in school-aged children.
- For students in 3-K, pre-K, and LYFE programs, the threshold for assessment is five cases in a classroom. Since these students are not yet eligible for vaccinations, this threshold will not be impacted by a change in NYC transmission rates.

For questions, submit a ticket via <https://charterschools.mojohelpdesk.com>.