

Dear Quogue Residents,

Last Friday, the Governor announced revised metrics for his micro-cluster focus strategy that involves his yellow, orange and red zones. The metrics appear to be based mainly on preserving some available hospital capacity. The benchmark for hospital bed utilization imposed by the State seems to be to remain under 85%. As of December 16, 28% of hospital beds were available in Suffolk County.

You can read the revised rules for establishing red, orange and yellow zones and the restrictions imposed when in one at <https://forward.ny.gov/cluster-action-initiative>. The State said that it would announce new cluster zones based on the new metrics on Monday, December 14. It did so, and there was no change to the local yellow zones in Hampton Bays and Riverhead. The maps can be found at the link above.

Hospitals were ordered to increase capacity by 25% on December 7 and then another 25% on December 11 by increasing capacity or suspending elective surgeries or a combination of the two. Not an easy task, I would imagine, but a further directive by the New York Department of Health this week ordered the hospitals to be able to achieve a further increase of 15% in staffed beds upon 72 hours' notice in the event of a coronavirus surge. Are you glad that you are not a hospital administrator? Let's all do our best to make their jobs, and the jobs of the medical professionals in the hospitals, easier by continuing to wear masks, practicing social distancing, avoiding gatherings and washing our hands frequently.

On Wednesday, the Governor announced an update to the state's vaccination administration plan, which includes the creation of Regional Vaccination Hubs that will help facilitate vaccinations once Phase 2 of the State's plan begins in early 2021. Northwell Health Systems will serve as Long Island's Vaccination Hub Coordinator. See for details: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-updates-new-yorkers-states-vaccination-administration-plan>.

Lots of information about the vaccines can be accessed at: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

The first snowfall is behind us. It was not as bad as it could have been, but there was plenty of heavy snow and ice. Thank you to our intrepid Highway Department for all the plowing and other clean-up. They were out continuously from early in the evening on Wednesday night through all of Thursday.

On Tuesday afternoon an ambulance carrying the body of Detective Michael D. Fruin passed through Quogue with an escort of police motorcycles, and many police vehicles from Quogue and other jurisdictions and a Suffolk County helicopter. I am sorry that I could not announce it in my email earlier in the week about the untimely death of Detective Fruin, but the arrangements came together very late. Nevertheless, the Quogue Fire Department, Highway Department, Village Office employees and quite a number of residents who had received word braved the cold and turned out in force on Jessup Avenue to honor Mike as the procession paused beneath an American flag displayed from ladder trucks supplied by the East Quogue and Westhampton Beach Fire Departments and the helicopter overhead. It was a fitting tribute to a fine man and police officer, and I am sure that Mike's family was very touched and pleased. Thank you to everyone who arranged the event and participated.



Detective Michael D. Fruin

Peter Sartorius,
Mayor