

4CLS Post-Cluster Plan Statement

4CLS's most recent planning document for guided decision-making during the COVID-19 pandemic was closely aligned with New York State's [Cluster Action Initiative](#).

Now that New York State has de-emphasized clusters, 4CLS and its member libraries need an alternate data-based mechanism to inform decisions relating to the provision of library services.

After consideration of a number of factors, including availability of data, the 4CLS Steering Committee recommends that libraries monitor the average daily cases per 100,000 of population (by county), taken on a 14-day rolling average.

This metric is currently being collected and distributed in useful, interactive maps by the New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html> (registration, may be required, but not subscription)

These figures are available daily and can be narrowed down to the county level. See below for links to county maps.

Rather than establish a specific limit or trip-wire, the committee recommends monitoring this metric for spikes and periods of rapid increase. In the event of a rapid increase, libraries should consider whether library operations should be altered to help reduce the spread and to ensure the safety of library staff.

As vaccinations continue, it is our hope that the number of positive cases will continue to decrease. If the trend goes the other way, attention to this metric will help libraries recognize and respond.

Direct Map Links:

Broome County - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/broome-new-york-covid-cases.html>

Chenango County - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/chenango-new-york-covid-cases.html>

Delaware County - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/delaware-new-york-covid-cases.html>

Otsego County - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/otsego-new-york-covid-cases.html>