

## WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT SCPHD'S COVID-19 RISK LEVELS:

- The risk levels may be applied at the county level.
- **Different counties within SCPHD may be at different risk levels.** Risk levels can increase or decrease.
- In ALL risk levels, the preventive measures outlined in the Minimal Risk Level should be followed. *Always prepare for the next risk level.*
- In addition to metrics determining risk of transmission, public health officials will closely monitor and may take into consideration for movement to a different risk level the following:
  - Input from hospital partners – local hospital capacity is determined by each hospital in the region
  - Trends in COVID-19 testing, including positivity rate
  - Supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for healthcare providers/first responders
  - Epidemiological investigation and contact tracing capacity, including outbreaks associated with congregate living facilities
  - COVID-related hospitalizations and deaths
  - Syndromic surveillance of emergency department visits with COVID-like symptoms



**COVID-19 HOTLINE • 208-737-1138 • [www.phd5.idaho.gov](http://www.phd5.idaho.gov)**

Last risk assessment: 1/27/2022

# Metric Definitions

and weight  
for each metric

## Positivity Rate for the County

Data is provided by Idaho Health and Welfare. This category is used mostly for context and has the least weight in the final assessment.

## Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents.

This category reflects the trending case number on a rolling 14 day average. It indicates public health's ability to keep up with investigation and contact tracing for new cases. This category has less weight than hospital capacity and more weight than the positivity rate.

## Hospital Capacity

Hospital Capacity includes the local healthcare facility's ability to treat all incoming patients, not just COVID -19 positive patients. This category has the most weight in the decision making for the final assessment.

Hospital capacity includes available staffing, available beds, available personal protective equipment, and other factors that may impact their ability to respond to medical emergencies. The final assigned capacity is determined by the local hospital in each county.

## Other Epidemiological Factors

These factors indicate public health risk. These may include SIGNIFICANT outbreaks (outbreaks that are not controlled) in healthcare centers, schools, congregate living facilities, etc. They may also include case surges that overwhelm investigation efforts.

If SCPHD identifies any concerning factors, this category will have similar weight to the hospital capacity level.



South Central Public Health District

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Using data from January 9th to the 22nd

# Blaine County

Risk level: Critical

Blaine County's average new case rate and positivity rate continue in extremely high levels of the critical risk tier. **Cases and positivity rate continue to trend upwards.**

The impact on the local hospital is moderate but impact on the regional hospital is extremely critical due to staffing and case increases. The public health district is investigating cases in one long-term care facility and several schools in the region have closed because of COVID-19 cases.

Taking all major factors into account, the overall determined risk level is critical.



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Using data from January 9th to the 22nd

**32.21%**

Positivity Rate for the County  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

**18.18**

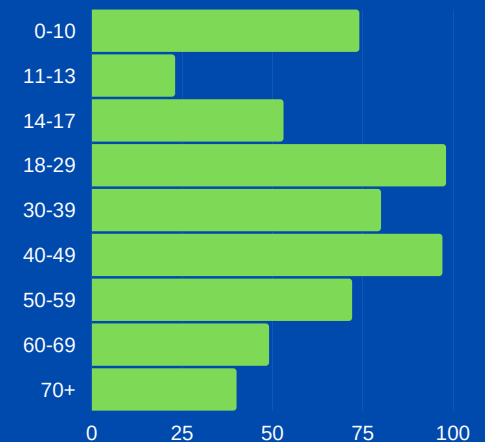
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents  
based on a 14 day rolling average.

**Critical**

## Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local hospital is moderate but impact on the regional hospital is extremely critical.

### NEW CASES BY AGE



**Critical**

## Other Epidemiological Factors

Several schools in the region are closed because of COVID-19 impact. Omicron variant detected in region. **Investigations are being impacted by increased case count. Testing availability is impacted on a district wide level.**

# CRITICAL

# CRITICAL RISK

1. **NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)**
  2. **COVID-19 TESTING POSTIVE RATE > 20%**
- AND/OR**
3. **HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERELY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED)**
  4. **CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED**
  5. **EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing**

**AT THE CRITICAL LEVEL, COMMUNITIES HAVE REACHED A TIPPING POINT FOR UNCONTROLLED SPREAD, SCPHD AND/OR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE ALL OR SOME OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- Maintain strategies from High Risk level
- Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements
- Consider quarantine orders (stay-at-home)
- Consider universal mask requirements
- Consider business/event/institution closures
- Consider universal social distancing requirements

# Camas County

Risk level: Critical

Camas County's average new case rate and positivity rate have increased to critical.

**Case and positivity rates continue to trend upward.**

The regional hospital is experiencing extremely critical impact due to case increases, staffing and space shortages.

Taking all major factors into account, the overall determined risk level is critical.



Using data from January 9th to the 22nd

## 47.06%

Positivity Rate for the County in the past week.  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

## 5.17

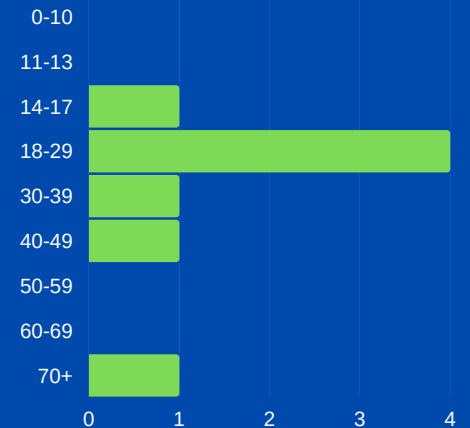
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

## No Specific Hospital

## Hospital Capacity

Hospital Capacity includes the local healthcare facility's ability to treat all incoming patients, not just COVID -19 positive patients.

### NEW CASES BY AGE



# Critical

## Other Epidemiological Factors

Several schools in the region are closed because of COVID-19 impact. Omicron variant detected in region. **Investigations are being impacted by increased case count. Testing availability is impacted on a district wide level.**

# CRITICAL

# CRITICAL RISK

1. **NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)**
  2. **COVID-19 TESTING POSTIVE RATE > 20%**
- AND/OR**
3. **HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERELY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED)**
  4. **CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED**
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# Cassia County

Risk level: Critical

Cassia County's average new case rate more than doubled in the last two weeks, pushing it into the moderate risk level. The positivity rate has moved to the critical risk level.

**Case and positivity rates continue to trend upward.**

The impact on the local hospital is critical. Impact on the regional hospital is extremely critical. Both are due to staffing and space shortages.

Taking all major factors into account, the overall determined risk level is critical



Using data from January 9th to the 22nd

32.27%

Positivity Rate for the County in the past week.  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

3.18

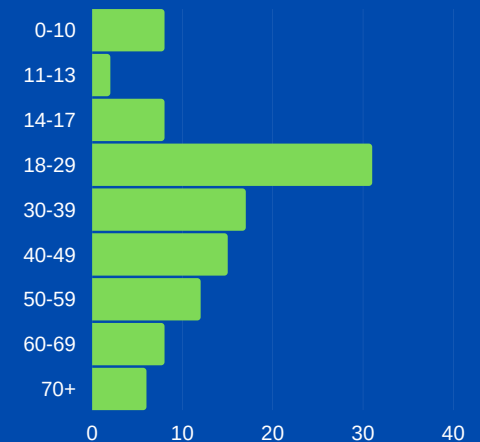
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local hospital is critical. Impact on the regional hospital is extremely critical.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Several schools in the region are closed because of COVID-19 impact. Omicron variant detected in region. **Investigations are being impacted by increased case count. Testing availability is impacted on a district wide level.**

## CRITICAL

1. NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)
  2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE > 20%
- AND/OR
3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERELY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED)
  4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED
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**CRITICAL  
RISK**



# Gooding County

Risk level: Critical

Gooding County's average new case rate and positivity rate continue to rise. The positivity rate has nearly tripled in the last two weeks.

**Case and positivity rates continue to trend upward.**

The impact on the local hospital is high. Impact on the regional hospital is critical due to staffing and space shortages.

Taking all major factors into account, the overall determined risk level is critical.



South Central Public Health District  
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Using data from January 9th to the 22nd

43.77%

Positivity Rate for the County in the past week.  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

3.95

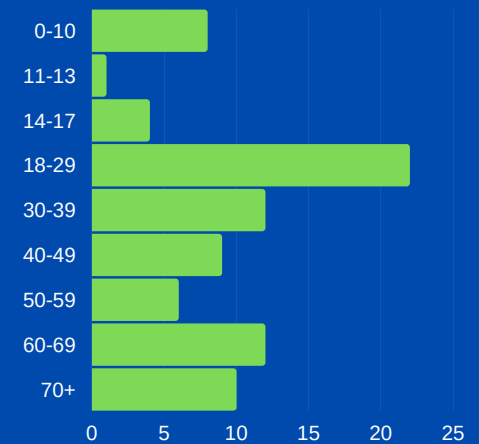
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local hospital is high and impact on the regional hospital is extremely critical.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Several schools in the region are closed because of COVID-19 impact. Omicron variant detected in region. **Investigations are being impacted by increased case count. Testing availability is impacted on a district wide level.**

## CRITICAL

1. **NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)**
  2. **COVID-19 TESTING POSTIVE RATE > 20%**
- AND/OR**
3. **HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERELY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED)**
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**CRITICAL  
RISK**

# Jerome County

Risk level: Critical

Jerome County's average new case rate is in the highest end of the high risk tier. The positivity rate has skyrocketed into extremely critical.

**Case and positivity rates continue to trend upward.**

Hospital capacity metric has moved into critical because of staffing and space shortages at the regional hospital.

Taking all major factors into account, the overall determined risk level is critical.



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Using data from January 9th to the 22nd

39.52%

Positivity Rate for the County in the past week.  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

4.68

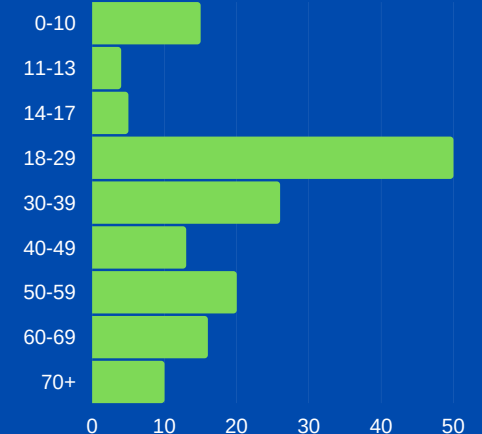
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local hospital is high.  
Impact on the regional hospital is extremely critical.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Several schools in the region are closed because of COVID-19 impact. Omicron variant detected in region. **Investigations are being impacted by increased case count. Testing availability is impacted on a district wide level.**

## CRITICAL

1. NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)
  2. COVID-19 TESTING POSTIVE RATE > 20%
- AND/OR
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**CRITICAL  
RISK**

# Lincoln County

Risk level: Critical

Lincoln County's average case rate and positivity rate have jumped into the critical risk tier.

**Case and positivity rates continue to trend upward.**

The regional hospital is experiencing critical impact due to staffing and space shortages.

Taking all major factors into account, the overall determined risk level is critical.



Using data from January 9th to the 22nd

42.20%

Positivity Rate for the County in the past week.  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

5.20

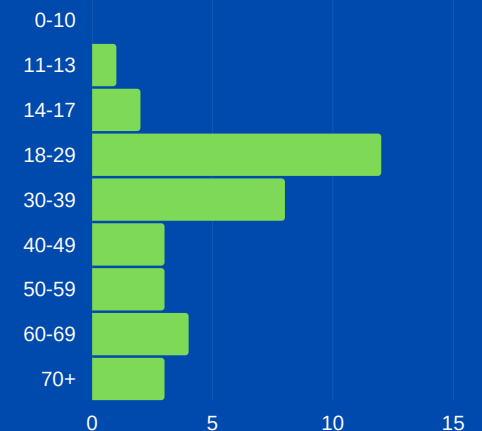
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

No Specific Hospital

## Hospital Capacity

Hospital Capacity includes the local healthcare facility's ability to treat all incoming patients, not just COVID -19 positive patients.

NEW CASES BY AGE



# Critical

## Other Epidemiological Factors

Several schools in the region are closed because of COVID-19 impact. Omicron variant detected in region. **Investigations are being impacted by increased case count. Testing availability is impacted on a district wide level.**

# CRITICAL

# CRITICAL RISK

1. NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)
  2. COVID-19 TESTING POSTIVE RATE > 20%
- AND/OR**
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# Minidoka County

Risk level: Critical

Minidoka County's positivity rate and case rate have jumped up into the critical and high risk tiers.

**Case and positivity rates continue to trend upward.**

The local hospital is experiencing high impact due to staffing and space shortages. The regional hospital is experiencing extremely critical impact due to staffing and space shortages.

Taking all major factors into account, the determined risk level is critical



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Using data from January 9th to the 22nd

**34.92%**

Positivity Rate for the County in the past week.  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

**3.06**

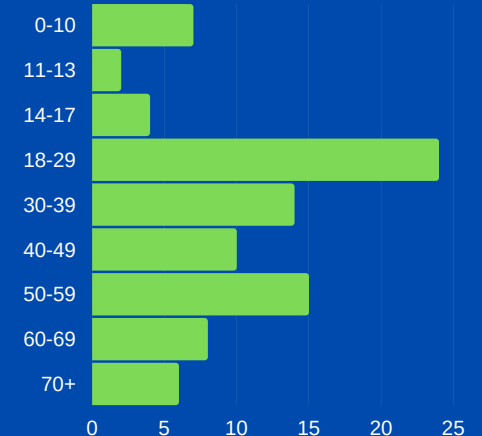
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

**Critical**

**Hospital Capacity**

Impact on the local hospital is high.  
Impact on the regional hospital is extremely critical.

**NEW CASES BY AGE**



**Critical**

**Other Epidemiological Factors**

Several schools in the region are closed because of COVID-19 impact. Omicron variant detected in region. **Investigations are being impacted by increased case count. Testing availability is impacted on a district wide level.**

## CRITICAL

1. NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)
  2. COVID-19 TESTING POSTIVE RATE > 20%
- AND/OR
3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERELY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED)
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**CRITICAL  
RISK**



# Twin Falls County

Risk level: Critical

Twin Falls County's case rate is in the critical risk tier and the positivity rate is in the critical risk tier. **Case and positivity rates continue to trend upward.**

The regional hospital is **critically** impacted by staffing and space shortages. Nearby hospitals are also limited in their ability to accept overflow patients.

Schools in the region are reporting closures because of COVID-19 cases.

Taking all major factors into account, the overall determined risk level is critical.



South Central Public Health District

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Using data from January 9th to the 22nd

## 37.69%

Positivity Rate for the County in the past week.

Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

## 7.84

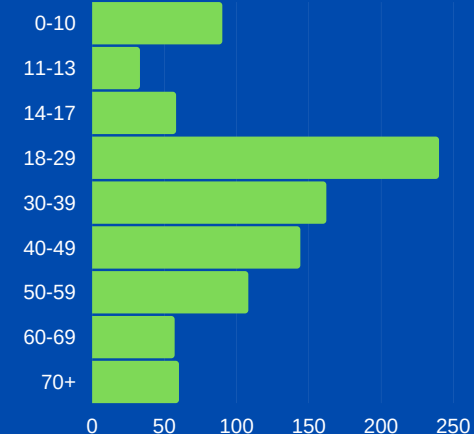
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

## Critical

## Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local hospital and regional hospital is extremely critical due to staffing and space shortages.

### NEW CASES BY AGE



## Critical

## Other Epidemiological Factors

Several schools in the region are closed because of COVID-19 impact. Omicron variant detected in region. **Investigations are being impacted by increased case count. Testing availability is impacted on a district wide level.**

# CRITICAL

# CRITICAL RISK

1. **NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)**
  2. **COVID-19 TESTING POSTIVE RATE > 20%**
- AND/OR**
3. **HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERELY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED)**
  4. **CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED**
  5. **EPIDEMIOLGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing**

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## Crosswalk for Schools

[Idaho Back to School Framework](#) has identified three categories for determining transmission risk (table below). To assist schools located in the six-county region, South Central Public Health District has crosswalked the Idaho Back to School Framework with the COVID-19 Risk Level advisory system.

<b>"Identify Level of Transmission Risk"</b>			
	<b>Category 1: No Community Transmission</b>	<b>Category 2: Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission</b>	<b>Category 3: Substantial Community Transmission</b>
<b>Definitions</b>	Evidence of isolated cases, case investigations underway, no evidence of exposure in large communal setting, e.g., healthcare facility, school, mass gathering.	Widespread and/or sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings, with potential for rapid increase in suspected cases.	Large-scale community transmission, healthcare staffing significantly impacted, multiple cases within communal settings like healthcare facilities, schools, mass gatherings, etc.
<b>Level of Operations</b>	School buildings open with physical distancing and sanitation.	School buildings open but option of limited/staggered use of school buildings with physical distancing and sanitation.	Targeted, short-term, or extended building closure.



COVID-19  
RISK LEVEL  
**GREEN**



COVID-19  
RISK LEVEL  
**YELLOW**  
**ORANGE**



COVID-19  
RISK LEVEL  
**RED**

## DEFINITIONS

### CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE:

Guidance to help guide ethical decision-making for how to triage medical care when it has to be rationed.

Plan can be found on the [Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's website](#).

### MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY:

Medical surge capacity refers to the ability to evaluate and care for a markedly increased volume of patients—one that challenges or exceeds normal operating capacity. The surge requirements may extend beyond direct patient care to include such tasks as extensive laboratory studies or epidemiological investigations.

[Source](#)

## TIMELINE FOR MEASUREMENTS

Data to support the corresponding Health Risk Level and any related mitigation strategies will be posted every other Thursday by 5 pm.

Health Risk Levels will be made on every other Thursday based on the prior two weeks starting on a Sunday and ending on a Saturday. Movement from one risk level to a lesser risk level will occur at 14-day intervals (one incubation period for COVID-19), while advancement to a level of higher risk can occur at any time.

## MOVEMENT BETWEEN RISK LEVELS

Determinations to move to a more restrictive risk level may be made mid-stage if any of the criteria below are met:

- Crisis standards of care are implemented
- Counties must remain in a risk level for at least two weeks before moving to a less restrictive phase
- Senior leadership at a local hospital indicates that further increases in cases in the community will overwhelm local hospital capacity
- Reported cases exceed > 5 **daily new cases** per 10,000 people in a defined population (e.g., town, city, or county) or if new case rate adversely impacts SCPHD's ability to respond

## REFERENCES

- [Key Metrics for COVID Suppression: A framework for policy makers and the public. July 1, 2020.](#)
- [Essential information for states and counties to publicly report](#)