

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

- The risk levels may be applied at the town, city, county, geographic, or regional level.
- **Different areas of SCPHD's region 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 exposure risk, public health officials will closely monitor and may take into consideration for movement to a different risk level the following:
 - Input from hospital partners
 - Trends in COVID-19 testing, including positivity rate and turn-around time of test results
 - Supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for healthcare providers/first responders
 - Epidemiological investigation capacity
 - COVID-related hospitalizations and deaths
 - Syndromic surveillance of emergency department visits with COVID-like symptoms



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Last risk assessment: 11/19/2020

Metric Definitions

and weight
for each metric



South Central Public Health District

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Using data from November 1st - 14th

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.

Blaine County

Risk level: Critical

Blaine County's average new case rate is in the critical tier. The public health district continues to investigate outbreaks in two long term care facilities. Investigation and contact tracing efforts are impacted because of a surge in cases around the region. The local hospital is operating at moderate impact and the regional hospital is operating at critical impact. The county positivity rate remains high.

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

**Blaine County has adopted a separate risk plan that is more stringent. The assessment from this plan can be found on their county website.

Using data from November 1st - 14th

11.18%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

5.12

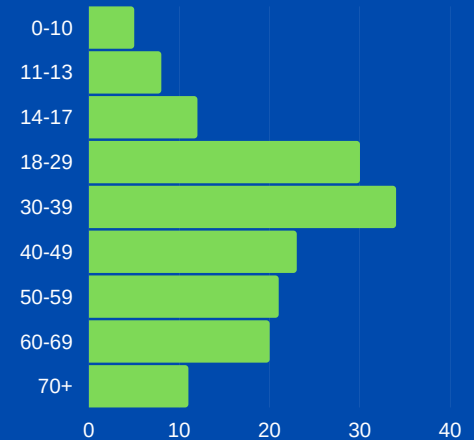
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents
based on a 14 day rolling average.

High

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local level is moderate and the regional level is critical.

NEW CASES BY AGE



High

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is investigating two outbreaks in local long term care facilities. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

CRITICAL

1. NEW CASES DAILY > 5/10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN 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

- BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES 90%
- MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES

OR

4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED

At the red level, communities have reached a tipping point for uncontrolled spread and cities, counties, and/or SCPHD *may* institute all or some of the following:

- Stay-At-Home Order issued
- Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
- Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions
- Continued closure of bars and nightclubs
- Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures
- Prohibited visitation to long-term care facilities
- Travel advisories as needed
 - **14-day self-quarantine** for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission

CRITICAL
RISK

Camas County

Risk level: CRITICAL

Camas County's average new case rate rose significantly in the last two weeks into critical levels. They do not have a hospital in their county but the regional hospital has critical impact. The positivity rate has dropped to the low risk tier for this week, but the week prior was at 25 percent. Impact on epidemiological investigations is high.

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



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Using data from November 1st - 14th

0%

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

6.46

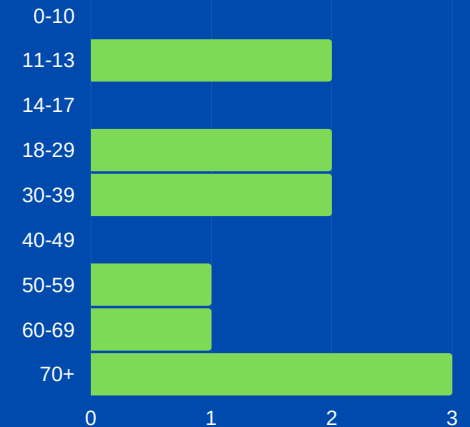
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents
based on a 14 day rolling average.

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



HIGH

Other Epidemiological Factors

Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

CRITICAL

1. NEW CASES DAILY > 5/10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN 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

- BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES 90%
- MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES

OR

4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED

At the red level, communities have reached a tipping point for uncontrolled spread and cities, counties, and/or SCPHD *may* institute all or some of the following:

- Stay-At-Home Order issued
- Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
- Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions
- Continued closure of bars and nightclubs
- Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures
- Prohibited visitation to long-term care facilities
- Travel advisories as needed
 - **14-day self-quarantine** for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission

CRITICAL
RISK

Cassia County

Risk level: Critical

Cassia County's case rate remains in the critical risk tier. The hospital capacity is highly impacted and the surge in recent cases has highly impacted epidemiological efforts to contact trace and investigate. Outbreaks in several long term care facilities are uncontrolled. The positivity rate is also in the critical risk tier.

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 November 1st - 14th

24.27%

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

10.08

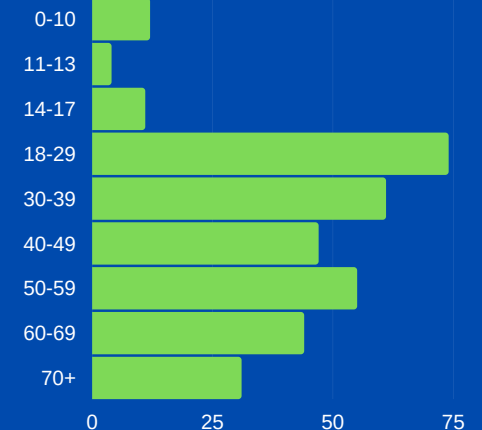
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

High

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local level is moderate and regional level is critical.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring five outbreaks in long term care facilities, several are uncontrolled. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

CRITICAL

1. NEW CASES DAILY > 5/10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN 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

- BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES 90%
- MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES

OR

4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED

At the red level, communities have reached a tipping point for uncontrolled spread and cities, counties, and/or SCPHD *may* institute all or some of the following:

- Stay-At-Home Order issued
- Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
- Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions
- Continued closure of bars and nightclubs
- Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures
- Prohibited visitation to long-term care facilities
- Travel advisories as needed
 - **14-day self-quarantine** for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission

CRITICAL
RISK

Gooding County

Risk level: Critical

Gooding County's case rate is in the critical risk tier. Impact on the local and regional hospital level is critical. SCPHD is also monitoring outbreaks in two long term care facilities and the case surge has heavily impacted epidemiological efforts to contact trace and investigate the disease. The positivity rate is in the critical tier.

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 November 1st - 14th

25.55%

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

9.26

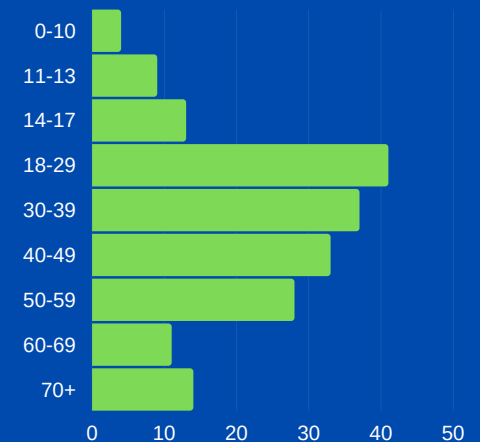
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional level is critical.

NEW CASES BY AGE



High

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring outbreaks in two long term care facilities. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

CRITICAL

1. NEW CASES DAILY > 5/10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN 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

- BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES 90%
- MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES

OR

4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED

At the red level, communities have reached a tipping point for uncontrolled spread and cities, counties, and/or SCPHD *may* institute all or some of the following:

- Stay-At-Home Order issued
- Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
- Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions
- Continued closure of bars and nightclubs
- Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures
- Prohibited visitation to long-term care facilities
- Travel advisories as needed
 - **14-day self-quarantine** for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission

CRITICAL
RISK

Jerome County

Risk level: Critical

Jerome County's case rate is on the high end of the critical risk tier and trending upward. Epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district. Impact on the local and regional hospital level is critical. SCPHD is monitoring outbreaks in two long term care facilities and the positivity rate is extremely high in the critical risk tier.

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 November 1st - 14th

34.5%

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

11.85

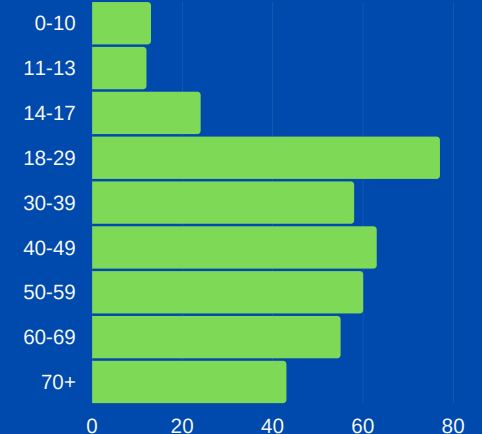
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional level is critical.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring three outbreaks in long term care facilities, several are uncontrolled. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

CRITICAL

CRITICAL RISK

1. NEW CASES DAILY > 5/10,000
POPULATION (FOURTEEN 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

- BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES
90%
- MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE
SHORTAGES

OR

4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE
IMPLEMENTED

At the red level, communities have reached a tipping point for uncontrolled spread and cities, counties, and/or SCPHD *may* institute all or some of the following:

- Stay-At-Home Order issued
- Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
- Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions
- Continued closure of bars and nightclubs
- Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures
- Prohibited visitation to long-term care facilities
- Travel advisories as needed
 - **14-day self-quarantine** for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission

Lincoln County

Risk level: CRITICAL

Lincoln County's case rate is still high in the critical risk tier. The county does not have a local hospital but the regional hospital is critically impacted. The positivity rate skyrocketed in the last two weeks, higher than any surrounding county. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district. SCPHD is monitoring one uncontrolled outbreak in a long term care facility.

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



Using data from November 1st - 14th

22.4%

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

8.26

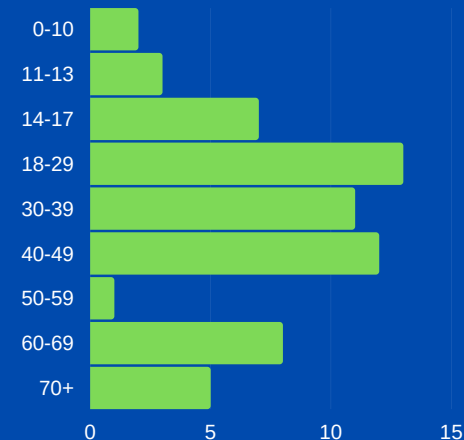
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

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

SCPHD is monitoring one uncontrolled outbreak in a local long term care facility. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

CRITICAL

CRITICAL RISK

1. NEW CASES DAILY $> 5/10,000$ POPULATION (FOURTEEN 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

- BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES 90%
- MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES

OR

4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED

At the red level, communities have reached a tipping point for uncontrolled spread and cities, counties, and/or SCPHD *may* institute all or some of the following:

- Stay-At-Home Order issued
- Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
- Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions
- Continued closure of bars and nightclubs
- Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures
- Prohibited visitation to long-term care facilities
- Travel advisories as needed
 - **14-day self-quarantine** for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission

Minidoka County

Risk level: Critical

Minidoka County's average new case rate is in the critical risk tier. SCPHD is monitoring local outbreaks in three long term care facilities, several are uncontrolled. Case rates are surging across the region, which has severely impacted efforts to contact trace and investigate the spread of this disease. Impact on the local level is high and regional hospital is critical. The positivity rate is in the critical risk tier.

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



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Using data from November 1st - 14th

24.79%

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

7.10

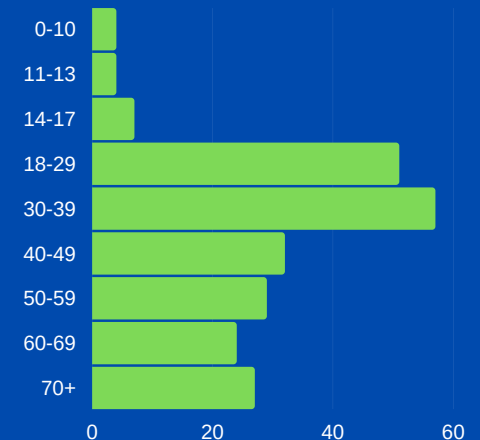
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

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

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring outbreaks at three long term care facilities, several are uncontrolled. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

CRITICAL

CRITICAL RISK

1. NEW CASES DAILY > 5/10,000
POPULATION (FOURTEEN 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

- BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES
90%
- MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE
SHORTAGES

OR

4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE
IMPLEMENTED

At the red level, communities have reached a tipping point for uncontrolled spread and cities, counties, and/or SCPHD *may* institute all or some of the following:

- Stay-At-Home Order issued
- Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
- Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions
- Continued closure of bars and nightclubs
- Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures
- Prohibited visitation to long-term care facilities
- Travel advisories as needed
 - **14-day self-quarantine** for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission

Twin Falls County

Risk level: **Critical**

The average case rate in Twin Falls remains in the critical tier. Because of the surge in cases, contact tracing and investigation is impacted.

Twenty-one local long term care facilities are experiencing an outbreak, several are uncontrolled. Impact on the local and regional hospitals is critical. The positivity rate is in the high risk tier.

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



Using data from November 1st - 14th

25.6%

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

11.46

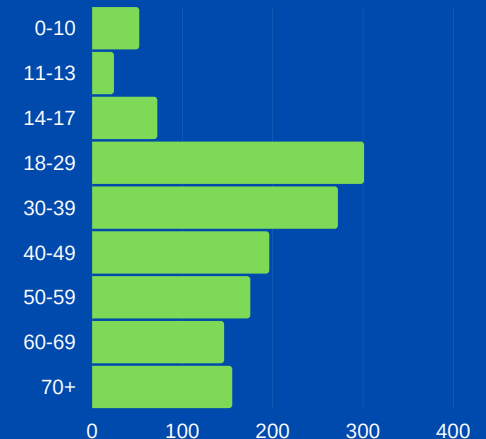
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional level is critical. Critical surge cannot be maintained.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring outbreaks in **twenty-one** long term care facilities. Several of these outbreaks are uncontrolled. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

CRITICAL

CRITICAL RISK

1. NEW CASES DAILY $> 5/10,000$ POPULATION (FOURTEEN 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

- BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES 90%
- MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES

OR

4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED

At the red level, communities have reached a tipping point for uncontrolled spread and cities, counties, and/or SCPHD *may* institute all or some of the following:

- Stay-At-Home Order issued
- Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
- Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions
- Continued closure of bars and nightclubs
- Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures
- Prohibited visitation to long-term care facilities
- Travel advisories as needed
 - **14-day self-quarantine** for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission

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.

"Identify Level of Transmission Risk"			
	Category 1: No Community Transmission	Category 2: Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission	Category 3: Substantial Community Transmission
Definitions	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.
Level of Operations	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 each Thursday by 5 pm.

Health Risk Levels will be made on Thursdays 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
- 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.