

## 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



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Last risk assessment: 11/04/2021

# Metric Definitions

and weight  
for each metric



**South Central Public Health District**

Prevent. Promote. Protect. [phd5.idaho.gov](http://phd5.idaho.gov)

Using data from October 17th to the 30th

## 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: High

Blaine County's average new case rate is in the high risk tier. The public health district is still investigating cases in the local schools. The recent surge in cases is impacting case investigations.

**The state has declared Crisis Standards of Care for all of Idaho. The local hospital is reporting limited impact, but the regional hospital is still highly impacted and relying on overflow beds to provide care.**

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



**South Central Public Health District**  
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Using data from October 17th to the 30th

**7.52%**

Positivity Rate for the County  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

**2.54**

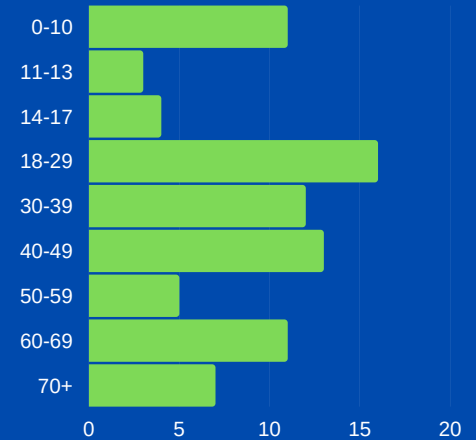
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents  
based on a 14 day rolling average.

**High**

## Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local hospital is decreasing to limited, the regional hospital remains highly impacted.

### NEW CASES BY AGE



**High**

## Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is investigating cases in the local schools and one long-term care facility. Case investigations are highly impacted because of the surge of cases. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Blaine County, including Delta.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HIGH</b></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>HIGH RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW CASES DAILY IS BETWEEN 2.6 to 5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 11% to 20%</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. OUTBREAK(S) OCCURRING AT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals/Healthcare Providers/EMS</li> <li>• Critical Infrastructure Services (fire, law enforcement, utilities, solid waste etc.)</li> <li>• Congregate Living Facilities (assisted living facilities, nursing homes, correctional facilities)</li> <li>• Schools/institutions of higher learning</li> <li>• Mass gatherings/events</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing</li> </ol>	<p>AT THE HIGH LEVEL, COMMUNITY SPREAD HAS ACCELERATED. SCPHD <u>OR</u> LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase education, information sharing and warning, and messaging (health alerts), continue to emphasize vaccinations</li> <li>• Implement vaccination campaign</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible – avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, wear face coverings in public that fully cover the nose and mouth when physical distancing is not possible or is difficult to maintain</li> <li>• Consider universal mask requirements</li> <li>• Self-isolation of vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions)</li> <li>• Teleworking for those who are able</li> <li>• Extra precautions for employees of congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.) and close facility to visitors</li> <li>• Consider delivery/curb-side service for businesses, including food establishments</li> <li>• Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements</li> </ul>

# Camas County

## Risk level: Moderate

Camas County's average new case rate and positivity rate have dropped into the minimal risk level. **The county does not have a local hospital, but the regional hospital is highly impacted.**

A regional surge in case numbers is impacting case investigations, pushing the other epidemiological factors into the high risk category.

Taking all major factors into account, and remembering that the hospital metric has the greatest weight, the overall determined risk level is moderate.



**South Central Public Health District**

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Using data from October 17th to the 30th

0%

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

0

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

Camas County did not have enough new cases in this time period to report ages without potentially identifying the individuals who tested positive.

High

## Other Epidemiological Factors

Case investigations are impacted by the recent surge in cases in the region.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p><b>MODERATE</b></p> <p><b>MODERATE RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW DAILY CASES IS BETWEEN 1 to 2.5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 5% to 10%</li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)</li> </ol>	<p>AT THE MODERATE LEVEL, THERE MAY BE SPORADIC CASES, AN UPTICK IN CLOSE CONTACT TRANSMISSION, OR ISOLATED CLUSTER OUTBREAKS. SCPHD OR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase education, information sharing and warning, and messaging (health advisories), continue to emphasize vaccinations</li> <li>• Extra precautions for vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions)</li> <li>• Stricter policies for staff and visitors to avoid potential outbreaks in congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.)</li> <li>• Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible – avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, wear face coverings in public that fully cover the nose and mouth when physical distancing is not possible or is difficult to maintain</li> </ul>

# Cassia County

Risk level: High

Impact on the local hospital is high. They have some beds available, but have limited staffing and critical care available. The regional hospital remains highly impacted as well. The state has declared Crisis Standards of Care for all of Idaho.

Cassia County's average new case rate is in the high risk level. SCPHD is monitoring two outbreaks in long-term care facilities and investigating cases in the local school. Investigations are highly impacted by the case surge in the region.

Taking all major factors into account, especially considering the hospital metric has the greatest weight, the overall determined risk level is high.



**South Central Public Health District**  
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Using data from October 17th to the 30th

**6.21%**

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

**4.49**

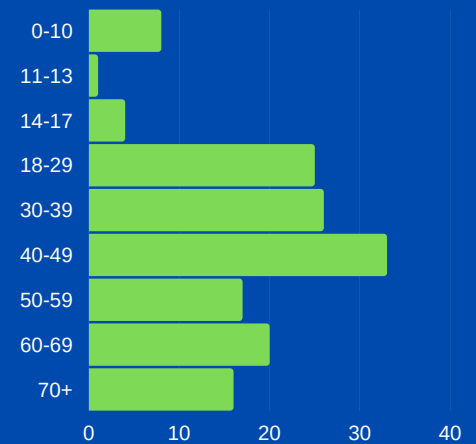
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents  
based on a 14 day rolling average.

**High**

## Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional hospitals is high.

### NEW CASES BY AGE



**High**

## Other Epidemiological Factors

Disease investigations are impacted by the recent surge in cases in the region. The COVID-19 Delta variant has been detected in this county. SCPHD is monitoring 2 active outbreaks in local long-term care facilities.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HIGH</b></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>HIGH RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW CASES DAILY IS BETWEEN 2.6 to 5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 11% to 20%</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. OUTBREAK(S) OCCURRING AT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals/Healthcare Providers/EMS</li> <li>• Critical Infrastructure Services (fire, law enforcement, utilities, solid waste etc.)</li> <li>• Congregate Living Facilities (assisted living facilities, nursing homes, correctional facilities)</li> <li>• Schools/institutions of higher learning</li> <li>• Mass gatherings/events</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing</li> </ol>	<p>AT THE HIGH LEVEL, COMMUNITY SPREAD HAS ACCELERATED. SCPHD <u>OR</u> LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase education, information sharing and warning, and messaging (health alerts), continue to emphasize vaccinations</li> <li>• Implement vaccination campaign</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible – avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, wear face coverings in public that fully cover the nose and mouth when physical distancing is not possible or is difficult to maintain</li> <li>• Consider universal mask requirements</li> <li>• Self-isolation of vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions)</li> <li>• Teleworking for those who are able</li> <li>• Extra precautions for employees of congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.) and close facility to visitors</li> <li>• Consider delivery/curb-side service for businesses, including food establishments</li> <li>• Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements</li> </ul>



# Gooding County

Risk level: High

**Impact on the local hospital is limited. The regional hospital impact is high because of ICU crowding and a reliance on overflow beds to provide care. The state declared Crisis Standards of Care for all of Idaho.**

Gooding County's average new case rate is in the high risk level. SCPHD is monitoring cases in the local schools. Investigations are impacted because of the sudden surge of cases around the region.

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



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Using data from October 17th to the 30th

**8.79%**

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

**2.49**

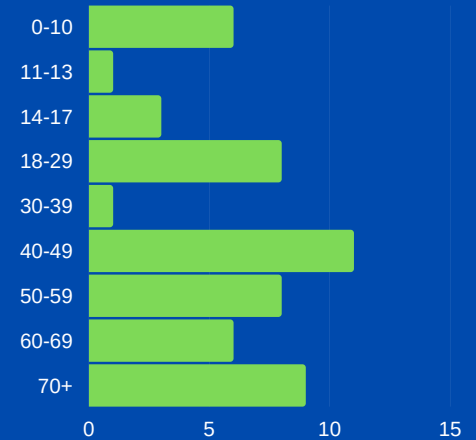
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents  
based on a 14 day rolling average.

**High**

## Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local is limited but the impact on the regional hospital is high.

### NEW CASES BY AGE



**High**

## Other Epidemiological Factors

Disease investigations are impacted by the recent surge in cases in the region. COVID-19 variants have been detected in this county. SCPHD is not monitoring any active outbreaks in local long-term care facilities.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HIGH</b></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>HIGH RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW CASES DAILY IS BETWEEN 2.6 to 5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 11% to 20%</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. OUTBREAK(S) OCCURRING AT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals/Healthcare Providers/EMS</li> <li>• Critical Infrastructure Services (fire, law enforcement, utilities, solid waste etc.)</li> <li>• Congregate Living Facilities (assisted living facilities, nursing homes, correctional facilities)</li> <li>• Schools/institutions of higher learning</li> <li>• Mass gatherings/events</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing</li> </ol>	<p>AT THE HIGH LEVEL, COMMUNITY SPREAD HAS ACCELERATED. SCPHD <u>OR</u> LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase education, information sharing and warning, and messaging (health alerts), continue to emphasize vaccinations</li> <li>• Implement vaccination campaign</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible – avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, wear face coverings in public that fully cover the nose and mouth when physical distancing is not possible or is difficult to maintain</li> <li>• Consider universal mask requirements</li> <li>• Self-isolation of vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions)</li> <li>• Teleworking for those who are able</li> <li>• Extra precautions for employees of congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.) and close facility to visitors</li> <li>• Consider delivery/curb-side service for businesses, including food establishments</li> <li>• Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements</li> </ul>

# Jerome County

Risk level: High

**There is no local hospital and the impact on the regional hospital is high.**

Jerome County's average new case rate and positivity rate are in the moderate risk level. SCPHD is monitoring cases in local schools. Case investigations are impacted by the recent surge in cases.

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



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Using data from October 17th to the 30th

**6.96%**

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

**2.46**

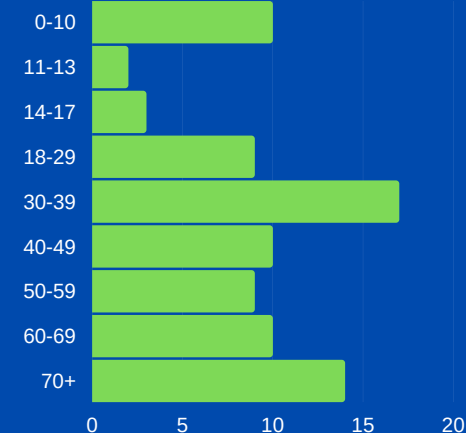
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

**High**

## Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional hospitals is high.

### NEW CASES BY AGE



**High**

## Other Epidemiological Factors

Disease investigations are impacted by the surge in cases in the region. The COVID-19 Delta variant has been detected in this county. SCPHD is monitoring cases in the local schools.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HIGH</b></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>HIGH RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW CASES DAILY IS BETWEEN 2.6 to 5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 11% to 20%</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. OUTBREAK(S) OCCURRING AT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals/Healthcare Providers/EMS</li> <li>• Critical Infrastructure Services (fire, law enforcement, utilities, solid waste etc.)</li> <li>• Congregate Living Facilities (assisted living facilities, nursing homes, correctional facilities)</li> <li>• Schools/institutions of higher learning</li> <li>• Mass gatherings/events</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing</li> </ol>	<p>AT THE HIGH LEVEL, COMMUNITY SPREAD HAS ACCELERATED. SCPHD <u>OR</u> LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase education, information sharing and warning, and messaging (health alerts), continue to emphasize vaccinations</li> <li>• Implement vaccination campaign</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible – avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, wear face coverings in public that fully cover the nose and mouth when physical distancing is not possible or is difficult to maintain</li> <li>• Consider universal mask requirements</li> <li>• Self-isolation of vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions)</li> <li>• Teleworking for those who are able</li> <li>• Extra precautions for employees of congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.) and close facility to visitors</li> <li>• Consider delivery/curb-side service for businesses, including food establishments</li> <li>• Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements</li> </ul>

# Lincoln County

Risk level: Critical

**High impact in the regional hospital. The state has declared Crisis Standards of Care for all hospitals.**

Lincoln County's average case rate is in the high risk tier. SCPHD continues to investigate one outbreak in a local long-term care facility.

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



Using data from October 17th to the 30th

## 13.33%

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

## 3.20

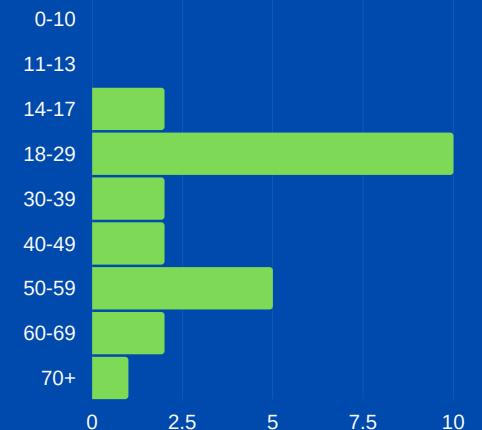
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

## 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



## High

## Other Epidemiological Factors

Disease investigations are impacted by the recent surge in cases in the region. COVID-19 variants have been detected in this county.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HIGH</b></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>HIGH RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW CASES DAILY IS BETWEEN 2.6 to 5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 11% to 20%</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. OUTBREAK(S) OCCURRING AT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals/Healthcare Providers/EMS</li> <li>• Critical Infrastructure Services (fire, law enforcement, utilities, solid waste etc.)</li> <li>• Congregate Living Facilities (assisted living facilities, nursing homes, correctional facilities)</li> <li>• Schools/institutions of higher learning</li> <li>• Mass gatherings/events</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing</li> </ol>	<p>AT THE HIGH LEVEL, COMMUNITY SPREAD HAS ACCELERATED. SCPHD <u>OR</u> LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase education, information sharing and warning, and messaging (health alerts), continue to emphasize vaccinations</li> <li>• Implement vaccination campaign</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible – avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, wear face coverings in public that fully cover the nose and mouth when physical distancing is not possible or is difficult to maintain</li> <li>• Consider universal mask requirements</li> <li>• Self-isolation of vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions)</li> <li>• Teleworking for those who are able</li> <li>• Extra precautions for employees of congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.) and close facility to visitors</li> <li>• Consider delivery/curb-side service for businesses, including food establishments</li> <li>• Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements</li> </ul>

# Minidoka County

Risk level: High

Impact on the local and regional hospital is high. The regional hospitals is still relying on overflow beds. The local hospital is reporting limited ICU care, but several open beds in other departments and enough staffing.

Minidoka County's average new case rate is in the high risk tier. SCPHD is monitoring one local outbreak in a long-term care facility and cases in the local schools. The regional case surge is highly impacting case investigations.

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



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Using data from October 17th to the 30th

**4.30%**

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

**3.06**

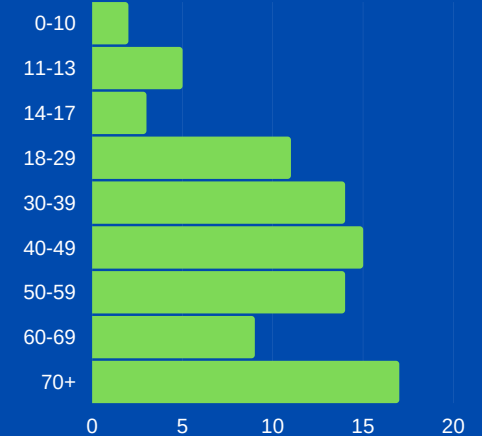
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents  
based on a 14 day rolling average.

**High**

## Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional hospitals is high.

### NEW CASES BY AGE



**High**

## Other Epidemiological Factors

Disease investigations are impacted by the recent surge in cases in the region. COVID-19 variants have been detected in this county. SCPHD is monitoring 1 active outbreak in a local long-term care facility and cases in the local schools.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HIGH</b></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>HIGH RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW CASES DAILY IS BETWEEN 2.6 to 5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 11% to 20%</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. OUTBREAK(S) OCCURRING AT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals/Healthcare Providers/EMS</li> <li>• Critical Infrastructure Services (fire, law enforcement, utilities, solid waste etc.)</li> <li>• Congregate Living Facilities (assisted living facilities, nursing homes, correctional facilities)</li> <li>• Schools/institutions of higher learning</li> <li>• Mass gatherings/events</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing</li> </ol>	<p>AT THE HIGH LEVEL, COMMUNITY SPREAD HAS ACCELERATED. SCPHD <u>OR</u> LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase education, information sharing and warning, and messaging (health alerts), continue to emphasize vaccinations</li> <li>• Implement vaccination campaign</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible – avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, wear face coverings in public that fully cover the nose and mouth when physical distancing is not possible or is difficult to maintain</li> <li>• Consider universal mask requirements</li> <li>• Self-isolation of vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions)</li> <li>• Teleworking for those who are able</li> <li>• Extra precautions for employees of congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.) and close facility to visitors</li> <li>• Consider delivery/curb-side service for businesses, including food establishments</li> <li>• Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements</li> </ul>



# Twin Falls County

Risk level: High

Impact on the local hospital is high. ICU capacity is overwhelmed and overflow units are still being used to provide care. The state has declared Crisis Standards of Care for all of Idaho.

Twin Falls County's average new case rate has dropped into the high risk tier. Local schools are still reporting cases among students. The Delta variant has been confirmed in this county and the case surge has impacted investigation efforts. SCPHD is investigating outbreaks in 10 local long-term care facilities.

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



**South Central Public Health District**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect. [phd5.idaho.gov](http://phd5.idaho.gov)

Using data from October 17th to the 30th

## 7.75%

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

## 3.94

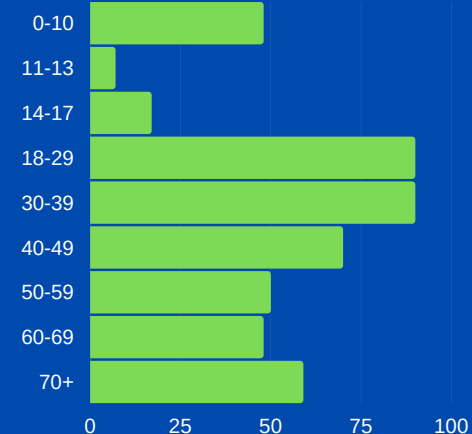
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

## High

### Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional hospitals is high.

### NEW CASES BY AGE



## High

### Other Epidemiological Factors

Disease investigations are impacted by the recent surge in cases in the region. COVID-19 variants have been detected in this county. SCPHD is monitoring 10 active outbreaks in local long-term care facilities and cases in local schools.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HIGH</b></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>HIGH RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW CASES DAILY IS BETWEEN 2.6 to 5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 11% to 20%</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. OUTBREAK(S) OCCURRING AT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals/Healthcare Providers/EMS</li> <li>• Critical Infrastructure Services (fire, law enforcement, utilities, solid waste etc.)</li> <li>• Congregate Living Facilities (assisted living facilities, nursing homes, correctional facilities)</li> <li>• Schools/institutions of higher learning</li> <li>• Mass gatherings/events</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing</li> </ol>	<p>AT THE HIGH LEVEL, COMMUNITY SPREAD HAS ACCELERATED. SCPHD <u>OR</u> LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase education, information sharing and warning, and messaging (health alerts), continue to emphasize vaccinations</li> <li>• Implement vaccination campaign</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible – avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces</li> <li>• If unvaccinated, wear face coverings in public that fully cover the nose and mouth when physical distancing is not possible or is difficult to maintain</li> <li>• Consider universal mask requirements</li> <li>• Self-isolation of vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions)</li> <li>• Teleworking for those who are able</li> <li>• Extra precautions for employees of congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.) and close facility to visitors</li> <li>• Consider delivery/curb-side service for businesses, including food establishments</li> <li>• Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements</li> </ul>

## 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](#)