

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



COVID-19 HOTLINE • 208-737-1138 • www.phd5.idaho.gov

Last risk assessment: 12/17/2020

Metric Definitions

and weight
for each metric



South Central Public Health District

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Using data from November 29th to December 12th

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 better, but still in the critical tier. The public health district continues to investigate outbreaks in two long-term care facilities. The local hospital is operating at moderate impact and the regional hospital is operating at critical impact. The county positivity rate has dropped to the moderate level, but it has the least weight of any metric.

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 29th to December 12th

9.3%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

6.24

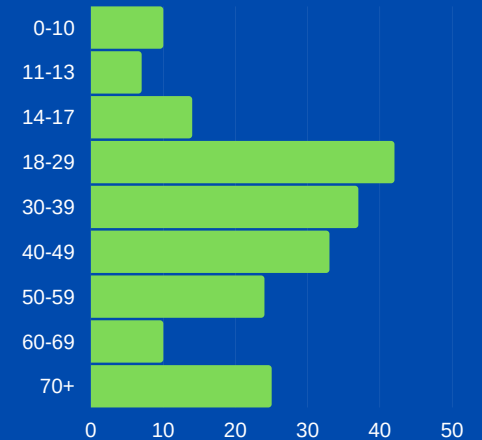
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents
based on a 14 day rolling average.

High

Hospital Capacity

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

NEW CASES BY AGE



High

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is investigating two outbreaks in local long-term care facilities.

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: High

Camas County's average new case rate is in the high risk level. The county does not have a local hospital, but there is high burden on the regional hospital.

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



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Using data from November 29th to December 12th

0%

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

2.58

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

Epidemiology methods are still impacted with high case counts surge across the district.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;">HIGH</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">HIGH RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW CASES DAILY IS BETWEEN 2.5 to 5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE) 2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 11% to 20% <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BED CAPACITY REACHES 85% • SIGNIFICANT STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. SIGNIFICANT OUTBREAK(S) OCCURRING AT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals/Healthcare Providers/EMS • Critical Infrastructure Services (fire, law enforcement, utilities, solid waste etc.) • Congregate Living Facilities (assisted living facilities, nursing homes, correctional facilities) • Schools/institutions of higher learning • Mass gatherings/events that limit public health's ability to conduct contact tracing 	<p>AT ORANGE LEVELS, COMMUNITY SPREAD HAS ACCELERATED. SCPHD <u>OR</u> COMMUNITIES MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase education, information sharing, and messaging • Required use of face coverings • Limitations of mass gatherings (recommend 1 person per 64 sq. ft. of space) or limit to 50 people if appropriate physical distancing can be maintained • Limited travel/visitors to the region as well as travel within the state to areas with high rates of spread (encourage 14-day self-quarantine) • Self-isolation of vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions) • Teleworking for those who are able • Extra precautions for employees of congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.) and close facility to visitors • Delivery/curb-side service for businesses, including food establishments • Closures of bars and nightclubs • Reduced occupancy in places of business and public buildings • Virtual services for place of worship where possible • Discontinuation youth and adult sports/activities in which physical distancing is not possible • Industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures • Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of the Idaho Back to School Framework 2020

Cassia County

Risk level: Critical

Cassia County's case rate remains in the critical risk tier. The hospital capacity is highly impacted and the county has several uncontrolled outbreaks in long-term care facilities.

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 29th to December 12th

12.55%

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

6.42

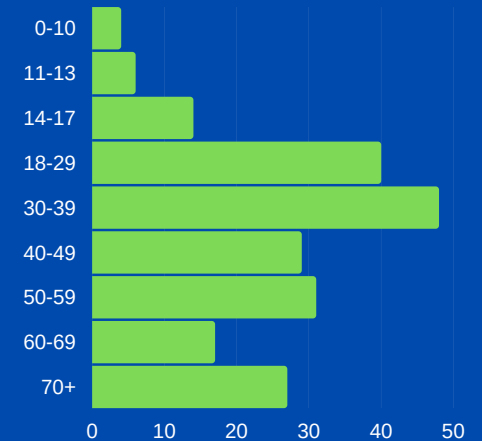
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

High

Hospital Capacity

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

NEW CASES BY AGE



High

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring four outbreaks in long-term care facilities, several are uncontrolled. \

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 high. SCPHD is also monitoring outbreaks in three long-term care facilities.

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



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Using data from November 29th to December 12th

17.01%

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

6.53

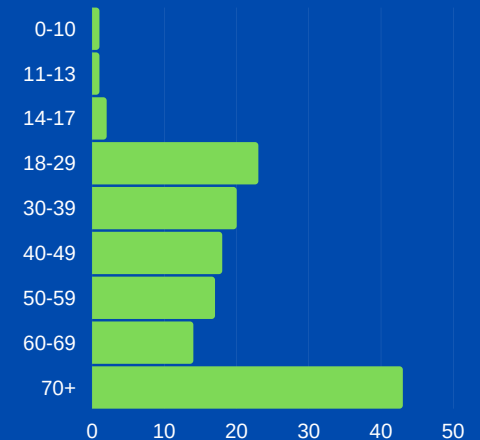
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

High

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local level is minimal, but the regional level is high.

NEW CASES BY AGE



High

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring outbreaks in three long-term care facilities.

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 in the critical risk tier. Impact on the regional hospital level is high. SCPHD is monitoring outbreaks in two long-term care facilities, one of which is uncontrolled.

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 29th to December 12th

16.86%

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

6.2

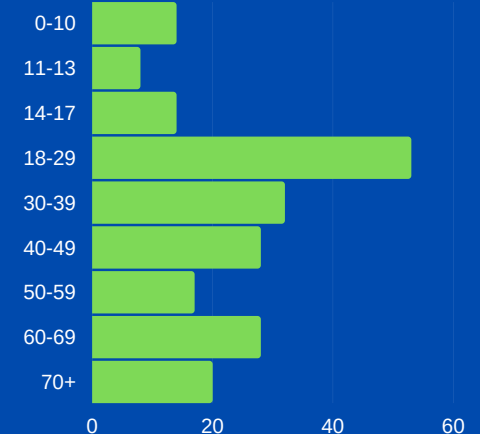
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

High

Hospital Capacity

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

NEW CASES BY AGE



High

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring two outbreaks in long-term care facilities, one is uncontrolled.

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 has high impact. SCPHD is monitoring two outbreaks in long-term care facilities, one of which is uncontrolled.

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



Using data from November 29th to December 12th

17.74%

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

7.06

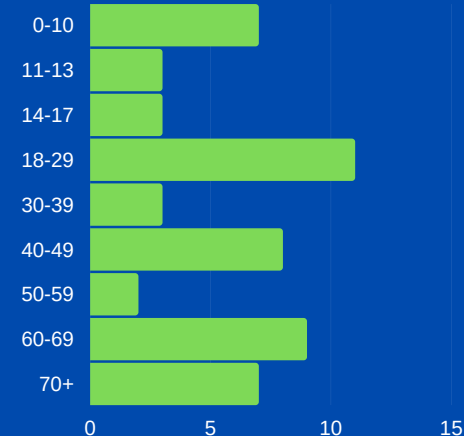
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

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

SCPHD is monitoring two uncontrolled outbreaks in local long-term care facilities, one of which is uncontrolled.

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:

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- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
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- 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: High

Minidoka County's average new case rate has dropped to the high risk tier and has been trending down. SCPHD is monitoring one local outbreak in a long-term care facility. Impact on the regional hospital is high.

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 November 29th to December 12th

6.76%

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

4.55

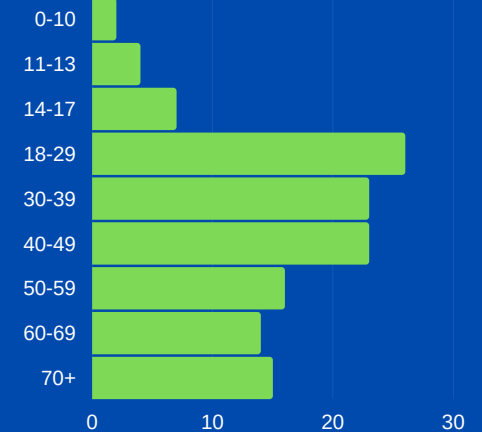
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents
based on a 14 day rolling average.

High

Hospital Capacity

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

NEW CASES BY AGE



High

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring an outbreak at one long-term care facility.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;">HIGH</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">HIGH RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW CASES DAILY IS BETWEEN 2.5 to 5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE) 2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 11% to 20% <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BED CAPACITY REACHES 85% • SIGNIFICANT STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. SIGNIFICANT OUTBREAK(S) OCCURRING AT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals/Healthcare Providers/EMS • Critical Infrastructure Services (fire, law enforcement, utilities, solid waste etc.) • Congregate Living Facilities (assisted living facilities, nursing homes, correctional facilities) • Schools/institutions of higher learning • Mass gatherings/events that limit public health's ability to conduct contact tracing 	<p>AT ORANGE LEVELS, COMMUNITY SPREAD HAS ACCELERATED. SCPHD <u>OR</u> COMMUNITIES MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase education, information sharing, and messaging • Required use of face coverings • Limitations of mass gatherings (recommend 1 person per 64 sq. ft. of space) or limit to 50 people if appropriate physical distancing can be maintained • Limited travel/visitors to the region as well as travel within the state to areas with high rates of spread (encourage 14-day self-quarantine) • Self-isolation of vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions) • Teleworking for those who are able • Extra precautions for employees of congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.) and close facility to visitors • Delivery/curb-side service for businesses, including food establishments • Closures of bars and nightclubs • Reduced occupancy in places of business and public buildings • Virtual services for place of worship where possible • Discontinuation youth and adult sports/activities in which physical distancing is not possible • Industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures • Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of the Idaho Back to School Framework 2020

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.

Nineteen local long-term care facilities are experiencing an outbreak, several are uncontrolled. Impact on the local and regional hospitals is high.

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



Using data from November 29th to December 12th

12.21%

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

5.17

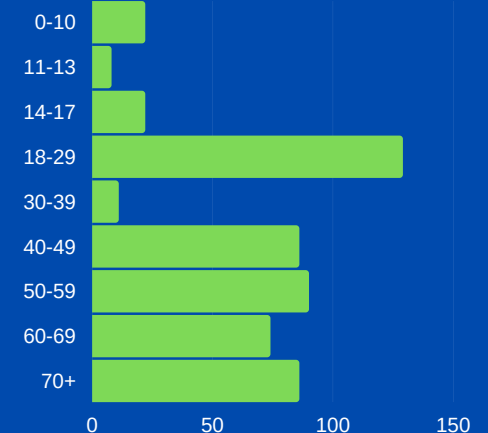
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

High

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional level is high.

NEW CASES BY AGE



High

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring outbreaks in **nineteen** long-term care facilities. Several of these outbreaks are uncontrolled.

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.