

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

Last risk assessment: 2/10/2022

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 23rd to February 5th

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 but they are trending down.

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is extremely critical due to staffing challenges, case increases, and a blood shortage. 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.



South Central Public Health District
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Using data from January 23rd to February 5th

25%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

9.53*

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

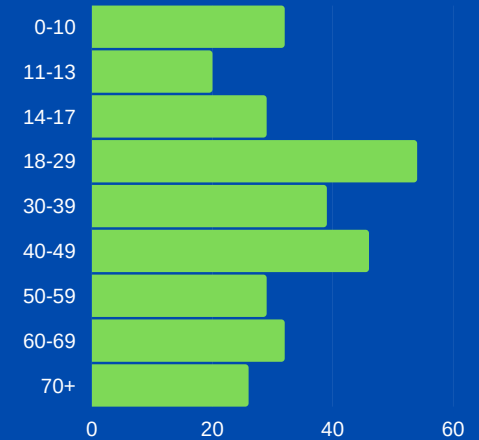
*The region has a massive case backlog so cases may not be accurately reported until investigation teams are able to keep up.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is extremely critical due to staffing challenges, case increases, and a blood shortage.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Investigations are critically 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)**
 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

**CRITICAL
RISK**

Camas County

Risk level: Critical

Camas County's average new case rate and positivity rate are still in the critical risk level.

The case rate is still trending upward, but the positivity rate declined in the last two weeks.

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 23rd to February 5th

20%

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.

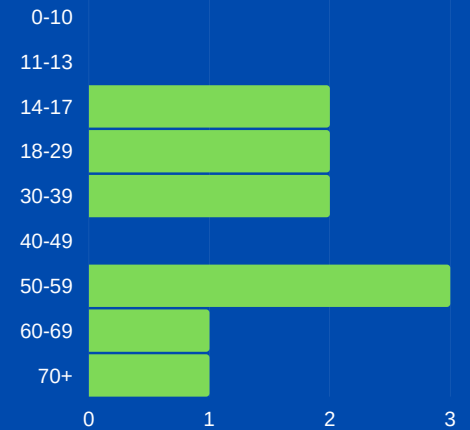
*The region has a massive case backlog so cases may not be accurately reported until investigation teams are able to keep up.

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

Investigations are critically impacted by increased case count. Testing availability is impacted on a district wide level.

CRITICAL

CRITICAL RISK

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Cassia County

Risk level: Critical

Cassia County's average new case rate shot up into the critical risk level. The positivity rate remains in the critical risk level.

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is extremely critical due to staffing challenges, case increases, and a blood shortage.

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



Using data from January 23rd to February 5th

21.93%

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

5.50*

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

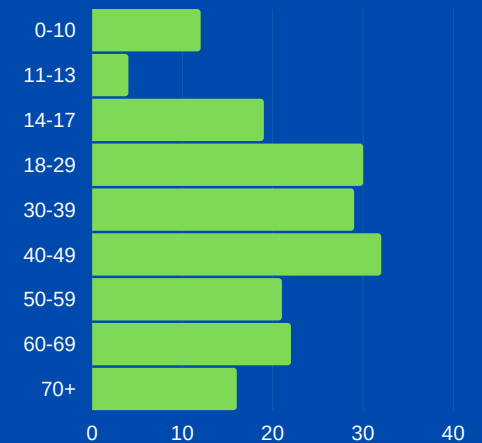
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Critical

Hospital Capacity

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is extremely critical due to staffing challenges, case increases, and a blood shortage.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Investigations are critically impacted by increased case count. Testing availability is impacted on a district wide level.

CRITICAL

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**CRITICAL
RISK**

Gooding County

Risk level: Critical

Gooding County's average new case rate continues to increase, sitting right on the edge of high and critical risk level. The positivity rate is still incredibly high but trending downward.

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is extremely critical due to staffing challenges, case increases, and a blood shortage.

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



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Using data from January 23rd to February 5th

33.86%

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

4.94*

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

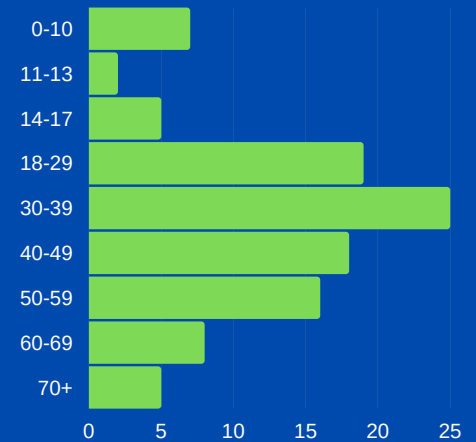
*The region has a massive case backlog so cases may not be accurately reported until investigation teams are able to keep up.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is extremely critical due to staffing challenges, case increases, and a blood shortage.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Investigations are critically 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**

Jerome County

Risk level: Critical

Jerome County's average new case rate is still trending upward, pushing that metric into the critical risk tier. The positivity rate has declined slightly, but is still extremely high.

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is extremely critical due to staffing challenges, case increases, and a blood shortage.

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



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Using data from January 23rd to February 5th

36.19%

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

6.00*

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

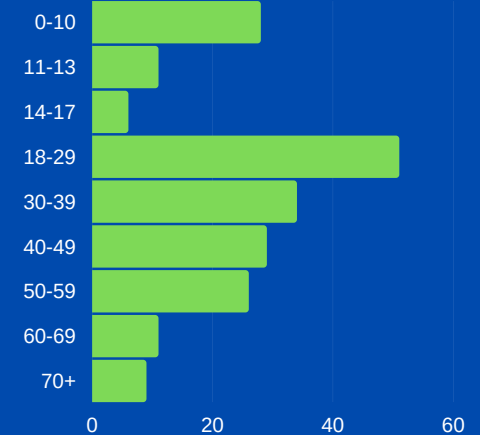
*The region has a massive case backlog so cases may not be accurately reported until investigation teams are able to keep up.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is extremely critical due to staffing challenges, case increases, and a blood shortage.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Investigations are critically 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 remains critical. The positivity rate remains extremely high, but has dropped into a lower risk level.

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is extremely critical due to staffing challenges, case increases, and a blood shortage.

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



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Using data from January 23rd to February 5th

19.18%

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

5.06*

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

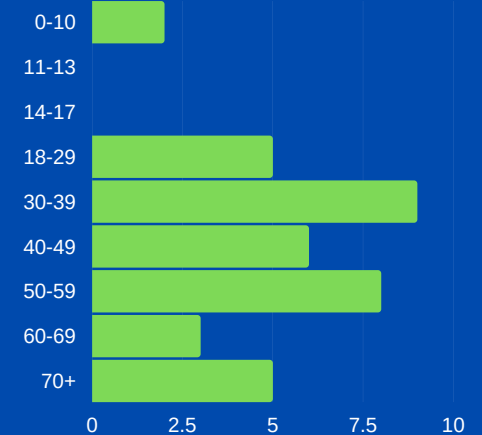
*The region has a massive case backlog so cases may not be accurately reported until investigation teams are able to keep up.

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

Investigations are critically impacted by increased case count. Testing availability is impacted on a district wide level.

CRITICAL

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**CRITICAL
RISK**

Minidoka County

Risk level: Critical

Minidoka County's case rate has jumped up into the critical risk level. The positivity rate declined, but is still extremely high.

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is extremely critical due to staffing challenges, case increases, and a blood shortage.

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



South Central Public Health District

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Using data from January 23rd to February 5th

23.45%

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

5.23*

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

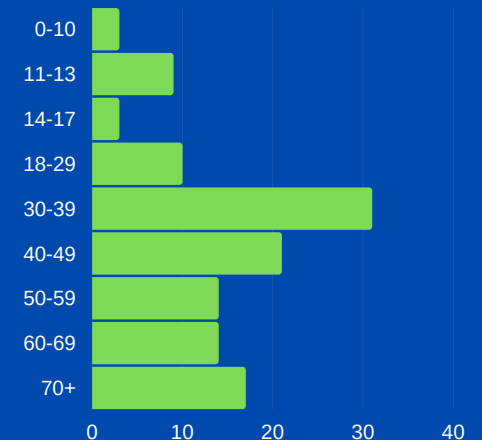
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Critical

Hospital Capacity

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NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Investigations are critically impacted by increased case count. Testing availability is impacted on a district wide level.

CRITICAL

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**CRITICAL
RISK**

Twin Falls County

Risk level: Critical

Twin Falls County's case rate and positivity rate remains unusually high and is rated in the critical risk tier.

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is extremely critical due to staffing challenges, case increases, and a blood shortage.

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 23rd to February 5th

27.68%

Positivity Rate for the County in the past week.

Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

8.32*

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

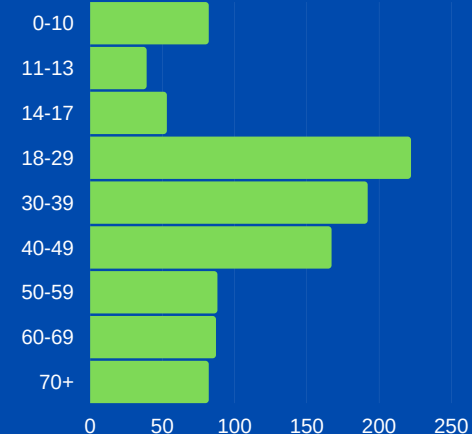
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Critical

Hospital Capacity

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NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Investigations are critically impacted by increased case count. Testing availability is impacted on a district wide level.

CRITICAL

CRITICAL RISK

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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.

"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 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](#)