

## 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: 3/10/2022

# 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**

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

Using data from February 20th to March 5th

# Blaine County

Risk level: Moderate

Blaine County's positivity rate has dropped into the low end of the moderate risk level.

The case rate is inflated because public health is catching up on backlogged lab results. The metric was not used in this risk assessment because it is not correct.

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is moderate, and we have the capacity to send overflow to partner hospitals. This metric has the most weight.

Other epidemiological factors have dropped into moderate. The case backlog remains, but is dwindling as investigators quickly catch up.

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



**South Central Public Health District**  
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Using data from February 20th to March 5th

6.41%

Positivity Rate for the County  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

11.79\*

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

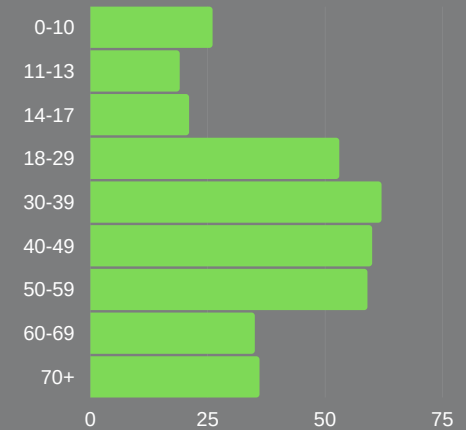
\*The region still has a massive case backlog so cases are currently inflated. This metric was not used in this assessment because of the inflation.

Moderate

## Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local hospital is minimal. Impact on the regional hospital is on the low end of moderate. Overall impact is moderate.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Moderate

## Other Epidemiological Factors

Investigations are critically impacted by case back log. Investigations and contact tracing have been suspended.

**RISK LEVEL****METRICS MONITORED****MITIGATION STRATEGIES****MODERATE**

1. NEW DAILY CASES IS BETWEEN 1 to 2.5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)
  2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 5% to 10%
- OR
3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)

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:

- Increase education, information sharing and warning, and messaging (health advisories), continue to emphasize vaccinations
- Extra precautions for vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions)
- Stricter policies for staff and visitors to avoid potential outbreaks in congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.)
- Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements
- 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
- 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

**MODERATE  
RISK**

# Camas County

Risk level: Moderate

Camas County's positivity rate has bumped back into the critical risk level. This county has such a small population, the positivity rate can be easily impacted by just one or two positive cases.

The case rate is inflated because public health is catching up on backlogged lab results. The metric was not used in this risk assessment because it is not correct.

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is moderate.

Other epidemiological factors have dropped into moderate. The case backlog remains, but is dwindling as investigators quickly catch up.

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



Using data from February 20th to March 5th

22.22%

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.

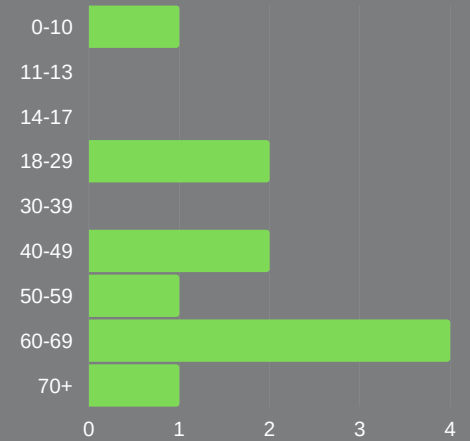
\*The region still has a massive case backlog so cases are currently inflated. This metric was not used in this assessment because of the inflation.

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



Moderate

Other Epidemiological Factors

Investigations are critically impacted by case back log. Investigations and contact tracing have been suspended.

**RISK LEVEL****METRICS MONITORED****MITIGATION STRATEGIES****MODERATE**

1. NEW DAILY CASES IS BETWEEN 1 to 2.5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)
  2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 5% to 10%
- OR
3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)

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- 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
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**MODERATE  
RISK**

# Cassia County

Risk level: Moderate

Cassia County's positivity rate has dropped into the minimal risk level.

The case rate is inflated because public health is catching up on backlogged lab results. The metric was not used in this risk assessment because it is not correct.

The impact on the local hospital is critical because of staffing issues, but moderate on the regional level. The metric overall is rated as high.

Other epidemiological factors have dropped into moderate. The case backlog remains, but is dwindling as investigators quickly catch up.

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



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Using data from February 20th to March 5th

2.65%

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

7.25\*

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

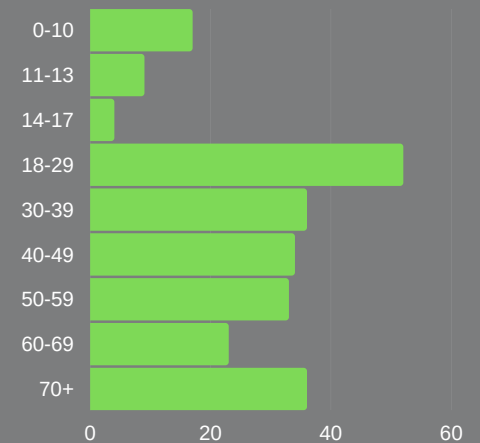
\*The region still has a massive case backlog so cases are currently inflated. This metric was not used in this assessment because of the inflation.

High

## Hospital Capacity

The impact on the local hospital is critical and the impact on the regional hospital is moderate.

### NEW CASES BY AGE



Moderate

### Other Epidemiological Factors

Investigations are critically impacted by case back log. Investigations and contact tracing have been suspended.

**RISK LEVEL****METRICS MONITORED****MITIGATION STRATEGIES****MODERATE**

1. NEW DAILY CASES IS BETWEEN 1 to 2.5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)
  2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 5% to 10%
- OR
3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)

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:

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- Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements
- 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
- 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

**MODERATE  
RISK**



# Gooding County

## Risk level: Moderate

Gooding County's positivity rate has dropped into the minimal risk level.

The case rate is inflated because public health is catching up on backlogged lab results. The metric was not used in this risk assessment because it is not correct.

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is moderate, and we have the capacity to send overflow to partner hospitals. This metric has the most weight.

Other epidemiological factors have dropped into moderate. The case backlog remains, but is dwindling as investigators quickly catch up.

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



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Using data from February 20th to March 5th

# 1.56%

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

# 12.93\*

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

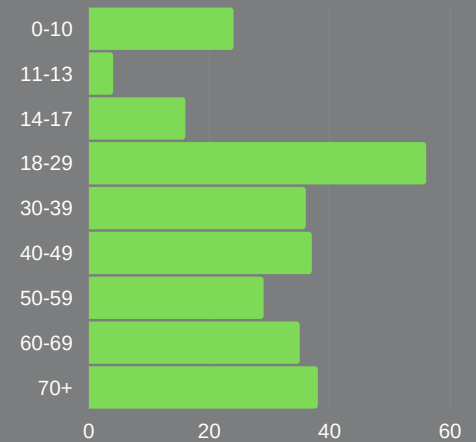
\*The region still has a massive case backlog so cases are currently inflated. This metric was not used in this assessment because of the inflation.

## Moderate

### Hospital Capacity

The impact on the local hospital is moderate. The impact on the regional hospital is moderate.

### NEW CASES BY AGE



## Moderate

### Other Epidemiological Factors

**Investigations are critically impacted by case back log. Investigations and contact tracing have been suspended.**

**RISK LEVEL****METRICS MONITORED****MITIGATION STRATEGIES****MODERATE**

1. NEW DAILY CASES IS BETWEEN 1 to 2.5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)
  2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 5% to 10%
- OR
3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)

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:

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- 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
- 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

**MODERATE  
RISK**

# Jerome County

Risk level: Moderate

Jerome County's positivity rate has dropped into the minimal risk level.

The case rate is inflated because public health is catching up on backlogged lab results. The metric was not used in this risk assessment because it is not correct.

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is moderate, and we have the capacity to send overflow to partner hospitals.

Other epidemiological factors have dropped into moderate. The case backlog remains, but is dwindling as investigators quickly catch up.

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



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Using data from February 20th to March 5th

**4.07%**

Positivity Rate for the County in the past week.

Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

**12.96\***

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

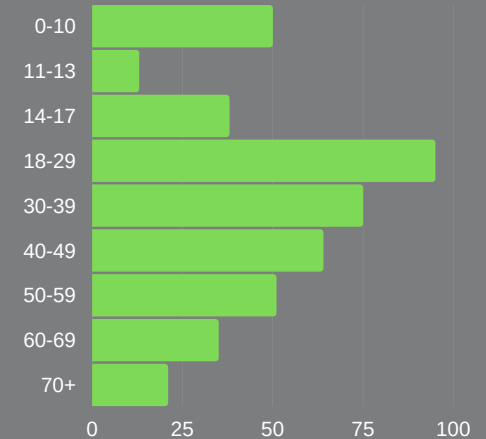
\*The region still has a massive case backlog so cases are currently inflated. This metric was not used in this assessment because of the inflation.

**Moderate**

**Hospital Capacity**

The impact on the local hospital is moderate. The impact on the regional hospital is moderate.

NEW CASES BY AGE



**Moderate**

**Other Epidemiological Factors**

**Investigations are critically impacted by case back log. Investigations and contact tracing have been suspended.**

**RISK LEVEL****METRICS MONITORED****MITIGATION STRATEGIES****MODERATE**

1. NEW DAILY CASES IS BETWEEN 1 to 2.5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)
  2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 5% to 10%
- OR
3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)

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- 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

**MODERATE  
RISK**

# Lincoln County

Risk level: Moderate

Lincoln County's positivity rate has dropped into the moderate risk level.

The case rate is inflated because public health is catching up on backlogged lab results. The metric was not used in this risk assessment because it is not correct.

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is moderate, and we have the capacity to send overflow to partner hospitals.

Other epidemiological factors have dropped into moderate. The case backlog remains, but is dwindling as investigators quickly catch up.

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



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

Using data from February 20th to March 5th

2.22%

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

13.19\*

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

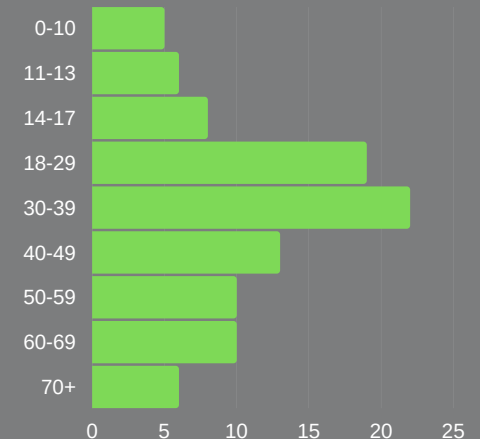
\*The region still has a massive case backlog so cases are currently inflated. This metric was not used in this assessment because of the inflation.

## 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



## Moderate

### Other Epidemiological Factors

Investigations are critically impacted by case back log. Investigations and contact tracing have been suspended.

**RISK LEVEL****METRICS MONITORED****MITIGATION STRATEGIES****MODERATE**

1. NEW DAILY CASES IS BETWEEN 1 to 2.5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)
  2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 5% to 10%
- OR
3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)

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:

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- 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
- 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

**MODERATE  
RISK**

# Minidoka County

## Risk level: Moderate

Minidoka County's positivity rate has dropped into the moderate risk level.

The case rate is inflated because public health is catching up on backlogged lab results. The metric was not used in this risk assessment because it is not correct.

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is moderate, and we have the capacity to send overflow to partner hospitals.

Other epidemiological factors have dropped into moderate. The case backlog remains, but is dwindling as investigators quickly catch up.

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



**South Central Public Health District**  
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Using data from February 20th to March 5th

# 7.62%

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

# 7.71\*

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

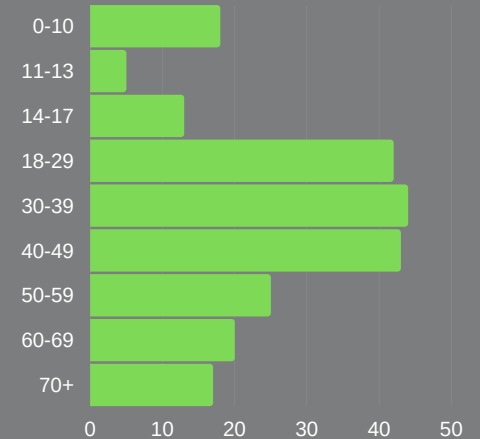
\*The region still has a massive case backlog so cases are currently inflated. This metric was not used in this assessment because of the inflation.

## Moderate

## Hospital Capacity

The impact on the local hospital is minimal. Impact on the regional hospital is moderate.

### NEW CASES BY AGE



## Moderate

### Other Epidemiological Factors

**Investigations are critically impacted by case back log. Investigations and contact tracing have been suspended.**

**RISK LEVEL****METRICS MONITORED****MITIGATION STRATEGIES****MODERATE**

1. NEW DAILY CASES IS BETWEEN 1 to 2.5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)
  2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 5% to 10%
- OR
3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)

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- Stricter policies for staff and visitors to avoid potential outbreaks in congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.)
- Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements
- 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
- 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

**MODERATE  
RISK**



# Twin Falls County

Risk level: Moderate

Twin Falls County's positivity rate has dropped into the minimal risk level.

The case rate is inflated because public health is catching up on backlogged lab results. The metric was not used in this risk assessment because it is not correct.

The overall impact on hospitals in the region is moderate, and we have the capacity to send overflow to partner hospitals.

Other epidemiological factors have dropped into moderate. The case backlog remains, but is dwindling as investigators quickly catch up.

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



Using data from February 20th to March 5th

4.58%

Positivity Rate for the County in the past week.

Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

15.19\*

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

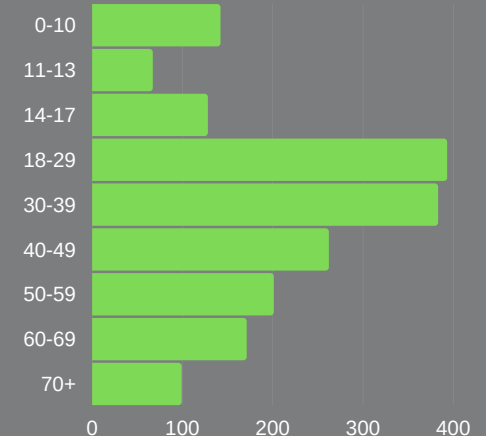
\*The region still has a massive case backlog so cases are currently inflated. This metric was not used in this assessment because of the inflation.

Moderate

## Hospital Capacity

The impact on the local and regional hospital is moderate.

### NEW CASES BY AGE



Moderate

## Other Epidemiological Factors

Investigations are critically impacted by case back log. Investigations and contact tracing have been suspended.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p><b>MODERATE</b></p> <p><b>MODERATE RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NEW DAILY CASES IS BETWEEN 1 to 2.5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <li>COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 5% to 10%</li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 <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 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>

## 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](#)