

## 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](http://www.phd5.idaho.gov)**

Last risk assessment: 4/22/2021

# 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 April 4th to April 17th

## 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: Moderate

Blaine County's average new case is still in the moderate risk tier. The positivity rate has dropped into the minimal risk tier. The public health district is not currently investigating any active outbreaks in local long-term care facilities. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Blaine County.

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 April 4th to April 17th

**3.35%**

Positivity Rate for the County  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

**1.77**

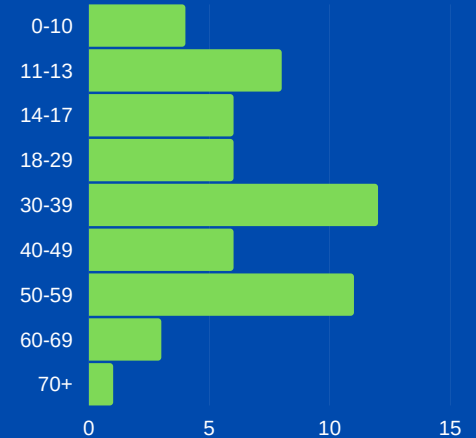
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents  
based on a 14 day rolling average.

**Minimal**

**Hospital Capacity**

Impact on the local level is minimal and the regional level is minimal.

**NEW CASES BY AGE**



**Moderate**

**Other Epidemiological Factors**

SCPHD is investigating 0 outbreaks in local long-term care facilities. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Blaine County.

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 (FOURTEEN 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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BED CAPACITY REACHES 80%</li> <li>• STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p><b>AT YELLOW LEVELS, THERE MAY BE SPORADIC IMPORTED CASES, AN UPTICK IN CLOSE CONTACT TRANSMISSION, OR ISOLATED CLUSTER OUTBREAKS. SCPHD OR COMMUNITIES MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase education, information sharing, and messaging</li> <li>• Limitations on mass gatherings (recommend 1 person per 64 sq. ft. of space) or limit to 150 people if appropriate physical distancing can be maintained</li> <li>• Required face coverings in public settings</li> <li>• Extra precautions for vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions)</li> <li>• Teleworking where possible and feasible with business operations</li> <li>• Minimize of non-essential travel</li> <li>• Strict policies for staff and visitors to avoid potential outbreaks in congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.)</li> <li>• Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of <a href="#">Idaho Back to School Framework 2020</a></li> </ul>

# Camas County

Risk level: Minimal

Camas County's average new case rate is in the minimal risk level. The county does not have a local hospital, but there is minimal burden on the regional hospital. The COVID-19 variant has been detected in Idaho, elevating the "other epidemiological factors" to moderate.

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



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

Using data from April 4th to April 17th

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.

## Moderate

### Other Epidemiological Factors

No local outbreaks. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Idaho.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p><b>MINIMAL</b></p> <p><b>MINIMAL RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW DAILY CASES &lt; 1 PER 10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE &lt; 5%</li> <li>3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS NORMAL</li> </ol>	<p>At the green level, communities are on track for containment as long as they maintain routine levels of viral testing (i.e., this is not a reference to antibody testing) and contact tracing sufficient to control spikes and outbreaks.</p> <p>SCPHD will educate, inform, and share messages with stakeholders and the public throughout all levels.</p> <p><b>REGARDLESS OF THE RISK LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE PANDEMIC, EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay home if you are sick</li> <li>• Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible</li> <li>• 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>• Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer</li> <li>• Vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions) take extra precautions</li> <li>• Carefully monitor your health</li> </ul>

# Cassia County

Risk level: Minimal

Cassia County's average new case rate is in the minimal risk level. The overall hospital impact is minimal. The county has one active outbreak in a long-term care facility. Epidemiological factors remain in the moderate risk category because COVID-19 variants have been detected in Idaho.

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



**South Central Public Health District**

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Using data from April 4th to April 17th

**2.14%**

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

**0.39**

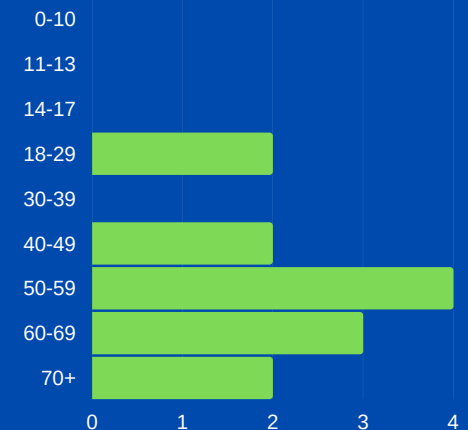
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

**Minimal**

**Hospital Capacity**

Impact on the local level is minimal and regional level is minimal.

**NEW CASES BY AGE**



**Moderate**

**Other Epidemiological Factors**

SCPHD is monitoring one active outbreak in a long-term care facilities. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Idaho.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p><b>MINIMAL</b></p> <p><b>MINIMAL RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW DAILY CASES &lt; 1 PER 10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE &lt; 5%</li> <li>3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS NORMAL</li> </ol>	<p>At the green level, communities are on track for containment as long as they maintain routine levels of viral testing (i.e., this is not a reference to antibody testing) and contact tracing sufficient to control spikes and outbreaks.</p> <p>SCPHD will educate, inform, and share messages with stakeholders and the public throughout all levels.</p> <p><b>REGARDLESS OF THE RISK LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE PANDEMIC, EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay home if you are sick</li> <li>• Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible</li> <li>• 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>• Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer</li> <li>• Vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions) take extra precautions</li> <li>• Carefully monitor your health</li> </ul>



# Gooding County

Risk level: Minimal

Gooding County's average new case rate is in the minimal risk level. Overall, impact on the local and regional hospitals is minimal. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Idaho.

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



**South Central Public Health District**

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Using data from April 4th to April 17th

**0.84%**

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

**0.24**

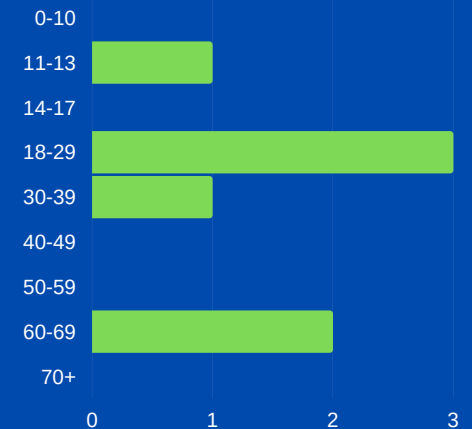
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

**Minimal**

**Hospital Capacity**

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

**NEW CASES BY AGE**



**Moderate**

**Other Epidemiological Factors**

SCPHD is monitoring no outbreaks in long-term care facilities. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Idaho.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p><b>MINIMAL</b></p> <p><b>MINIMAL RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW DAILY CASES &lt; 1 PER 10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE &lt; 5%</li> <li>3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS NORMAL</li> </ol>	<p>At the green level, communities are on track for containment as long as they maintain routine levels of viral testing (i.e., this is not a reference to antibody testing) and contact tracing sufficient to control spikes and outbreaks.</p> <p>SCPHD will educate, inform, and share messages with stakeholders and the public throughout all levels.</p> <p><b>REGARDLESS OF THE RISK LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE PANDEMIC, EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay home if you are sick</li> <li>• Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible</li> <li>• 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>• Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer</li> <li>• Vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions) take extra precautions</li> <li>• Carefully monitor your health</li> </ul>

# Jerome County

## Risk level: Minimal

Jerome County's average new case rate is in the minimal risk level. SCPHD is not monitoring any outbreaks in long-term care facilities. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Idaho.

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



Using data from April 4th to April 17th

2.58%

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

0.5

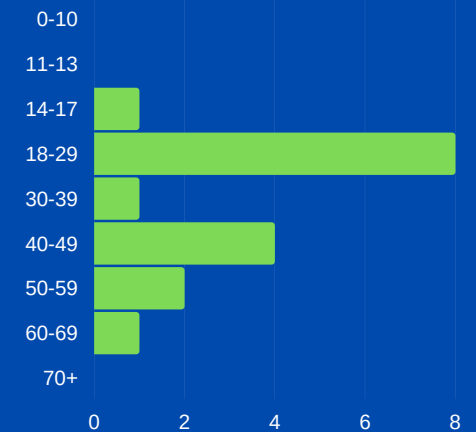
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

## Minimal

## Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local level is minimal and regional level is minimal.

### NEW CASES BY AGE



## Moderate

### Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring 0 active outbreaks in long-term care facilities. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Idaho.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINIMAL</b></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>MINIMAL RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW DAILY CASES &lt; 1 PER 10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE &lt; 5%</li> <li>3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS NORMAL</li> </ol>	<p>At the green level, communities are on track for containment as long as they maintain routine levels of viral testing (i.e., this is not a reference to antibody testing) and contact tracing sufficient to control spikes and outbreaks.</p> <p>SCPHD will educate, inform, and share messages with stakeholders and the public throughout all levels.</p> <p><b>REGARDLESS OF THE RISK LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE PANDEMIC, EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay home if you are sick</li> <li>• Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible</li> <li>• 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>• Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer</li> <li>• Vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions) take extra precautions</li> <li>• Carefully monitor your health</li> </ul>

# Lincoln County

Risk level: Minimal

Lincoln County's case and positivity rate remain in the minimal risk tier.

The county does not have a local hospital, but the regional hospital has moderate impact. There is currently one outbreak in a local long-term care facility. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Idaho.

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



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Using data from April 4th to April 17th

**1.54%**

Positivity Rate for the County in the past week.

Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

**0.53**

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**

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

## Moderate

### Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring one active outbreak in a long-term care facility. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Idaho.

## MINIMAL

## MINIMAL RISK

1. NEW DAILY CASES < 1 PER 10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)
2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE < 5%
3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS NORMAL

**At the green level, communities are on track for containment as long as they maintain routine levels of viral testing (i.e., this is not a reference to antibody testing) and contact tracing sufficient to control spikes and outbreaks.**

**SCPHD will educate, inform, and share messages with stakeholders and the public throughout all levels.**

**REGARDLESS OF THE RISK LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE PANDEMIC, EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:**

- Stay home if you are sick
- Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible
- Wear face coverings in public that fully cover the nose and mouth when physical distancing is not possible or is difficult to maintain
- Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer
- Vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions) take extra precautions
- Carefully monitor your health

# Minidoka County

Risk level: Minimal

Minidoka County's average new case rate and positivity rate remain in the minimal risk tier. SCPHD is not monitoring any local outbreaks in long-term care facilities. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Idaho.

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



**South Central Public Health District**

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

Using data from April 4th to April 17th

**0%**

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

**0.33**

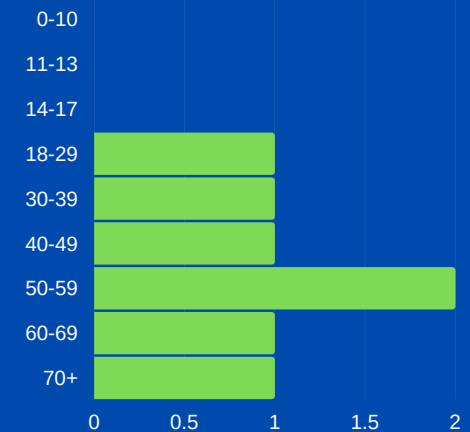
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

**Minimal**

**Hospital Capacity**

Impact on the local hospital is minimal and regional hospital is minimal.

**NEW CASES BY AGE**



**Moderate**

**Other Epidemiological Factors**

SCPHD is monitoring 0 active outbreaks in a long-term care facility. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Idaho.

## MINIMAL

## MINIMAL RISK

1. NEW DAILY CASES < 1 PER 10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)
2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE < 5%
3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS NORMAL

**At the green level, communities are on track for containment as long as they maintain routine levels of viral testing (i.e., this is not a reference to antibody testing) and contact tracing sufficient to control spikes and outbreaks.**

**SCPHD will educate, inform, and share messages with stakeholders and the public throughout all levels.**

**REGARDLESS OF THE RISK LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE PANDEMIC, EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:**

- Stay home if you are sick
- Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible
- Wear face coverings in public that fully cover the nose and mouth when physical distancing is not possible or is difficult to maintain
- Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer
- Vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions) take extra precautions
- Carefully monitor your health



# Twin Falls County

Risk level: Moderate

Twin Falls County's average new case rate is in the moderate risk level. Three local long-term care facilities are experiencing outbreaks, and COVID-19 variants have been detected in Twin Falls County. Impact on the local and regional hospitals is minimal.

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 April 4th to April 17th

**4.09%**

Positivity Rate for the County in the past week.

Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

**1.32**

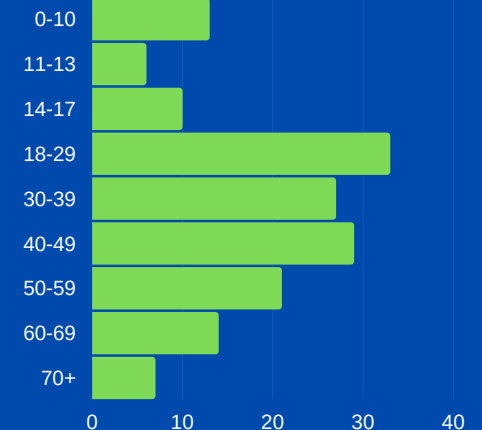
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

**Minimal**

**Hospital Capacity**

Impact on the local and regional level is minimal.

## NEW CASES BY AGE



**Moderate**

## Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring three active outbreaks in long-term care facilities. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Twin Falls County.

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 (FOURTEEN 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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BED CAPACITY REACHES 80%</li> <li>• STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p><b>AT YELLOW LEVELS, THERE MAY BE SPORADIC IMPORTED CASES, AN UPTICK IN CLOSE CONTACT TRANSMISSION, OR ISOLATED CLUSTER OUTBREAKS. SCPHD OR COMMUNITIES MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase education, information sharing, and messaging</li> <li>• Limitations on mass gatherings (recommend 1 person per 64 sq. ft. of space) or limit to 150 people if appropriate physical distancing can be maintained</li> <li>• Required face coverings in public settings</li> <li>• Extra precautions for vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions)</li> <li>• Teleworking where possible and feasible with business operations</li> <li>• Minimize of non-essential travel</li> <li>• Strict policies for staff and visitors to avoid potential outbreaks in congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.)</li> <li>• Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of <a href="#">Idaho Back to School Framework 2020</a></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 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.