

## 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)**

# Blaine County

Risk level: MINIMAL

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)

**12.09%**

Positivity Rate for the District  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

**0.43**

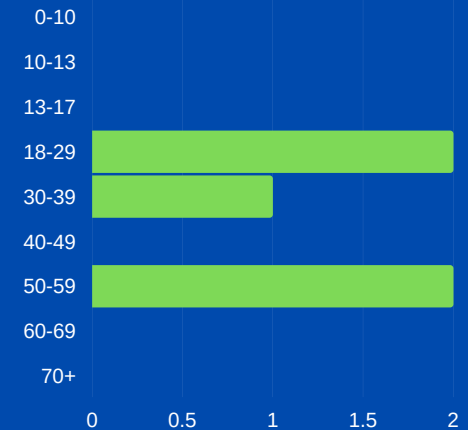
Average New Cases  
Per 10,000 residents.

**Normal**

**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**



**None**

**Emergency Circumstances**

Emergency circumstances may include SIGNIFICANT outbreaks in healthcare centers, schools, congregate living facilities, etc. This may also include case surges that overwhelm investigation efforts.

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 (SEVEN 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><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>SCPHD will educate, inform, and share messages with stakeholders and the public throughout all levels.</b></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>
RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES

# Camas County

Risk level: MINIMAL

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)

**12.09%**

Positivity Rate for the District  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

**0**

Average New Cases  
Per 10,000 residents.

**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**

0 25 50 75 100

**None**

**Emergency Circumstances**

Emergency circumstances may include SIGNIFICANT outbreaks in healthcare centers, schools, congregate living facilities, etc. This may also include case surges that overwhelm investigation efforts.

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 (SEVEN 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>
RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES

# Cassia County

Risk level: HIGH

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



**South Central Public Health District**

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**12.09%**

Positivity Rate for the District  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

**3.38**

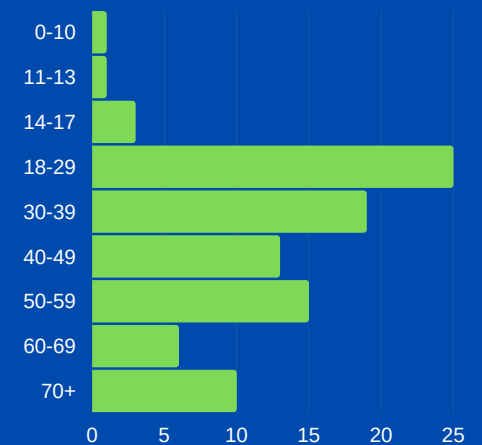
Average New Cases  
Per 10,000 residents.

**Normal**

**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**



**None**

**Emergency Circumstances**

Emergency circumstances may include SIGNIFICANT outbreaks in healthcare centers, schools, congregate living facilities, etc. This may also include case surges that overwhelm investigation efforts.

# HIGH

1. **NEW CASES DAILY IS BETWEEN 2.5 to 5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (SEVEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)**

2. **COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 11% to 20%**

**AND/OR**

3. **HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)**

- **BED CAPACITY REACHES 85%**
- **SIGNIFICANT STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES**

**OR**

4. **SIGNIFICANT OUTBREAK(S) OCCURRING AT:**

- **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**

**AT ORANGE LEVELS, COMMUNITY SPREAD HAS ACCELERATED. SCPHD OR COMMUNITIES MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- 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

**HIGH  
RISK**

# Gooding County

Risk level: MODERATE

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)

12.09%

Positivity Rate for the District  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

2.22

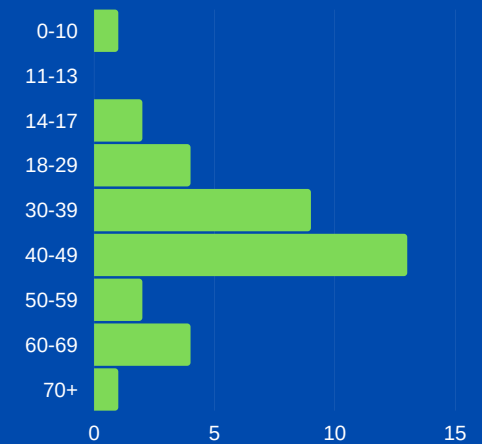
Average New Cases  
Per 10,000 residents.

## Normal

## 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



## None

## Emergency Circumstances

Emergency circumstances may include SIGNIFICANT outbreaks in healthcare centers, schools, congregate living facilities, etc. This may also include case surges that overwhelm investigation efforts.



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 (SEVEN 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>AT YELLOW LEVELS, THERE MAY BE SPORADIC IMPORTED CASES, AN UPTICK IN CLOSE CONTACT TRANSMISSION, OR ISOLATED CLUSTER OUTBREAKS. SCPHD <u>OR</u> COMMUNITIES <i>MAY</i> INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</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>

# Jerome County

Risk level: MODERATE

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



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

**12.09%**

Positivity Rate for the District  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

**2.59**

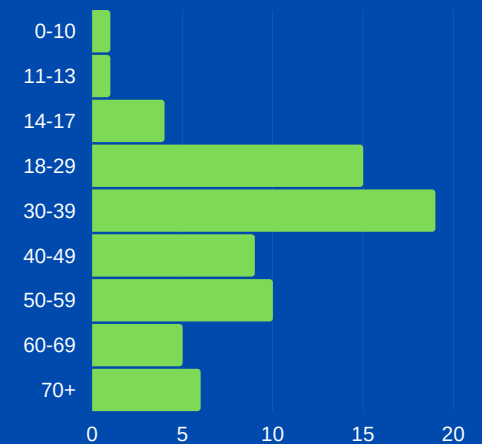
Average New Cases  
Per 10,000 residents.

**Normal**

## 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



**None**

## Emergency Circumstances

Emergency circumstances may include SIGNIFICANT outbreaks in healthcare centers, schools, congregate living facilities, etc. This may also include case surges that overwhelm investigation efforts.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
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# Lincoln County

Risk level: MODERATE

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

12.09%

Positivity Rate for the District  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

1.22

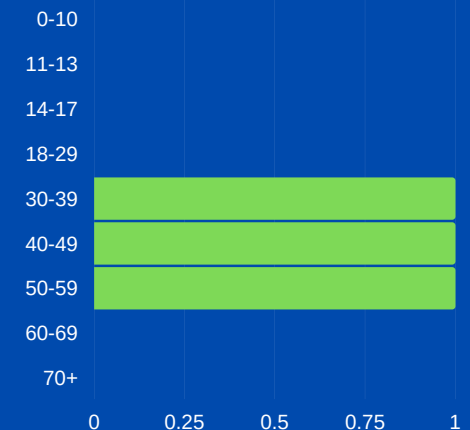
Average New Cases  
Per 10,000 residents.

## 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



None

## Emergency Circumstances

Emergency circumstances may include SIGNIFICANT outbreaks in healthcare centers, schools, congregate living facilities, etc. This may also include case surges that overwhelm investigation efforts.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
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# Minidoka County

Risk level: HIGH

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

12.09%

Positivity Rate for the District  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

4.13

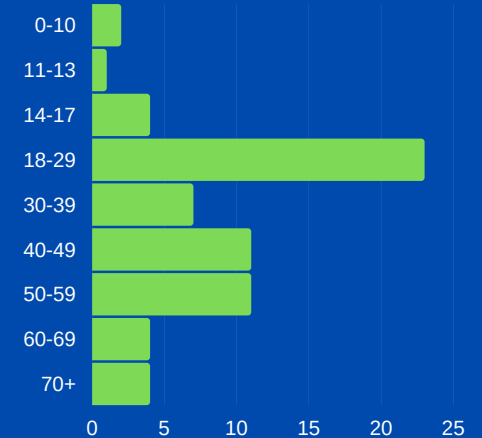
Average New Cases  
Per 10,000 residents.

Normal

## 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



None

## Emergency Circumstances

Emergency circumstances may include SIGNIFICANT outbreaks in healthcare centers, schools, congregate living facilities, etc. This may also include case surges that overwhelm investigation efforts.



South Central Public Health District

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

# HIGH

1. **NEW CASES DAILY IS BETWEEN 2.5 to 5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (SEVEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)**

2. **COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 11% to 20%**

**AND/OR**

3. **HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE)**

- **BED CAPACITY REACHES 85%**
- **SIGNIFICANT STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES**

**OR**

4. **SIGNIFICANT OUTBREAK(S) OCCURRING AT:**

- **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**

**AT ORANGE LEVELS, COMMUNITY SPREAD HAS ACCELERATED. SCPHD OR COMMUNITIES MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:**

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- 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

**HIGH  
RISK**

# Twin Falls County

Risk level: MODERATE

New cases number for Twin Falls is inflated because of a controlled outbreak within the county jail. This outbreak does not contribute to the emergency circumstances category because it is controlled.

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

12.09%

Positivity Rate for the District  
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

2.67

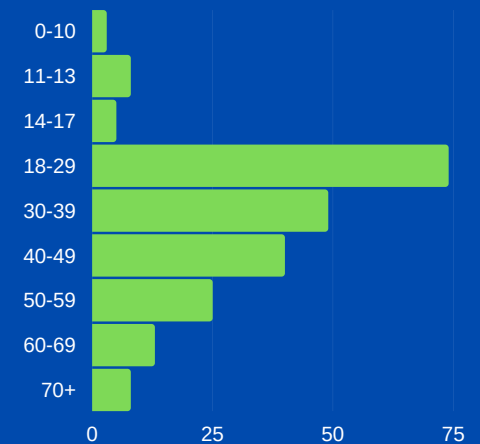
Average New Cases  
Per 10,000 residents.

Normal

## 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



None

## Emergency Circumstances

Emergency circumstances may include SIGNIFICANT outbreaks in healthcare centers, schools, congregate living facilities, etc. This may also include case surges that overwhelm investigation efforts.



South Central Public Health District

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



RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
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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.

<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.