

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: 8/27/2020

Metric Definitions

and weight
for each metric



South Central Public Health District

Prevent. Promote. Protect. phd5.idaho.gov

Using data from August 9th-22nd

Positivity Rate for the District

Data is only available on the district level and 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, and indicates public health's ability to keep up with investigation and contact tracing for new cases. It 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: MINIMAL

Blaine County's average new case rate is in the minimal risk tier, their hospital capacity is normal and the county is not currently experiencing any contributing epidemiological factors. The positivity rate is high, but that number is spread across the district, and has the lowest weight in the decision making.

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 August 9th-22nd

8.37%

Positivity Rate for the District
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

0.59

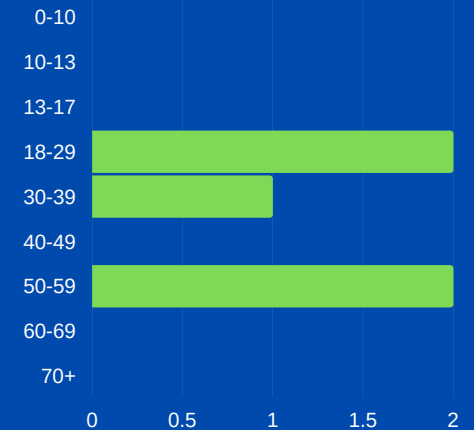
Average New Cases
Per 10,000 residents.

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

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.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;">MINIMAL RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<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>REGARDLESS OF THE RISK LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE PANDEMIC, EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Camas County

Risk level: MINIMAL

Camas County's average new case rate is in the minimal risk tier, they do not have a hospital in their county but nearby hospitals are in normal, and the county is not currently experiencing any contributing epidemiological factors. The positivity rate is moderate, but that number is spread across the district, and has the lowest weight in the decision making.

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 August 9th-22nd

8.37%

Positivity Rate for the District
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

0.65

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

*Not provided because there is only one case. Providing this data may identify the individual which is against federal law.

0 25 50 75 100

None

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.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;">MINIMAL</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">MINIMAL RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<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>REGARDLESS OF THE RISK LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE PANDEMIC, EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Cassia County

Risk level: MODERATE

Cassia County's case rate is in the moderate tier and there are no special circumstances inflating that number. The county's local hospital is operating with limited impact and the county is not currently experiencing any other epidemiological factors. The positivity rate is moderate across the district.

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 August 9th-22nd

8.37%

Positivity Rate for the District
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

1.58

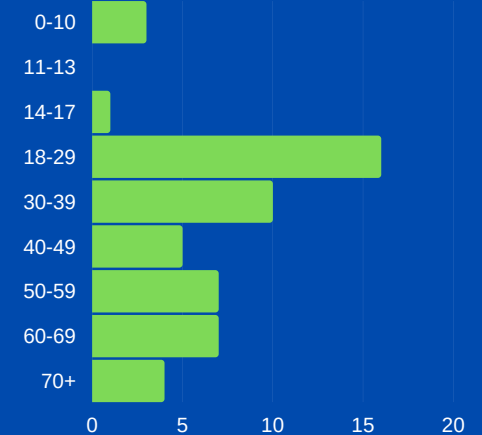
Average New Cases
Per 10,000 residents.

**Limited
Impact**

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

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.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p>MODERATE</p> <p>MODERATE RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW DAILY CASES IS BETWEEN 1 to 2.5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE) 2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 5% to 10% <p>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 80% • STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES 	<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"> • Increase education, information sharing, and messaging • 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 • Required face coverings in public settings • Extra precautions for vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions) • Teleworking where possible and feasible with business operations • Minimize of non-essential travel • Strict policies for staff and visitors to avoid potential outbreaks in congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.) • Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020

Gooding County

Risk level: MODERATE

Gooding County's case rate is in the moderate tier and there are no special circumstances inflating that number. The county's local hospital is operating normally and the county is not currently experiencing any additional contributing epidemiological factors.

Ultimately all major factors balance out to make the overall determined risk level moderate.



South Central Public Health District

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Using data from August 9th-22nd

8.37%

Positivity Rate for the District
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

1.65

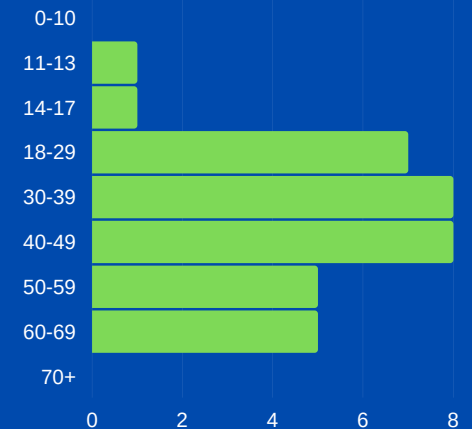
Average New Cases
Per 10,000 residents.

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

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.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p>MODERATE</p> <p>MODERATE RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW DAILY CASES IS BETWEEN 1 to 2.5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE) 2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 5% to 10% <p>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 80% • STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES 	<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"> • Increase education, information sharing, and messaging • 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 • Required face coverings in public settings • Extra precautions for vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions) • Teleworking where possible and feasible with business operations • Minimize of non-essential travel • Strict policies for staff and visitors to avoid potential outbreaks in congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.) • Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020

Jerome County

Risk level: MODERATE

Jerome County's case rate is barely in the high tier. The county's local hospital is still operating normally and the county is not currently experiencing any other contributing epidemiological factors. The positivity rate is moderate across the district.

Ultimately all major factors balance out to make the overall determined risk level moderate.



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Using data from August 9th-22nd

8.37%

Positivity Rate for the District
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

2.55

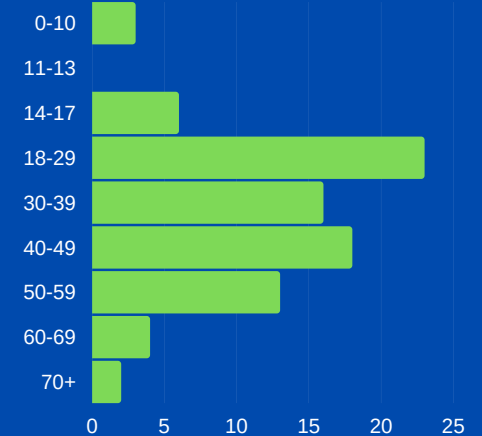
Average New Cases
Per 10,000 residents.

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

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.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
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Lincoln County

Risk level: MINIMAL

Lincoln County's case rate is in the minimal risk tier. The county does not have a local hospital but most surrounding hospitals are operating in the low risk category and the county is not currently experiencing any other contributing epidemiological factors. The positivity rate is moderate, but that number is spread across the district, and has the lowest weight in the decision making.

Ultimately all major factors balance out to make the overall determined risk level is minimal.



Using data from August 9th-22nd

8.37%

Positivity Rate for the District
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

0.93

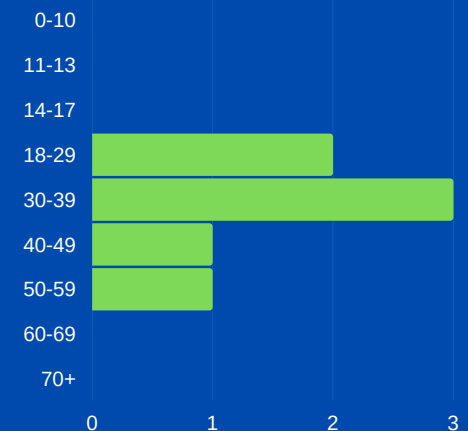
Average New Cases
Per 10,000 residents.

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

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.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
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RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Minidoka County

Risk level: MODERATE

Minidoka County's hospital capacity is moderately impacted. The average new case rate and district positivity rate are also in the moderate risk tier with no special circumstances inflating those numbers. There are no other major epidemiological factors requiring a higher risk level.

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

8.37%

Positivity Rate for the District
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

1.73

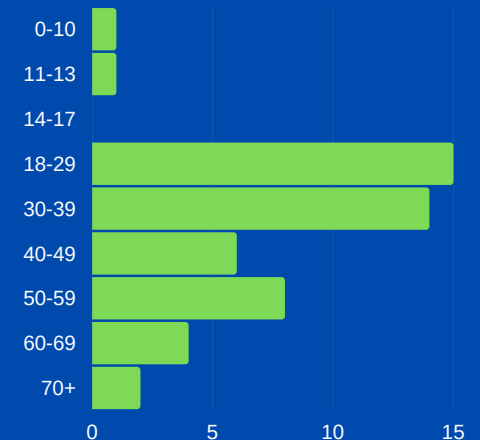
Average New Cases
Per 10,000 residents.

Moderate Impact

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

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.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p>MODERATE</p> <p>MODERATE RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW DAILY CASES IS BETWEEN 1 to 2.5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE) 2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 5% to 10% <p>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 80% • STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES 	<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"> • Increase education, information sharing, and messaging • 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 • Required face coverings in public settings • Extra precautions for vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions) • Teleworking where possible and feasible with business operations • Minimize of non-essential travel • Strict policies for staff and visitors to avoid potential outbreaks in congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.) • Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020

Twin Falls County

Risk level: MODERATE

New cases number for Twin Falls is in the moderate tier. Hospital capacity is normal and there are no major epidemiological factors requiring a higher risk level.

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

8.37%

Positivity Rate for the District
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

1.25

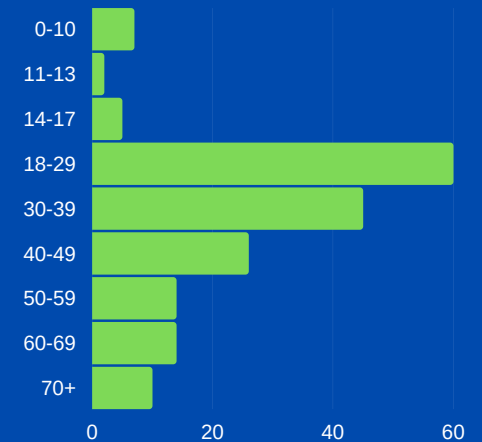
Average New Cases
Per 10,000 residents.

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

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.



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Using data from August 9th-22nd

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.

"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.