

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT SCPHD'S COVID-19 RISK LEVELS:

- The risk levels may be applied at the county level.
- **Different counties within SCPHD may be at different risk levels.** Risk levels can increase or decrease.
- In ALL risk levels, the preventive measures outlined in the Minimal Risk Level should be followed. *Always prepare for the next risk level.*
- In addition to metrics determining risk of transmission, public health officials will closely monitor and may take into consideration for movement to a different risk level the following:
 - Input from hospital partners – local hospital capacity is determined by each hospital in the region
 - Trends in COVID-19 testing, including positivity rate
 - Supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for healthcare providers/first responders
 - Epidemiological investigation and contact tracing capacity, including outbreaks associated with congregate living facilities
 - COVID-related hospitalizations and deaths
 - Syndromic surveillance of emergency department visits with COVID-like symptoms



COVID-19 HOTLINE • 208-737-1138 • www.phd5.idaho.gov

Last risk assessment: 9/23/2021

Metric Definitions

and weight
for each metric



South Central Public Health District

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Using data from September 5th to 18th

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: Critical

Blaine County's average new case rate is rising and has moved into the high risk tier. The public health district is still investigating an active outbreak in the county jail, and cases in the local schools. The recent surge in cases is impacting case investigations.

The state has declared Crisis Standards of Care for all of Idaho because area hospitals are highly impacted by COVID-19. The local hospital is taking in patients from around the region. The local hospital is also reporting a larger number of visitors testing positive for COVID-19 who will not be reflected in the county case average.

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



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Using data from September 5th to 18th

8.27%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

2.98

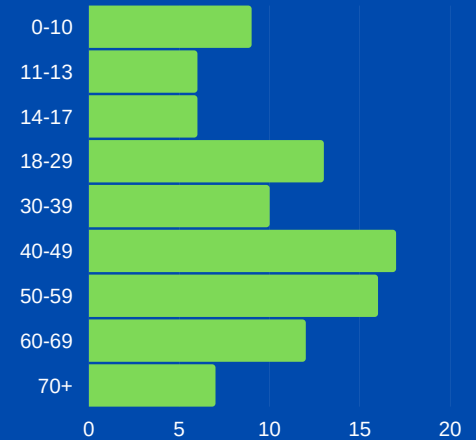
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents
based on a 14 day rolling average.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional hospitals is critical.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is investigating an outbreak in a local long term care facility, and cases in the local schools. Case investigations are highly impacted because of the surge of cases. COVID-19 variants have been detected in Blaine County, including Delta.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p>CRITICAL</p> <p>CRITICAL RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE) 2. COVID-19 TESTING POSTIVITY RATE > 20% <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERELY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED) 4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED 5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing 	<p>AT THE CRITICAL LEVEL, COMMUNITIES HAVE REACHED A TIPPING POINT FOR UNCONTROLLED SPREAD, SCPHD AND/OR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS <i>MAY</i> INSTITUTE ALL OR SOME OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain strategies from High Risk level • Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements • Consider quarantine orders (stay-at-home) • Consider universal mask requirements • Consider business/event/institution closures • Consider universal social distancing requirements

Camas County

Risk level: Critical

Camas County's average new case rate has moved into the moderate level, but the cases are isolated. The positivity rate for this county is inflated by the low population numbers. **The county does not have a local hospital, but the regional hospital is at full capacity and diverting patients in critical care. The state has declared Crisis Standards of Care for all hospitals.**

A regional surge in case numbers is impacting case investigations, pushing the other epidemiological factors into the high risk category.

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



Using data from September 5th to 18th

20%

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

7.10

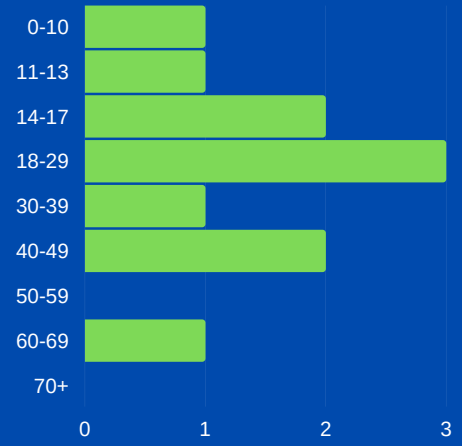
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

No Specific Hospital

Hospital Capacity

Hospital Capacity includes the local healthcare facility's ability to treat all incoming patients, not just COVID -19 positive patients.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Case investigations are impacted by the recent surge in cases in the region. SCPHD is investigating cases in the local schools.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;">CRITICAL</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CRITICAL RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE) 2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVITY RATE > 20% <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERELY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED) 4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED 5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing 	<p>AT THE CRITICAL LEVEL, COMMUNITIES HAVE REACHED A TIPPING POINT FOR UNCONTROLLED SPREAD, SCPHD AND/OR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE ALL OR SOME OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain strategies from High Risk level • Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements • Consider quarantine orders (stay-at-home) • Consider universal mask requirements • Consider business/event/institution closures • Consider universal social distancing requirements

Cassia County

Risk level: Critical

Impact on the local and regional hospitals is critical. The state has declared Crisis Standards of Care for all of Idaho. Staffing issues in the local hospital is limiting care. The regional hospital is at capacity with departments on divert, especially critical care.

Cassia County's average new case rate is in the critical risk level. SCPHD is monitoring two outbreaks in long-term care facilities and investigations have been impacted by the case surge in the region.

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



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Using data from September 5th to 18th

12.66%

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

5.56

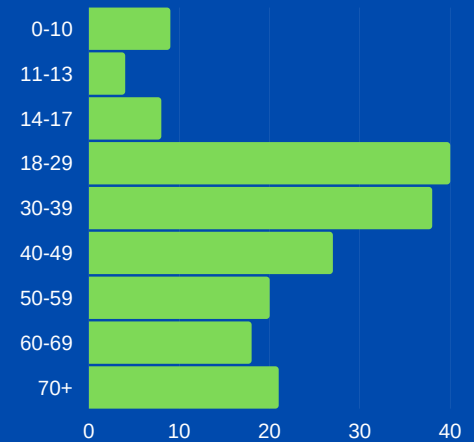
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional hospitals is critical.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Disease investigations are impacted by the recent surge in cases in the region. The COVID-19 Delta variant has been detected in this county. SCPHD is monitoring 2 active outbreaks in local long-term care facilities and cases in local schools.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;">CRITICAL</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CRITICAL RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE) 2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVITY RATE > 20% <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERELY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED) 4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED 5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing 	<p>AT THE CRITICAL LEVEL, COMMUNITIES HAVE REACHED A TIPPING POINT FOR UNCONTROLLED SPREAD, SCPHD AND/OR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE ALL OR SOME OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain strategies from High Risk level • Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements • Consider quarantine orders (stay-at-home) • Consider universal mask requirements • Consider business/event/institution closures • Consider universal social distancing requirements

Gooding County

Risk level: Critical

Impact on the local and regional hospitals is critical. The state declared Crisis Standards of Care for all of Idaho. Hospitals are at full capacity and some departments are on divert, especially critical care.

Gooding County's average new case rate has moved into the critical risk level. SCPHD is monitoring two outbreaks in local long-term care facilities. Investigations are impacted because of the sudden surge of cases around the region.

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



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Using data from September 5th to 18th

29.78%

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

11.52

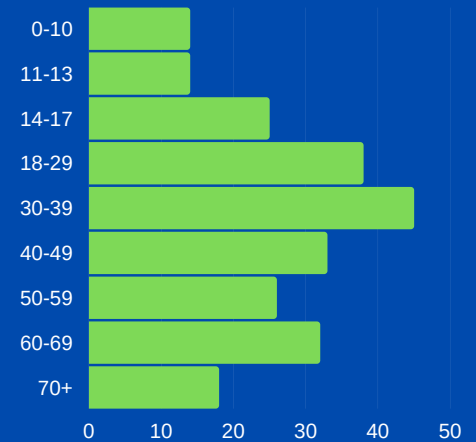
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional hospitals is critical.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Disease investigations are impacted by the recent surge in cases in the region. COVID-19 variants have been detected in this county. SCPHD is monitoring 2 active outbreaks in local long-term care facilities and cases in the local schools.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p>CRITICAL</p> <p>CRITICAL RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE) 2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVITY RATE > 20% <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERELY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED) 4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED 5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing 	<p>AT THE CRITICAL LEVEL, COMMUNITIES HAVE REACHED A TIPPING POINT FOR UNCONTROLLED SPREAD, SCPHD AND/OR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE ALL OR SOME OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain strategies from High Risk level • Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements • Consider quarantine orders (stay-at-home) • Consider universal mask requirements • Consider business/event/institution closures • Consider universal social distancing requirements

Jerome County

Risk level: Critical

The state announced Crisis Standards of Care for all Idaho Hospitals because of COVID-19's impact. Most local hospitals in the region are reporting full capacity and departments are on divert, especially critical care.

Jerome County's average new case rate and positivity rate are in the critical risk level. SCPHD is monitoring cases in long-term care facilities, local schools, and the local jail. Case investigations are impacted by the recent surge in cases.

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



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Using data from September 5th to 18th

24.09%

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

10.77

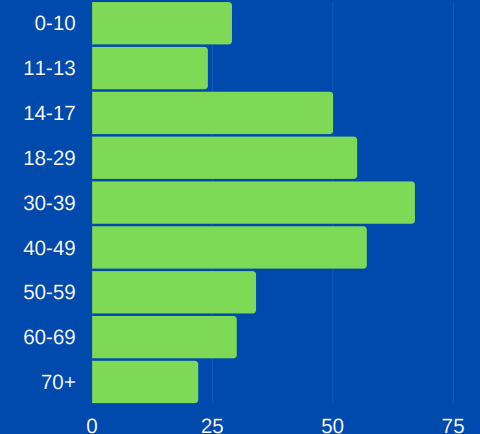
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional hospitals is critical.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Disease investigations are impacted by the surge in cases in the region. The COVID-19 Delta variant has been detected in this county. SCPHD is monitoring 2 active outbreaks in local long-term care facilities and cases in the local schools.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p>CRITICAL</p> <p>CRITICAL RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE) 2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVITY RATE > 20% <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERELY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED) 4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED 5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing 	<p>AT THE CRITICAL LEVEL, COMMUNITIES HAVE REACHED A TIPPING POINT FOR UNCONTROLLED SPREAD, SCPHD AND/OR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE ALL OR SOME OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain strategies from High Risk level • Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements • Consider quarantine orders (stay-at-home) • Consider universal mask requirements • Consider business/event/institution closures • Consider universal social distancing requirements

Lincoln County

Risk level: Critical

Impact on the regional hospital is critical. The hospital is at full capacity and departments are on divert, especially critical care. Nearby local hospitals are also critically impacted. The state has declared Crisis Standards of Care for all hospitals.

Lincoln County's average case rate is now in the critical risk tier. There is one outbreak in a local long-term care facility and cases in the local schools. The Delta COVID-19 variant has been detected in the region.

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



Using data from September 5th to 18th

18.75%

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

5.33

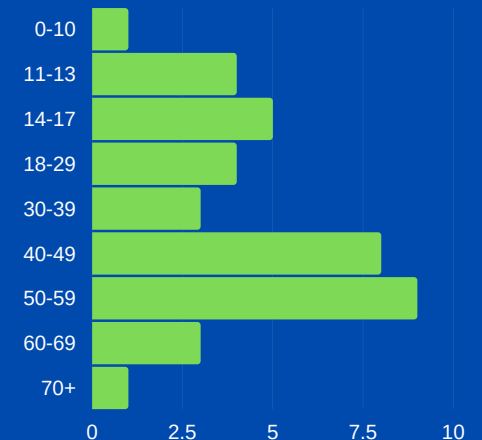
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

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



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Disease investigations are impacted by the recent surge in cases in the region. COVID-19 variants have been detected in this county. SCPHD is monitoring 1 active outbreak in a local long-term care facility and cases in the local schools.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p>CRITICAL</p> <p>CRITICAL RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE) 2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVITY RATE > 20% <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERELY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED) 4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED 5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing 	<p>AT THE CRITICAL LEVEL, COMMUNITIES HAVE REACHED A TIPPING POINT FOR UNCONTROLLED SPREAD, SCPHD AND/OR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE ALL OR SOME OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain strategies from High Risk level • Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements • Consider quarantine orders (stay-at-home) • Consider universal mask requirements • Consider business/event/institution closures • Consider universal social distancing requirements

Minidoka County

Risk level: Critical

Impact on the local and regional hospitals is critical. Hospitals are at full capacity and departments are on divert, especially critical care. The state has declared Crisis Standards of Care in hospitals across Idaho.

Minidoka County's average new case rate is in the critical risk tier and trending upward. SCPHD is monitoring one local outbreak in a long-term care facility and cases in the local schools. The regional case surge is highly impacting case investigations.

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



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Using data from September 5th to 18th

15.42%

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

5.64

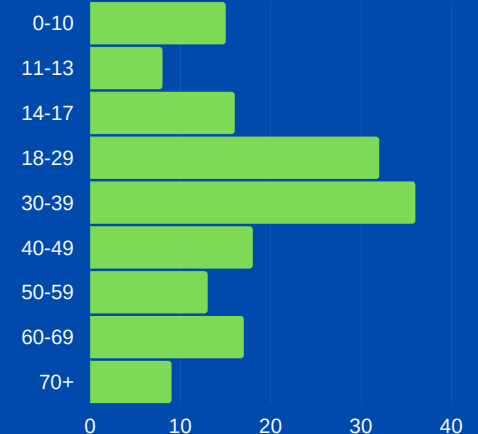
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional hospitals is critical.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Disease investigations are impacted by the recent surge in cases in the region. COVID-19 variants have been detected in this county. SCPHD is monitoring 1 active outbreak in a local long-term care facility and cases in the local schools.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p>CRITICAL</p> <p>CRITICAL RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE) 2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVITY RATE > 20% <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERELY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED) 4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED 5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing 	<p>AT THE CRITICAL LEVEL, COMMUNITIES HAVE REACHED A TIPPING POINT FOR UNCONTROLLED SPREAD, SCPHD AND/OR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE ALL OR SOME OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain strategies from High Risk level • Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements • Consider quarantine orders (stay-at-home) • Consider universal mask requirements • Consider business/event/institution closures • Consider universal social distancing requirements

Twin Falls County

Risk level: Critical

Impact on the local and regional hospitals is critical. Hospitals are at full capacity and departments are on divert, especially critical care. The state has declared Crisis Standards of Care for all of Idaho.

Twin Falls County's average new case rate is in the critical risk tier. Local schools are still reporting dozens of cases among students. The Delta variant has been confirmed in this county and case counts are rising so quickly investigation efforts are impacted. SCPHD is investigating outbreaks in 13 local long-term care facilities.

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



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Using data from September 5th to 18th

18.32%

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

9.73

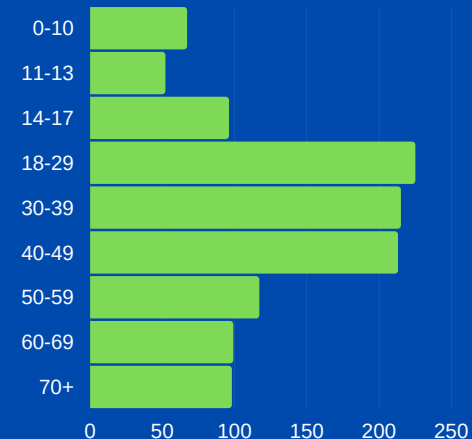
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents based on a 14 day rolling average.

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional hospitals is critical.

NEW CASES BY AGE



Critical

Other Epidemiological Factors

Disease investigations are impacted by the recent surge in cases in the region. COVID-19 variants have been detected in this county. SCPHD is monitoring 13 active outbreaks in local long-term care facilities and cases in local schools.

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p>CRITICAL</p> <p>CRITICAL RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW CASES DAILY >5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (14 DAY ROLLING AVERAGE) 2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVITY RATE > 20% <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERELY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED) 4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED 5. EPIDEMIOLOGY FACTORS limit public health's ability to conduct investigations and contact tracing 	<p>AT THE CRITICAL LEVEL, COMMUNITIES HAVE REACHED A TIPPING POINT FOR UNCONTROLLED SPREAD, SCPHD AND/OR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY INSTITUTE ALL OR SOME OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain strategies from High Risk level • Follow state, public health district, and/or local medical guidance for limitations on gatherings and mask requirements • Consider quarantine orders (stay-at-home) • Consider universal mask requirements • Consider business/event/institution closures • Consider universal social distancing requirements

Crosswalk for Schools

[Idaho Back to School Framework](#) has identified three categories for determining transmission risk (table below). To assist schools located in the six-county region, South Central Public Health District has crosswalked the Idaho Back to School Framework with the COVID-19 Risk Level advisory system.

"Identify Level of Transmission Risk"			
	Category 1: No Community Transmission	Category 2: Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission	Category 3: Substantial Community Transmission
Definitions	Evidence of isolated cases, case investigations underway, no evidence of exposure in large communal setting, e.g., healthcare facility, school, mass gathering.	Widespread and/or sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings, with potential for rapid increase in suspected cases.	Large-scale community transmission, healthcare staffing significantly impacted, multiple cases within communal settings like healthcare facilities, schools, mass gatherings, etc.
Level of Operations	School buildings open with physical distancing and sanitation.	School buildings open but option of limited/staggered use of school buildings with physical distancing and sanitation.	Targeted, short-term, or extended building closure.



COVID-19
RISK LEVEL
GREEN



COVID-19
RISK LEVEL
YELLOW
ORANGE



COVID-19
RISK LEVEL
RED

DEFINITIONS

CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE:

Guidance to help guide ethical decision-making for how to triage medical care when it has to be rationed.

Plan can be found on the [Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's website](#).

MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY:

Medical surge capacity refers to the ability to evaluate and care for a markedly increased volume of patients—one that challenges or exceeds normal operating capacity. The surge requirements may extend beyond direct patient care to include such tasks as extensive laboratory studies or epidemiological investigations.

[Source](#)

TIMELINE FOR MEASUREMENTS

Data to support the corresponding Health Risk Level and any related mitigation strategies will be posted every other Thursday by 5 pm.

Health Risk Levels will be made on every other Thursday based on the prior two weeks starting on a Sunday and ending on a Saturday. Movement from one risk level to a lesser risk level will occur at 14-day intervals (one incubation period for COVID-19), while advancement to a level of higher risk can occur at any time.

MOVEMENT BETWEEN RISK LEVELS

Determinations to move to a more restrictive risk level may be made mid-stage if any of the criteria below are met:

- Crisis standards of care are implemented
- Counties must remain in a risk level for at least two weeks before moving to a less restrictive phase
- Senior leadership at a local hospital indicates that further increases in cases in the community will overwhelm local hospital capacity
- Reported cases exceed > 5 **daily new cases** per 10,000 people in a defined population (e.g., town, city, or county) or if new case rate adversely impacts SCPHD's ability to respond

REFERENCES

- [Key Metrics for COVID Suppression: A framework for policy makers and the public. July 1, 2020.](#)
- [Essential information for states and counties to publicly report](#)