

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: 9/24/2020

Metric Definitions

and weight
for each metric



South Central Public Health District

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Using data from September 6th-19th

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: NA

Blaine County has adopted a new plan that is focused on preventing new cases instead of mitigating current cases. This plan is more stringent, following the guidance of the Harvard Global Health Institute's Key Metrics for COVID Suppression.

Please refer to Blaine County's website for latest data, the assessment, and the plan.

Please see the Blaine County assessment

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

Please see the Blaine County assessment

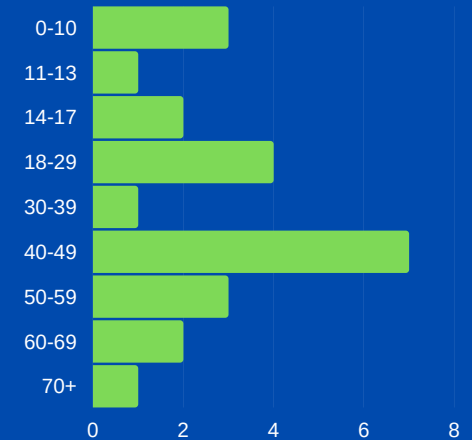
Average New Cases **Per 100,000 residents**
based on a 14 day rolling average.

Please see the Blaine County assessment

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



Using data from September 6th-19th

Please see the Blaine County assessment

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.

Camas County

Risk level: HIGH

Camas County's average new case jumped dramatically because of local cluster of cases. The positivity rate is moderate for the county. They do not have a hospital in their county but nearby hospitals are operating normally or with limited impact. The county has adopted several recommended methods to help prevent future spread.

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



Using data from September 6th-19th
Using data from September 6th-19th

10%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

10.33

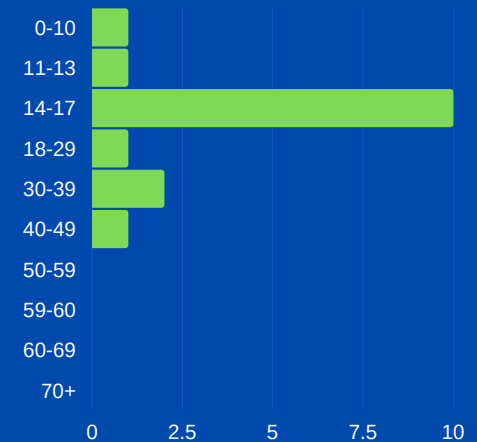
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents
based on a 14 day rolling average.

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



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.

HIGH

1. NEW CASES DAILY IS BETWEEN 2.5 to 5 PER 10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN 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

Cassia County

Risk level: MODERATE

Cassia County's case rate is in the moderate tier. The county's case rate is trending upward with new cases throughout the community and in one long term care facility. The local hospital is operating with limited impact and the positivity rate is moderate in the 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 September 6th-19th

8.41%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

1.28

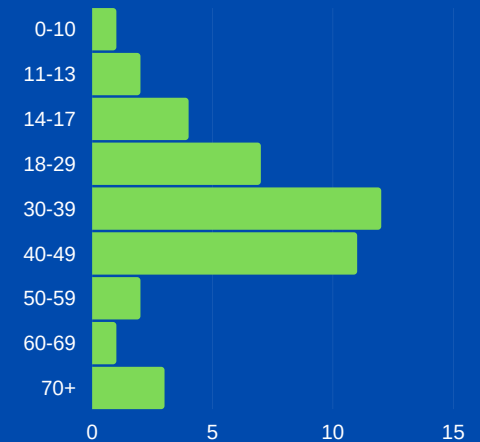
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents
based on a 14 day rolling average.

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



Moderate

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring one long term care facility with an ongoing but contained outbreak. The case is also trending upward.

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 OR COMMUNITIES MAY 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: MINIMAL

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 under normal conditions and there are no other epidemiological factors contributing to the risk level. The county positivity rate is moderate, but this category has the lowest weight in the final assessment.

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 September 6th-19th

5.61%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

0.94

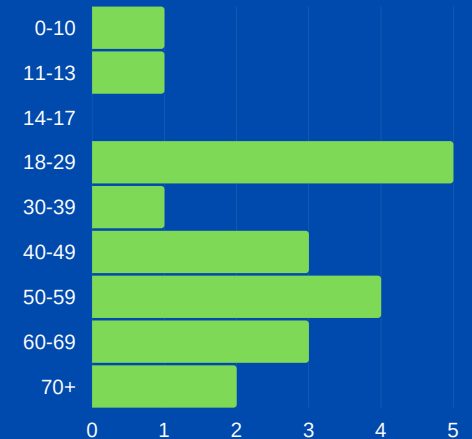
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents
based on a 14 day rolling average.

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</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

Jerome County

Risk level: MODERATE

Jerome County's case rate is in the moderate tier and there are no special circumstances inflating that number. The county's local hospital is still operating normally and the county is not currently experiencing any uncontrolled outbreaks. 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 September 6th-19th

14.8%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

2.72

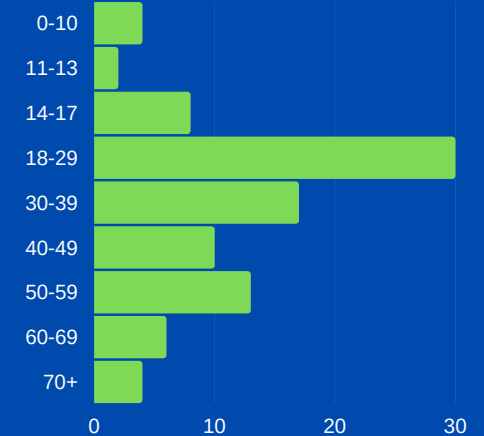
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents
based on a 14 day rolling average.

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



Minimal

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring several active cases in the school districts. Their case count is trending upward. No outbreaks within long term care facilities.

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 OR COMMUNITIES MAY 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

Lincoln County

Risk level: MODERATE

Lincoln County's case rate is in the moderate risk tier and there are no special circumstances inflating that number. The positivity rate for the district is also moderate. The county does not have a local hospital but most surrounding hospitals are operating in the low risk category. The county is experiencing an active outbreak in a local long term care facility, but the facility does not have enough confirmed cases to be considered moderate risk.

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



Using data from September 6th-19th

3.13%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

1.87

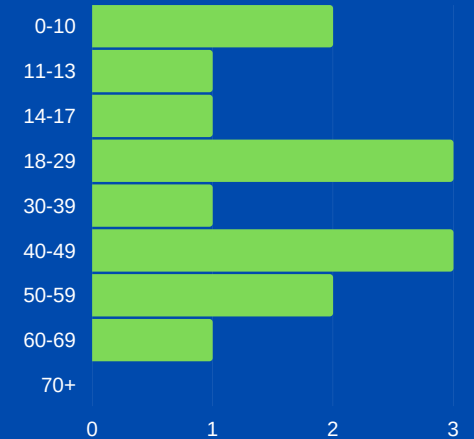
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents
based on a 14 day rolling average.

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



Minimal

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring one long term care facility with an active outbreak. Spread within local school districts is minimal. Case counts are trending upwards.

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

Using data from September 6th-19th

Minidoka County

Risk level: MODERATE

Minidoka County's average new case rate and district positivity rate are in the moderate risk tier with no special circumstances inflating those numbers. SCPHD is still monitoring one local outbreak that is controlled but has new confirmed cases. The hospital capacity is back to normal.

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 September 6th-19th

6.9%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

1.7

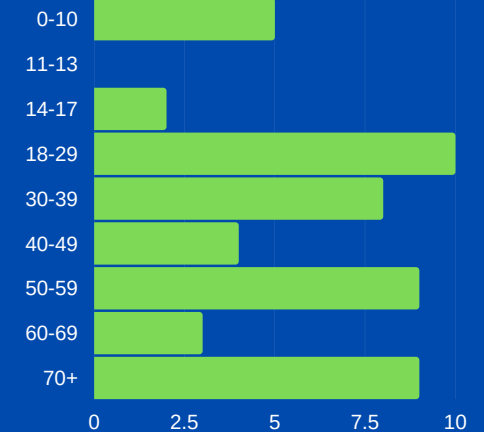
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents
based on a 14 day rolling average.

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



Moderate

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring one long term care facility with an outbreak that is contained to the facility. This facility has had at least one new case in the last seven days.

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 OR COMMUNITIES MAY 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

The new cases number for Twin Falls is in the moderate tier and that number is trending upward. Hospital capacity is normal but seven local long term care facilities are experiencing an outbreak. SCPHD is also monitoring cases or clusters in multiple local school districts. Positivity rate for the district is also in the moderate tier.

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

8.1%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

2.08

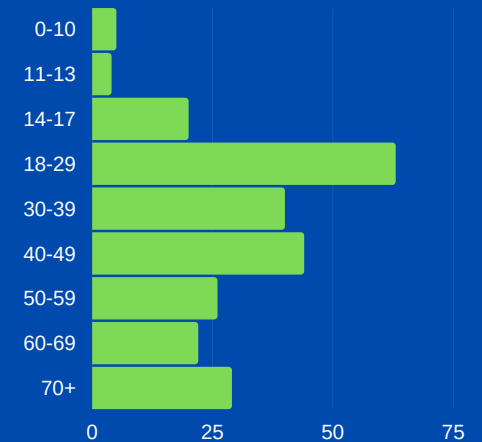
Average New Cases Per 10,000 residents
based on a 14 day rolling average.

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



Moderate

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring seven long term care facilities with active and confirmed cases. Investigating cases and clusters in multiple school districts across the county. Case number is trending upwards.

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 OR COMMUNITIES MAY 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

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.