



August 4, 2020

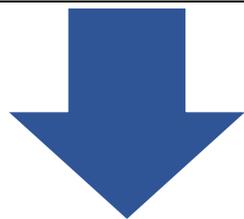
Dear School Superintendent:

Southwest District Health (SWDH) is pleased to share more information with you about the COVID-19 Health Alert Levels and how they relate to the *Idaho Back to School Framework 2020*'s community transmission categories. SWDH's Health Alert Levels and corresponding crosswalk with the *Idaho Back to School Framework 2020* document are meant to inform schools of the current level of COVID-19 transmission in the local community. These resources serve as a tool to help schools develop and implement health and safety plans and procedures.

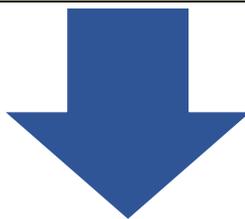
The recently released *Idaho Back to School Framework 2020* identifies three different transmission risk categories. This graphic is intended to show how the *Idaho Back to School Framework 2020* community transmission level of risk corresponds to the SWDH COVID-19 Health Alert Levels of Gray (Routine), Yellow (Low), Orange (Medium), and Red (High).

Crosswalk of School Community Transmission Categories and COVID-19 Health Alert Levels

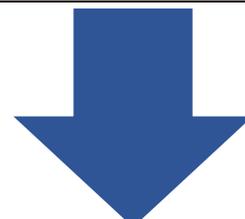
"Identify Level of Transmission Risk"			
	Category 1: No Community Transmission	Category 2: Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission	Category 3: Substantial Community Transmission
Definitions	Evidence of isolated cases, case investigations underway, no evidence of exposure in large communal setting, 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
HEALTH ALERT
LEVEL
GRAY



COVID-19
HEALTH ALERT
LEVELS
YELLOW
ORANGE



COVID-19
HEALTH ALERT
LEVEL
RED

In addition, SWDH has developed recommended community and school mitigation strategies that correspond with the different health alert levels. This visual shows how SWDH's community mitigation strategies correlate with the *Idaho Back to School Framework 2020's* Framework for Decision Making with additional considerations for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in schools.

COVID-19 Health Alert Levels Corresponding Community Mitigation Strategies & Framework for School Decision Making

COVID Health Alert Level	Corresponding Community Mitigation Strategies	Framework for School Decision Making
Red (High) >5 daily new cases per 10,000 people*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> education, information, and messages, AND/OR recommendations for use of face coverings, AND/OR recommendations for 1 person per 64 square feet of space at events, AND/OR recommendations for remote work when available, AND/OR recommendations to vulnerable populations to limit participation in high-risk for exposure activities like some team sports or activities requiring close contact (e.g., football, basketball, dancing, choir), attending events where physical distancing cannot be maintained (e.g., general admission concerts and other public entertainment events), family or social gatherings that bring people together from different households, AND/OR recommendations limited visitation to long term care and correctional facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full distance/remote learning: school buildings closed for extended period of time (longer than 6 weeks) If traditional learning is occurring, consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face coverings for staff and students Ensure physical distancing can be maintained Health screenings of staff and students Staggered, half-day, or phase-in schedule of reopening building(s) Postpone indoor physical activity Cancel extracurricular group activities, school-based programs, and large events Limit nonessential visitors
Orange (Medium) 2.5-5 daily new cases per 10,000 people*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> education, information, and messages, AND/OR recommendations for 1 person per 64 square feet of space at events, AND/OR recommendations for use of face coverings, AND/OR recommendations to vulnerable populations to limit participation in high-risk for exposure activities like some team sports or activities requiring close contact (e.g., football, basketball, dancing, choir), attending events where physical distancing cannot be maintained (e.g., general admission concerts and other public entertainment events), family or social gatherings that bring people together from different households. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional: School building open If traditional learning is occurring, consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face coverings for staff and students Ensure physical distancing can be maintained Health screenings of staff and students Staggered, half-day, or phase-in schedule of reopening building(s) Postpone indoor physical activity Cancel field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings Avoid mixing students in common areas Limit nonessential visitors Hybrid/Blended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted closure Short-term closure (1 to 4 weeks) Mid-term closure (4-6 weeks) Full distance/remote learning: Limited in-person instruction for special education and special needs populations
Yellow (Low) 1-2.5 daily new cases per 10,000 people*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> education, information, and messages recommendations for 1 person per 64 square feet of space at events, AND/OR recommendations for use of face coverings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional: School building open unless case or cluster outbreak occurs in the school then consider local public health district recommendations
Gray (Routine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wash hands frequently cover cough and sneeze and then wash your hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional: School building open <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review, update, and implement emergency operations plans

<p><1 daily new cases per 10,000 people*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• stay home when sick• clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces areas daily• put distance between yourself and people outside your home (at least 6 feet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Monitor and plan for absenteeism
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More information on the SWDH Health Alert Levels is available on the SWDH website. To access this information, use this link <https://phd3.idaho.gov/covid19/#1594683890043-dd9a7ad1-a2c3>

If you have any questions, please contact the SWDH School Liaison, Kim Beckley, at 208-871-6291 or email: kimberly.beckley@phd3.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,



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Director
Southwest District Health

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