



# REGIONAL DATA TOOL FOR DETERMINING HEALTH ALERT LEVELS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 8/20/2020

AS IDAHO’S RESPONSE to the COVID-19 pandemic transitions from a statewide response to a regional response, the following plan has been developed by the Board of Public Health – Idaho North Central District (PH-INCD). The plan is applicable to all counties within PH-INCD region: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties.

This document establishes the criteria PH-INCD will use to monitor COVID-19 disease trends and resources. The established criteria and related outputs will inform the PH-INCD Board of Health and guide decisions to assess risk levels and for moving between stages, placing or removing restrictions, or providing recommendations to local jurisdictions to place or remove restrictions.

Public Health – Idaho North Central District aims to mitigate the rapid spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and wellbeing of residents in the district, and to prevent overwhelming first responders, the healthcare system, and personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies in our region. Idaho Code 39-414(2) outlines that Idaho’s public health districts shall “do all things required for the preservation and protection of the public health and preventative health....” Furthermore, it is the desire of the PH-INCD Board of Health to minimize the impact to local economies as much as possible while still protecting public health.

The PH-INCD Board of Health and Director will be responsible for the implementation of this plan and will collaborate with local elected officials within the region. It is important to note that local elected officials have the authority to implement their own measures, which may be more OR less restrictive than those included in this plan, to do what they deem necessary to protect the health of the residents they serve.

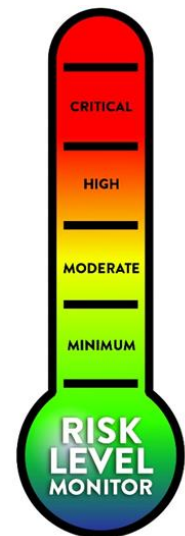
**THIS PLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS MORE INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.**

This plan will not be in effect indefinitely; however, it is not possible to determine an end date at this time. The risk assessment and mitigation strategies included in this plan will be in effect until a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, treatment options for COVID-19 are readily available, other mitigating factors currently not known are identified, OR until the plan is modified or rescinded by the Board of Health.

### WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT PH-INCD’S COVID-19 RISK LEVELS:

The risk levels may be applied at the town, city, county, geographic, or regional level.

- Different areas of PH-INCD’s region may be at different risk levels. Risk levels can increase or decrease. Metrics will be evaluated and reviewed every 14 days to determine the ability to move to a lower risk level or advance to the next.
- In ALL risk levels, the preventive measures outlined in the Minimal Risk Level should be followed. Precautions associated with each lower risk level continue to apply to higher risk levels. 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**  
**208-799-3100 or Toll Free 866-736-6632**



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| RISK LEVEL                                       | METRICS MONITORED  | MITIGATION STRATEGIES   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>MINIMAL</b></p> <p><b>MINIMAL RISK</b></p> | <p><b>NEW DAILY CASES &lt; 1 PER 10,000 POPULATION (7 DAY AVERAGE)</b></p> <p>Lewis .....1<br/>           Clearwater .....1<br/>           Idaho .....2<br/>           Latah.....4<br/>           Nez Perce.....4</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>NUMBER OF CONFIRMED COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS, DAILY FOR 7 DAYS</b></p> <p>Daily hospitalizations District-Wide 0 to 5</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>TEST RESULTS REPORTING IN 1-4 DAYS</b></p> | <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>PH-INCD 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, including when outdoors at social events or gatherings</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> |



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| RISK LEVEL  | METRICS MONITORED   | MITIGATION STRATEGIES   |
|---|---|---|
| <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>MODERATE RISK</b></p> | <p><b>NEW DAILY CONFIRMED CASES BETWEEN 1.0 TO 2.5/10,000 POPULATION (7 DAY AVERAGE)</b></p> <p><i>New cases by county to reach above rates:</i></p> <p>Lewis County.....1 - 2<br/>           Clearwater County.....1 - 2<br/>           Idaho County.....2 - 4<br/>           Latah County.....4 - 10<br/>           Nez Perce County.....4 - 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>NUMBER OF CONFIRMED COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS, DAILY FOR 7 DAYS</b></p> <p>Daily hospitalizations District-Wide 5 to 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>TEST RESULTS REPORTING IN 5-9 DAYS</b></p> | <p><b>IN ADDITION TO CONTINUATION OF ALL EVERYDAY PREVENTATIVE MEASURES, THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE MADE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support municipality efforts to require the wearing of face coverings while in public</li> <li>• Encourage event coordinators to limit events and social gatherings to no more than 50 people</li> <li>• Encourage vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions) to take extra precautions</li> <li>• Congregate living facilities (long term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.) to implement strict health policies for staff and visitors to avoid potential outbreaks</li> <li>• Schools should implement YELLOW phase of Return to School Plan</li> </ul> |



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| RISK LEVEL  | METRICS MONITORED  | MITIGATION STRATEGIES  |
|---|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 2em;">HIGH RISK</p> | <p><b>NEW DAILY CONFIRMED CASES BETWEEN 2.5 TO 5 /10,000 POPULATION (7 DAY AVERAGE)</b></p> <p><i>New cases by county to reach above rate:</i></p> <p>Lewis County.....2 - 4<br/>           Clearwater County.....2 - 4<br/>           Idaho County.....4 - 8<br/>           Latah County.....10 - 20<br/>           Nez Perce County.....10 - 20</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>NUMBER OF CONFIRMED COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS, DAILY FOR 7 DAYS</b></p> <p>Daily hospitalizations District-Wide 10 or more</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>MAJORITY OF COVID-19 TEST RESULTS TAKE LONGER THAN 10 DAYS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>OUTBREAK(S) OCCURRING AT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals/Healthcare Providers/ Emergency Medical Services</li> <li>• Critical Infrastructure Services (Fire, Law Enforcement, Utilities, etc.)</li> <li>• Congregate Living Facilities (assisted living facilities, nursing homes, correctional facilities)</li> <li>• Schools/Institutions of Higher Learning</li> <li>• Mass Gatherings/Events that limit public health’s ability to conduct contact tracing</li> </ul> | <p><b>IN ADDITION TO CONTINUATION OF ALL EVERYDAY PREVENTATIVE MEASURES, THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE MADE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Health may consider requiring wearing of face coverings when in public</li> <li>• Limit gatherings to no more than 10 people</li> <li>• Encourage vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions) to self-isolate</li> <li>• Recommend congregate living facilities close to visitors and extra precautions implemented for employees</li> <li>• Recommend businesses implement delivery/curb-side services as much as possible</li> <li>• Schools should implement YELLOW/RED Phase of Return to School plan</li> </ul> |



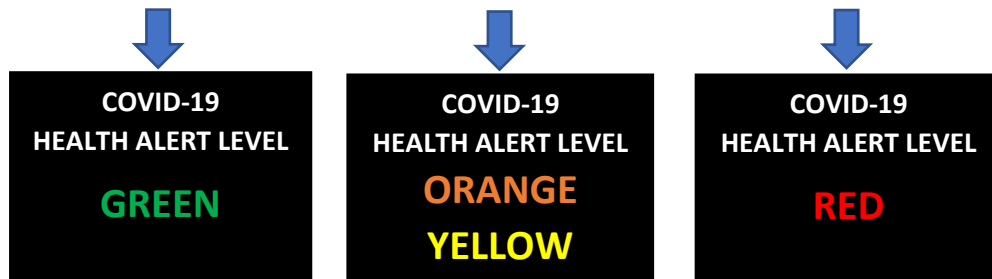
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|---------------|--|--|
| CRITICAL RISK | <p>NEW DAILY CONFIRMED CASES &gt;5/10,000 POPULATION (7 DAY AVERAGE)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>HOSPITAL CAPACITY, INCLUDING ICU, CONSISTENTLY AT SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED</p> | <p>Stay-At-Home Order may be issued</p> <p>Schools should remain in RED phase of Return to School plan</p> <p>Required wearing of face coverings</p> <p>No mass gatherings</p> |

## Idaho Back to School Framework

|                     | Category 1:<br>No Community Transmission  | Category 2:<br>Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission   | Category 3:<br>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.  |





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## 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.

## TIMELINE FOR MEASUREMENTS

Data to support the corresponding Health Risk Level and any related mitigation strategies will be updated on our website daily.

Health Risk Levels will be made 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 PH-INCD'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](#)

## SOURCES OF DATA

- Daily Cases Data provided by PH-INCD
- Lab Test Data provided by PH-INCD
- Hospitalizations Data provided by Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

Risk Level colors are determined based upon a stratified weighted average of the data.