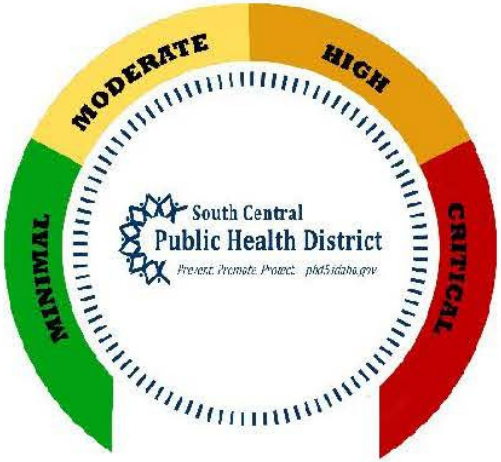
Regional Risk Summary

Blaine County	Jerome County
Camas County	Lincoln County
Cassia County	Minidoka County
Gooding County	Twin Falls County

Minimal Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Critical Risk

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

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Last risk assessment: 10/22/2020

Metric Definitions

and weight for each metric

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.

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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

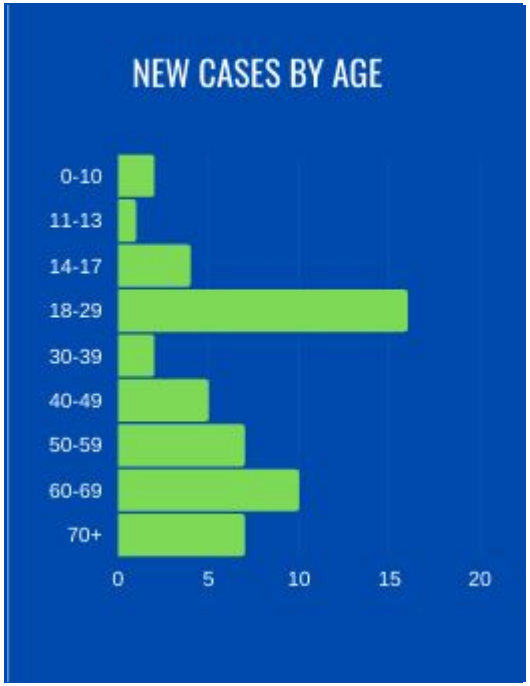
Please see the Blaine County assessment

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.



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 rate dropped significantly in the last two weeks. They do not have a hospital in their county but the regional hospital has critical impact. The county has adopted several recommended methods to help prevent future spread. The positivity rate is in the high risk tier, but this metric has the least weight in the overall assessment.

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

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Using data from October 4th - October 17th

12.5%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

0.65

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

WEEKLY CASES NOT DISCLOSED BECAUSE THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH IN THIS WEEK PERIOD. REVEALING THE AGE RANGE OF THE FEW CASES IN THIS COUNTY MAY UNINTENTIONALLY INDENTIFY THE INDIVIDUALS AND VIOLATE FEDERAL MEDICAL PRIVACY LAW.

None

Other Epidemiological Factors

The county has adopted several recommended methods to help prevent future spread. No current oubreaks.

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**

HIGH RISK

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

Cassia County

Risk level: Critical

Cassia County's case rate has nearly doubled in the last two weeks and is now on the high end of the critical risk tier. The hospital capacity is highly impacted and the surge in recent cases has highly impacted epidemiological efforts to contact trace and investigate. The positivity rate is also in the critical risk tier.

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

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Using data from October 4th - October 17th

29.02%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

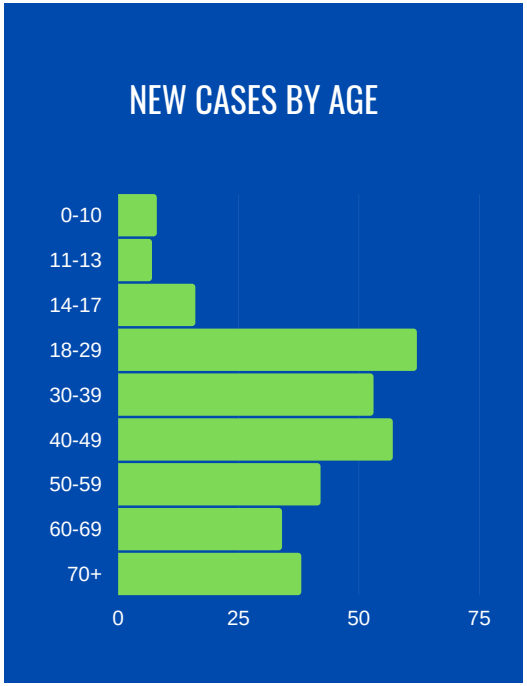
9.45

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

High

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local level is moderate and regional level is critical.



High

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring two controlled outbreaks in long term care facilities. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

CRITICAL

CRITICAL RISK

1. **NEW CASES DAILY > 5/10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)**
2. **COVID-19 TESTING POSTIVE RATE > 20%**

AND/OR

3. **HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERLY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED)**
   - **BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES 90%**
   - **MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES**

OR

4. **CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED**

At the red level, communities have reached a tipping point for uncontrolled spread and cities, counties, and/or SCPHD *may* institute all or some of the following:

- Stay-At-Home Order issued
- Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
- Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions
- Continued closure of bars and nightclubs
- Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures
- Prohibited visitation to long-term care facilities
- Travel advisories as needed
  - **14-day self-quarantine** for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission

Gooding County

Risk level: Critical

Gooding County's case rate is in the critical risk tier and there are no special circumstances inflating that number. Impact on the local and regional hospital level is critical. SCPHD is also monitoring one controlled outbreak in a long term care facility and recent case surge has heavily impacted epidemiological efforts to contact trace and investigate the disease. The positivity rate is in the critical tier.

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

South Central Public Health District
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Using data from October 4th - October 17th

22.39%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

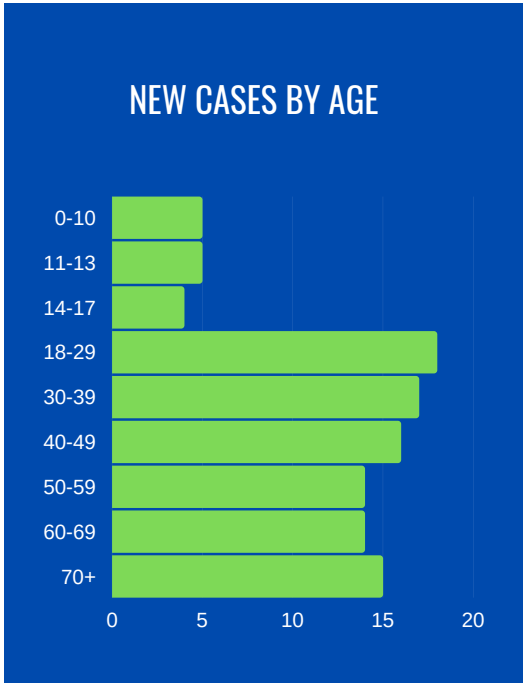
5.22

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

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional level is critical.



High

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring a controlled outbreak in one long term care facility. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

CRITICAL

CRITICAL RISK

1. **NEW CASES DAILY > 5/10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)**
2. **COVID-19 TESTING POSTIVE RATE > 20%**

AND/OR

3. **HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERLY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED)**
   - **BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES 90%**
   - **MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES**

OR

4. **CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED**

At the red level, communities have reached a tipping point for uncontrolled spread and cities, counties, and/or SCPHD *may* institute all or some of the following:

- Stay-At-Home Order issued
- Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
- Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions
- Continued closure of bars and nightclubs
- Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures
- Prohibited visitation to long-term care facilities
- Travel advisories as needed
  - **14-day self-quarantine** for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission

Jerome County

Risk level: CRITICAL

Jerome County's case rate is on the high end of the high risk tier and trending upward. Epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district. Impact on the local and regional hospital level is critical, which carries the most weight. SCPHD is monitoring one outbreak in a long term care facility and a cluster in a local school. The positivity rate is also in the high risk tier.

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

South Central Public Health District
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Using data from October 4th - October 17th

15.2%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

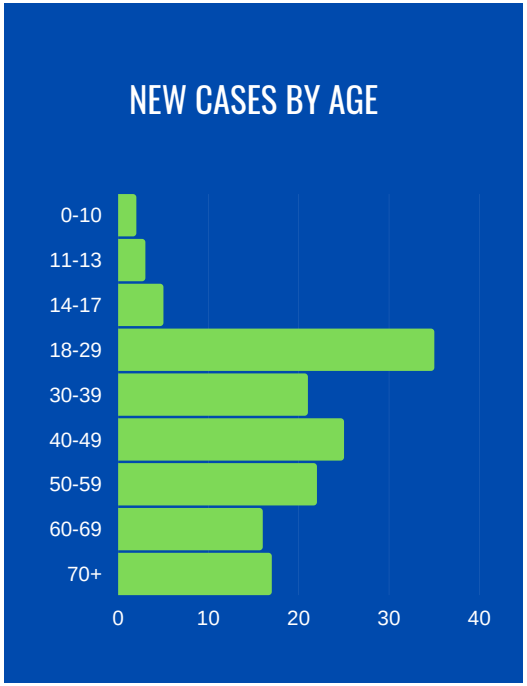
4.27

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

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional level is critical.



High

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring one controlled outbreak in a local long term care facility and a cluster in a local school. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

CRITICAL

CRITICAL RISK

1. **NEW CASES DAILY > 5/10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)**
2. **COVID-19 TESTING POSTIVE RATE > 20%**

AND/OR

3. **HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERLY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED)**
   - **BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES 90%**
   - **MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES**

OR

4. **CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED**

At the red level, communities have reached a tipping point for uncontrolled spread and cities, counties, and/or SCPHD *may* institute all or some of the following:

- Stay-At-Home Order issued
- Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
- Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions
- Continued closure of bars and nightclubs
- Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures
- Prohibited visitation to long-term care facilities
- Travel advisories as needed
  - **14-day self-quarantine** for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission

Lincoln County

Risk level: CRITICAL

Lincoln County's case rate is in the high end of the high risk tier and there are no special circumstances inflating that number. The county does not have a local hospital but the regional hospital is critically impacted. The positivity rate is in the critical risk tier. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

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

South Central Public Health District
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Using data from October 4th - October 17th

21.15%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

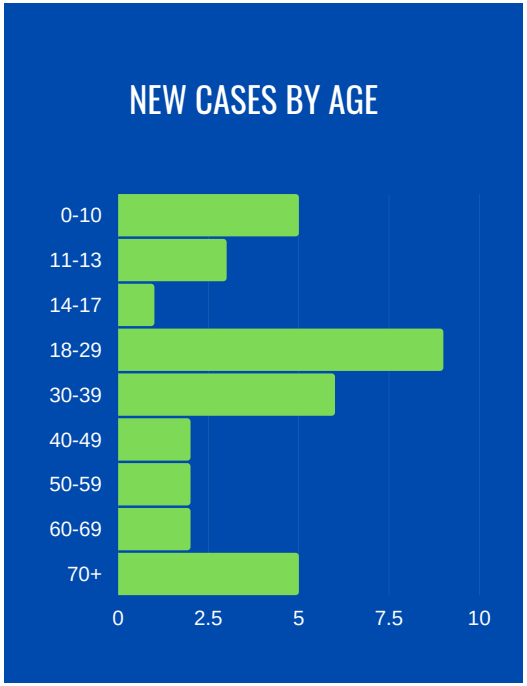
4.66

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.



High

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring one controlled outbreak in a local long term care facility. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

CRITICAL

CRITICAL RISK

1. **NEW CASES DAILY > 5/10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)**
2. **COVID-19 TESTING POSTIVE RATE > 20%**

AND/OR

3. **HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERLY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED)**
   - **BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES 90%**
   - **MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES**

OR

4. **CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED**

At the red level, communities have reached a tipping point for uncontrolled spread and cities, counties, and/or SCPHD *may* institute all or some of the following:

- Stay-At-Home Order issued
- Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
- Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions
- Continued closure of bars and nightclubs
- Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures
- Prohibited visitation to long-term care facilities
- Travel advisories as needed
  - **14-day self-quarantine** for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission

Minidoka County

Risk level: Critical

Minidoka County's average new case rate is high in the critical risk tier with no special circumstances inflating that number. SCPHD is still monitoring one local outbreak that is contained but case rates are surging which has severly impacted efforts to contact trace and investigate the spread of this disease. Impact on the local level is high and regional hospital is critical. The positivity rate is in the critical risk tier.

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

24.91%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

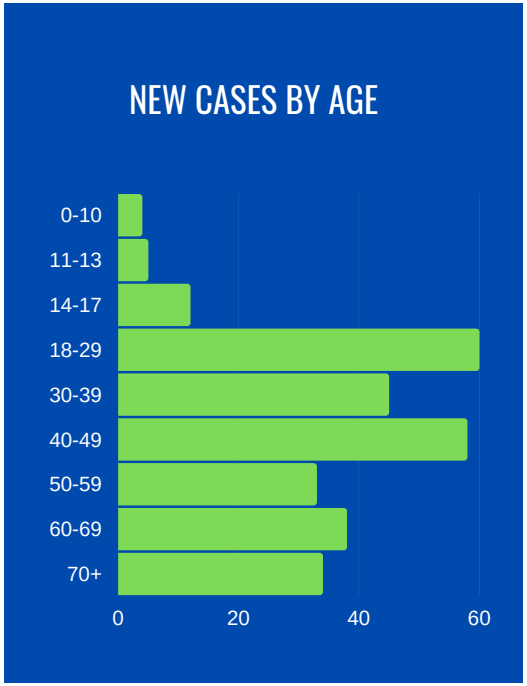
9.85

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

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local hospital is high and regional hospital is critical.



High

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring increased case rate in a local school and one long term care facility with an outbreak that is contained to the facility. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

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Using data from October 4th - October 17th

CRITICAL

CRITICAL RISK

1. **NEW CASES DAILY > 5/10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)**
2. **COVID-19 TESTING POSTIVE RATE > 20%**

AND/OR

3. **HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERLY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED)**
   - **BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES 90%**
   - **MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES**

OR

4. **CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED**

At the red level, communities have reached a tipping point for uncontrolled spread and cities, counties, and/or SCPHD *may* institute all or some of the following:

- Stay-At-Home Order issued
- Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
- Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions
- Continued closure of bars and nightclubs
- Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures
- Prohibited visitation to long-term care facilities
- Travel advisories as needed
  - **14-day self-quarantine** for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission

Twin Falls County

Risk level: **Critical**

The new case number for Twin Falls is in the critical tier and is trending upward. Because of the surge in cases, contact tracing and investigation is impacted. **Sixteen** local long term care facilities are experiencing an outbreak. SCPHD is also monitoring cases or clusters in multiple local school districts. Impact on the local and regional hospitals is critical. The positivity rate is in the high risk tier.

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

South Central Public Health District
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Using data from October 4th - October 17th

14.82%

Positivity Rate for the County
Provided by Idaho Health and Welfare

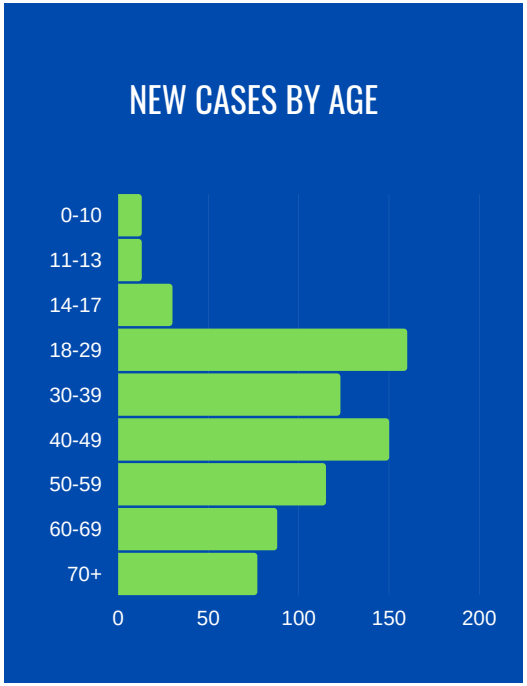
6.38

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

Critical

Hospital Capacity

Impact on the local and regional level is critical. Critical surge cannot be maintained.



High

Other Epidemiological Factors

SCPHD is monitoring outbreaks in **sixteen** long term care facilities. Investigating cases and clusters in multiple school districts across the county. Case counts are trending upward and epidemiology methods are impacted as case counts surge across the district.

CRITICAL

CRITICAL RISK

1. **NEW CASES DAILY > 5/10,000 POPULATION (FOURTEEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)**
2. **COVID-19 TESTING POSTIVE RATE > 20%**

AND/OR

3. **HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERLY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED)**
   - **BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES 90%**
   - **MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES**

OR

4. **CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED**

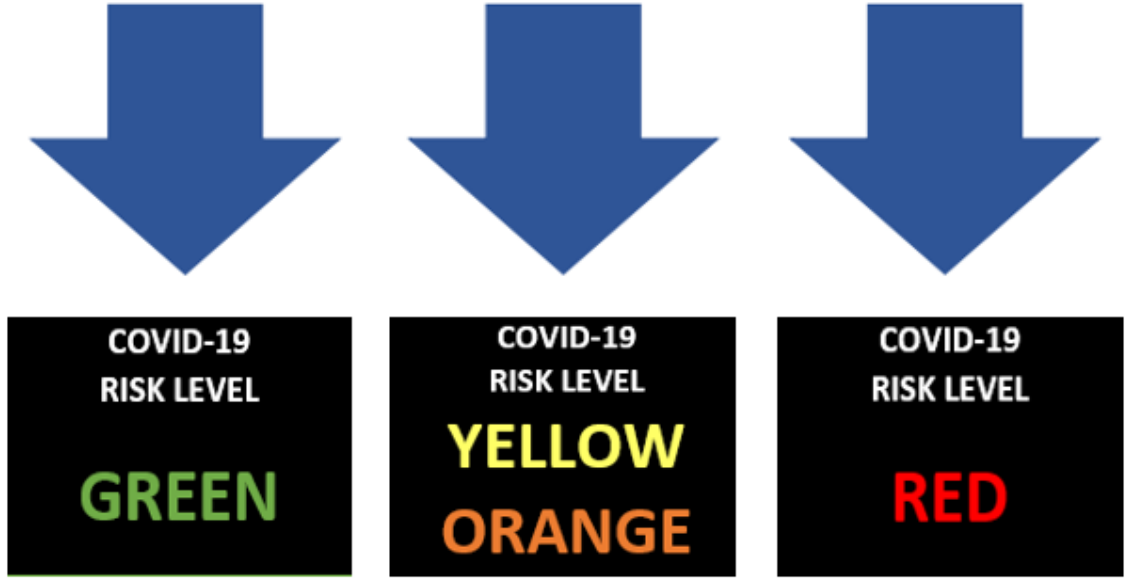
At the red level, communities have reached a tipping point for uncontrolled spread and cities, counties, and/or SCPHD *may* institute all or some of the following:

- Stay-At-Home Order issued
- Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
- Required use of face coverings
- No mass gatherings
- Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions
- Continued closure of bars and nightclubs
- Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures
- Prohibited visitation to long-term care facilities
- Travel advisories as needed
  - **14-day self-quarantine** for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission

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 cross-walked 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.



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.