



Panhandle Health District

Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Panhandle Health District

COVID-19 REGIONAL GATING PLAN

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/27/2020

AS IDAHO'S RESPONSE to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be based on regional response rather than a statewide response, the following plan has been developed by Panhandle Health District (PHD). The plan is applicable to the counties within PHD's region, which includes the following counties: Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone and Benewah.

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

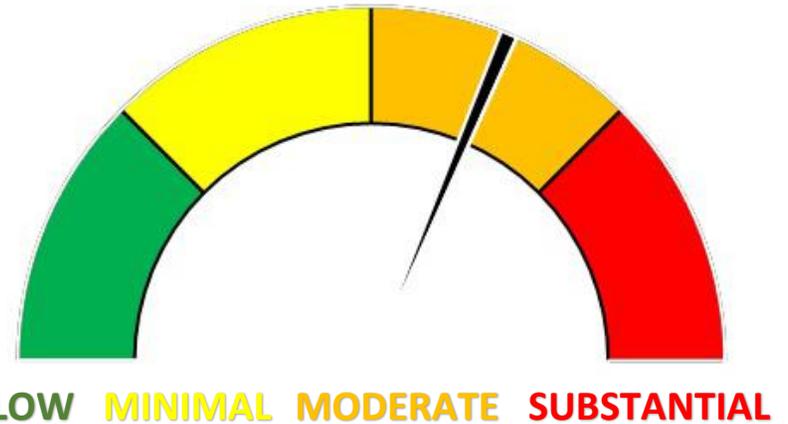
PHD aims to mitigate the rapid spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and wellbeing of residents in the district, and to prevent overwhelming first responders, the healthcare system, and personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies in our region. Idaho Code 39-414(2) outlines that Idaho's 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 PHD to minimize the impact to local economies as much as possible while still protecting the public health.

The PHD Board of Health and Director will be responsible for monitoring of this plan and will collaborate with local elected official within the region. It is important to note that local elected officials have the authority to implement their own measures to do what they deem necessary to protect the health of the residents they serve.

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 the plan will be in effect until a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, treatment options for COVID-19 are readily available, or other mitigating factors currently not known are identified.

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

- The risk levels may be applied at a county or regional level.
- **Different parts of PHD's region may be at different risk levels.**
- In ALL risk levels, the preventive measures outlined in the Low Risk Level should be followed.
- In addition to those metrics determining exposure risk, public health officials will also be closely monitoring and taking into consideration the following:
 - Input from our hospital partners
 - Trends in COVID-19 testing, including positivity rate and turnaround time of test results
 - Supplies of Personal Protective Equipment for healthcare providers/first responders
 - Epidemiologic investigation capacity
 - COVID-related hospitalizations & deaths



RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
LOW RISK	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW Daily cases 7 day rolling average < 1 per 100,000 2. Testing positivity rate < 5% 3. Regional Hospital Bed occupancy 75-90% 	<p>REGARDLESS OF THE RISK LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE PANDEMIC, EVERYONE IS ASKED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay home if you are sick • Maintain physical distance of 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family) whenever possible • Wear face coverings in public when physical distancing is not possible • Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large gatherings asked to implement: physical distancing, use of face coverings by staff and participants, increased sanitization measures, and increased personal hygiene measures (handwashing/hand sanitizing). <p>In addition, schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020 (https://www.sde.idaho.gov/re-opening/).</p>
RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p>MINIMAL RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> NEW Daily cases 7 day rolling average 1-15 per 100,000 Testing positivity rate 5-8 % Regional Hospital Bed occupancy 75-90% with staffing and resource shortages 	<p>At yellow levels, there may be sporadic imported cases, an uptick in close contact transmission, or isolated cluster outbreaks PHD Board OR local elected officials MAY consider instituting some or all the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase education, information sharing and messaging Consider limits on mass gatherings to 150 people if appropriate physical distancing can be maintained Consider Requiring face coverings in public settings when physical distance cannot be maintained Extra precautions for vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions) Teleworking where possible and feasible with business operations

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;">MODERATE RISK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW Daily cases 7 day rolling average 16-30 per 100,000 2. Testing positivity rate 8.1-20% 3. Regional Hospital Bed occupancy >90% with staffing and resource shortages 4. Medical surgery capacity still available 5. Significant outbreaks occurring at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals/Healthcare providers/EMS • Critical infrastructure services (fire, Law enforcement, utilities, Solid waste etc) • Congregate living facilities (LTCF's, correction facilities etc) • Schools, churches, mass gatherings. 	<p>IN ADDITION TO CONTINUATION OF ALL MITIGATION STRATEGIES FROM MINIMAL and Moderate RISK LEVEL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Order for mandatory face coverings when in public • Consider limiting gatherings to no more than 50 people • Encourage vulnerable populations (elderly, individuals with underlying health conditions) to self-isolate • Teleworking where possible and feasible with business operations • Encourage limiting travel/visitors to the region as well as travel within the State to areas with high rates of spread • Recommend congregate living facilities consider extra precautions. • Recommend places of worship consider virtual services where possible

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider industry-specific measures • Schools should implement strategies in response to their COVID-19 plans and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020
RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
SUBSTANTIAL RISK	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEW Daily cases 7 day rolling average >30 per 100,000 2. Testing positivity rate >20% 3. Hospital capacity, including ICU, consistently at or above 100% and surge capacity cannot be maintained OR Crisis Standards of Care Implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After consulting with healthcare partners and elected officials consider additional more stringent mitigation strategies. • Schools should implement strategies in response to their COVID-19 plans and those of Idaho Back to School Framework 2020