



# COVID-19 BLAINE COUNTY RISK LEVEL PLAN

EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/1/2020

As Idaho's response to the COVID-19 pandemic transitions from a statewide response to a regional and local response, the following COVID-19 Blaine County Risk Level Plan was developed to help guide policy-making in Blaine County and the cities of Ketchum, Sun Valley, Hailey Bellevue, and Carey. In addition, this Blaine County Risk Level Plan will help guide local businesses and organizations in their operational decisions during the pandemic. Blaine County aims to mitigate the rapid spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and economic wellbeing of residents and visitors, and to prevent overwhelming first responders, the healthcare system, and personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies in our region.

The COVID-19 Blaine County Risk Level Plan is based on the Harvard Global Health Institute's recommendations and is more stringent than the South Central Public Health District's (SCPHD) COVID-19 Regional Risk Level Plan. Due to the fact that Blaine County cases are lower than the rest of the Health District, we have the opportunity to have a more pro-active plan and keep our cases low. Further, we recognize that Blaine County is unique from the rest of the Health District because we are a tourist destination and have a highly transient population. Therefore, Blaine County is not insular and needs a distinct plan that takes the nature of our community into consideration.

The Blaine County Risk Level Plan establishes the criteria Blaine County and cities of Ketchum, Sun Valley, Hailey, Bellevue, and Carey, and local businesses and organizations can use to monitor COVID-19 disease trends, resources, and risk level, and make appropriate decisions. The established criteria and related outputs are similar to those in the SCPHD Regional Risk Level Plan with some modifications.

Blaine County and the cities of Ketchum, Sun Valley, Hailey, Bellevue, and Carey, and local businesses and organizations will consult the South Central Public Health District for its expertise and guidance during the pandemic and will work closely with SCPHD as the local jurisdictions, businesses, and organizations implement the COVID-19 Blaine County Risk Level Plan and SCPHD implements the COVID-19 Regional Risk Level Plan. Local elected officials in Blaine County and cities have the authority to implement their own local plan and preventative measures, which may be more restrictive than those included in the SCPHD Regional Risk Level 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.

## WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT BLAINE COUNTY'S COVID-19 RISK LEVELS:

- The risk levels are applied to the entire county
- 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, local officials will closely monitor and may take into consideration for movement to a different risk level the following:
  - Input from hospital partners, South Central Public Health District, and Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
  - Trends in COVID-19 testing, including turn-around time of test results
  - Epidemiological investigation capacity
  - COVID-related hospitalizations and deaths
  - Syndromic surveillance of emergency department visits with COVID-like symptoms



RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINIMAL RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW DAILY CASES &lt; 1 PER 100,000 POPULATION (SEVEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE &lt; 1%</li> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <li>3. REGIONAL HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS NORMAL</li> </ol>	<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>BLAINE COUNTY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SCPHD, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND HEALTHCARE PARTNERS WILL EDUCATE, INFORM, AND SHARE COORDINATED 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"> <li>• Carefully monitor your health</li> <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>• 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>• Maintain a healthy life-style and take extra measures to increase overall health</li> </ul> <p>EVERYONE IS REQUIRED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear face coverings in public that fully cover the nose and mouth</li> </ul>
RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MODERATE RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW DAILY CASES IS BETWEEN 1 to 10 PER 100,000 POPULATION (SEVEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 1% to 5%</li> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <li>3. REGIONAL HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BED CAPACITY REACHES 80%</li> <li>• STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>AT THE YELLOW LEVEL, THERE MAY BE SPORADIC IMPORTED CASES, AN UPTICK IN CLOSE CONTACT TRANSMISSION, OR ISOLATED CLUSTER OUTBREAKS. SCPHD <u>OR</u> COMMUNITIES MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase education, information sharing, and messaging</li> <li>• Limit indoor mass gatherings (recommend 1 person per 64 sq. ft. of space) to 50 people if appropriate physical distancing can be maintained. Limit outdoor mass gatherings to 150 people.</li> <li>• Require face coverings in public settings</li> <li>• Extra precautions for vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions)</li> <li>• Teleworking where possible and feasible with business operations</li> <li>• Minimize non-essential travel</li> <li>• Strict policies for staff and visitors to avoid potential outbreaks in congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.)</li> <li>• Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of <a href="#">Idaho Back to School Framework 2020</a></li> </ul>

RISK LEVEL	METRICS MONITORED	MITIGATION STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HIGH</b></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>HIGH RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW CASES DAILY IS BETWEEN 10 to 25 PER 100,000 POPULATION (SEVEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE IS BETWEEN 5 to 10%</li> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <li>3. REGIONAL HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STILL AVAILABLE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BED CAPACITY REACHES 85%</li> <li>• SIGNIFICANT STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> </li> <li>4. SIGNIFICANT OUTBREAK(S) OCCURRING AT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals/Healthcare Providers/EMS</li> <li>• Critical Infrastructure Services (fire, law enforcement, utilities, solid waste 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> </li> </ol>	<p><b>AT THE ORANGE LEVEL, COMMUNITY SPREAD HAS ACCELERATED. SCPHD OR COMMUNITIES MAY INSTITUTE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase education, information sharing, and messaging</li> <li>• Require use of face coverings</li> <li>• Limit of indoor mass gatherings (recommend 1 person per 64 sq. ft. of space) to 10 people if appropriate physical distancing can be maintained). Limit outdoor mass gatherings to 50 people.</li> <li>• Limit travel/visitors to the region as well as travel within the state to areas with high rates of spread (encourage 14-day self-quarantine)</li> <li>• Self-isolation of vulnerable populations (older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions)</li> <li>• Teleworking for those who are able</li> <li>• Extra precautions for employees of congregate living facilities (long-term care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.) and close facility to visitors</li> <li>• Delivery/curb-side service for businesses, including food establishments</li> <li>• Closures of bars and nightclubs</li> <li>• Reduced occupancy in places of business and public buildings</li> <li>• Virtual services for place of worship where possible</li> <li>• Discontinuation of youth and adult sports/activities in which physical distancing is not possible</li> <li>• Industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures</li> <li>• Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of the <a href="#">Idaho Back to School Framework 2020</a></li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CRITICAL</b></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>CRITICAL RISK</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NEW CASES DAILY &gt; 25/100,000 POPULATION (SEVEN DAY ROLLING AVERAGE)</li> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <li>2. COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVE RATE &gt; 10%</li> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <li>3. REGIONAL HOSPITAL CAPACITY FOR CARE IS SEVERLY IMPACTED (MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BED AND ICU CAPACITY REACHES 90%</li> <li>• MAJOR STAFFING AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> </li> <li>4. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPLEMENTED</li> </ol>	<p><b>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:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay-At-Home Order issued</li> <li>• Schools should implement strategies in response to these guidelines and those of <a href="#">Idaho Back to School Framework 2020</a></li> <li>• Require use of face coverings</li> <li>• No social gatherings</li> <li>• Business closures, including food establishment dining rooms and industry-specific restrictions</li> <li>• Continued closure of bars and nightclubs</li> <li>• Continued industry-specific measures/restrictions/closures</li> <li>• Prohibit visitation to long-term care facilities</li> <li>• Travel advisories as needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14-day self-quarantine for people entering from an area inside or outside Idaho with widespread ongoing transmission</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 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 **> 25 daily new cases** per 100,000 people in a defined population (e.g., town, city, or county) or if new case rate adversely impacts SCPHD'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](#)

### Supporting Partners

