# COVID-19 | LEVELS OF COMMUNITY SPREAD FOR SCHOOLS

Central District Health | Ada | Boise | Elmore | Valley

CDH uses a two-week average of daily COVID-19 cases calculated per 100,000 people in a given county. The categories are weekly assessments of community spread and are updated on Mondays. For counties with fewer than 25,000 people, case rate thresholds have been adjusted because small changes in reported cases can greatly impact rates.

They are recommendations only; final decisions are made by local school boards. If category designations are adjusted, then schools and families should expect transition time as changes may or may not be immediate.

Private and charter schools should use the category based on the address of their facility and associated school district boundary. Corresponding data is updated every Monday by noon on CDH's Tableau Page. See the respective county tab for related data.

**CATEGORY 1**
GREEN

**ADA & ELMORE COUNTIES**
CASE RATE OF 3.0 OR LESS

**BOISE & VALLEY COUNTIES**
CASE RATE OF 5.0 OR LESS

**LEVEL OF OPERATION**
School buildings open with physical distancing and sanitation

**CATEGORY 2**
YELLOW

**ADA & ELMORE COUNTIES**
CASE RATE GREATER THAN 3.0 BUT LESS THAN 20.0

**BOISE & VALLEY COUNTIES**
CASE RATE GREATER THAN 5.0 BUT LESS THAN 30.0

**LEVEL OF OPERATION**
School buildings open but option of limited/staggered use of school buildings with physical distancing and sanitation

**CATEGORY 3**
RED

**ADA & ELMORE COUNTIES**
CASE RATE OF 20.0 OR GREATER

**BOISE & VALLEY COUNTIES**
CASE RATE OF 30.0 OR GREATER

**LEVEL OF OPERATION**
Minimal use of school buildings and limited in-person instruction

**2019 Census Bureau population estimates:**
**Ada Co: 481,587 | Elmore Co: 27,511**
**Boise Co: 7,831 | Valley Co: 11,392**

**Case Rate Calculation Example:**

If 80 cases were reported over 14 days in Elmore County

1. Calculate Average Cases Per Day: 80 cases ÷14 days = 5.71 average cases per day
2. Convert to Case Rate: 5.71 ÷ 27,511 (Elmore Co Population) = 0.0002075 cases per person in county
3. Convert Case Rate to per 100,000: 0.0002075 x 100,000= 20.75 cases per 100,000 population
   = 20.75 for the 2-week average rate / Red Category

continued

**Possible Differences for Rural Communities**

CDH recognizes the potential for community spread differences within its rural counties of Boise, Elmore, and Valley, and the role that geographic distance might play in a community's risk. For instance, Basin School District and Horseshoe Bend School District are both located in Boise County, but are approximately 30 miles apart and an hour's drive. Because of the significant geographic distance, it is possible that two school districts within the same county could, at times, be in different risk categories. CDH will work directly with the school districts and independent schools if this situation arises.

## Resources

- **Latest Local Information, Data & Links:** cdh.idaho.gov/dac-coronavirus
- **Direct Link to CDH Tableau Data Site:** https://public.tableau.com/profile/central.district.health#!/vizhome/CDHCOVID-19/CDHCOVID-19Information
- **CDH COVID-19 Schools page:** cdh.idaho.gov/dac-coronavirus-schools
- **CDH COVID-19 Call Center:** 208-321-2222 - Open M-F 8:30 am - 4:30 pm; Closed on holidays

CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH