

CDC indicators and thresholds for risk of introduction and transmission of COVID-19 in schools

| INDICATORS | Lowest risk of transmission in schools | Lower risk of transmission in schools | Moderate risk of transmission in schools | Higher risk of transmission in schools | Highest risk of transmission in schools |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| CORE INDICATORS | | | | | |
| Number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the last 14 days* | <5 | 5 to <20 | 20 to <50 | 50 to ≤ 200 | >200 |
| Percentage of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 14 days** | <3% | 3% to <5% | 5% to <8% | 8% to ≤ 10% | >10% |
| <p>Ability of the school to implement 5 key mitigation strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent and correct use of masks • Social distancing to the largest extent possible • Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette • Cleaning and disinfection • Contact tracing in collaboration with local health department <p>Schools should adopt the additional mitigation measures outlined below to the extent possible, practical and feasible.</p> | Implemented all 5 strategies correctly and consistently | Implemented all 5 strategies correctly but inconsistently | Implemented 3-4 strategies correctly and consistently | Implemented 1-2 strategies correctly and consistently | Implemented no strategies |
| SECONDARY INDICATORS | | | | | |
| Percent change in new cases per 100,000 population during the last 7 days compared with the previous 7 days (negative values indicate improving trends) | <-10% | -10% to <-5% | -5% to <0% | 0% to ≤ 10% | >10% |
| Percentage of hospital inpatient beds in the community that are occupied*** | <80% | <80% | 80 to 90% | >90% | >90% |

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|---|------|------------|------------|------|------|
| Percentage of intensive care unit beds in the community that are occupied*** | <80% | <80% | 80 to 90% | >90% | >90% |
| Percentage of hospital inpatient beds in the community that are occupied by patients with COVID-19*** | <5% | 5% to <10% | 10% to 15% | >15% | >15% |
| Existence of localized community/public setting COVID-19 outbreak**** | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |

*Number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the last 14 days is calculated by adding the number of new cases in the county (or other community type) in the last 14 days divided by the population in the county (or other community type) and multiplying by 100,000.

**Percentage of RT-PCR tests in the community (e.g., county) that are positive during the last 14 days is calculated by dividing the number of positive tests over the last 14 days by the total number of tests resulted over the last 14 days. Diagnostic tests are viral (RT-PCR) diagnostic and screening laboratory tests (excludes antibody testing and RT-PCR testing for surveillance purposes). Learn more on the [Calculating Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 \(SARS-CoV-2\) Laboratory Test Percent Positivity: CDC Methods and Considerations for Comparisons and Interpretation webpage](#).

***Hospital beds and ICU beds occupied: These indicators are proxies for underlying community burden and the ability of the local healthcare system to support additional people with severe illness, including those with COVID-19. A community can be defined at the city, county or metro area level; federal analyses of hospital utilization rates within a community are typically conducted at the core-based statistical area (e.g., by metropolitan or micropolitan status).

**** Sudden increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in a localized community or geographic area as determined by the local and state health department.