



Color-coded counties: Information for schools, local officials

An updated system for understanding the trend in community spread at the county level that will be based on two metrics each week:

- **Number of new cases** in the past week per 100,000 residents
- **Percent positivity** as determined by the number of **positive tests** divided by the **total number of tests administered**

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Goal:

To provide a system that local and school officials can use to understand the level of community spread and how it is changing on the county level, so they can make decisions. Schools have asked for guidance based on the metrics.

- Scoring does not trigger a state requirement of any action, but provides local information and recommendations

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The metrics:

Each metric will be assigned a score of 0 to 3

The average of the two scores will be the county's total score for the week

New cases per 100,000 residents	Percent positivity
Less than 10 new cases = 0	Less than 5% = 0
10 - 99 new cases = 1	5% - 9.9% = 1
100 - 199 new cases = 2	10% - 14.9% = 2
200 or more new cases = 3	15% or greater = 3

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The metrics:

Average scores will place a county into one of 4 colors:

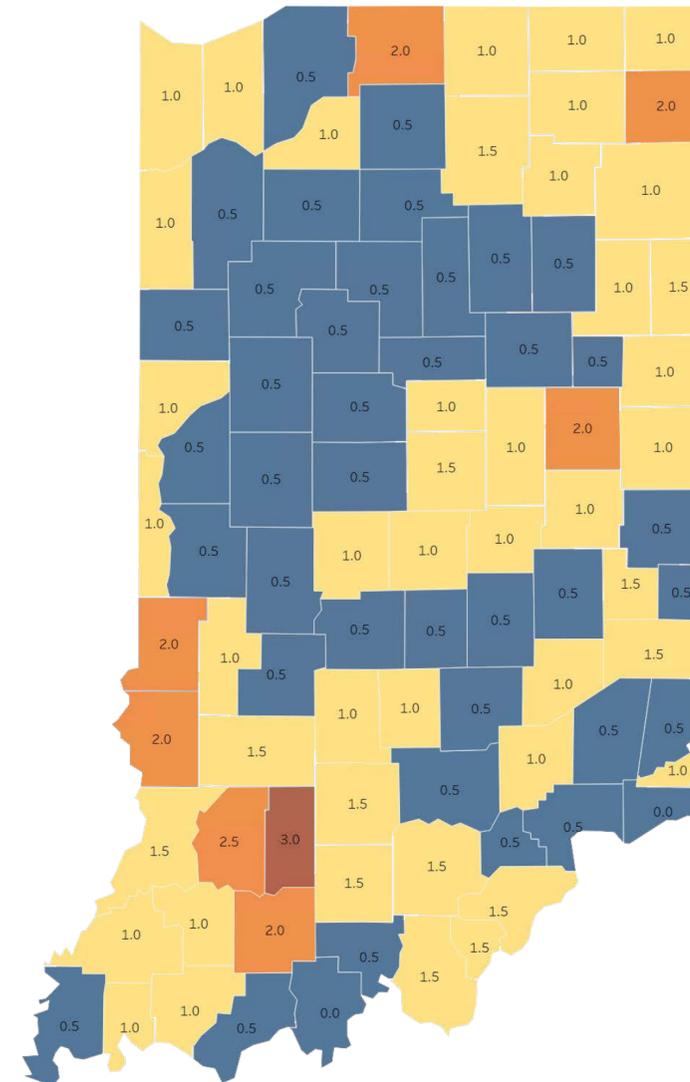
- Blue: 0 – .9
- Yellow: 1 – 1.9
- Orange: 2 – 2.5
- Red: Greater than 2.5

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The metrics:

- Blue: 0 — .9
- Yellow: 1 — 1.9
- Orange: 2 — 2.5
- Red: Greater than 2.5





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The recommendations:

Each color category comes with recommendations for local and school officials to consider based on what the metrics show regarding community spread

Blue: Minimal community spread

- Schools operate all grades in person but limit activities where social distancing is not feasible
- Extra-curricular activities to follow local and state guidelines, including distancing and masks, and limit spectators
- Outreach to encourage public to continue with precautions

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The recommendations:

Yellow: Moderate community spread

- Schools continue all grades in person but increase vigilance in distancing, hand hygiene and masks
- No assemblies or activities if social distancing is not feasible
- Postpone or cancel extra-curricular activities as warranted, consider allowing only parents or close family to attend athletic and other events
- Work with local health department to determine if increased precautions and public outreach should begin to halt the spread

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The recommendations:

Orange: Moderate to high community spread

- Grade schools continue in-person; strong recommendation for hybrid learning for middle and high school students
- No assemblies or large group activities
- Strong recommendation to limit extra-curricular activities and have competitors and participants only, with no in-person attendees
- Discussions with parents about limiting social events outside of school
- County education leaders work with local health department to consider implementing aggressive prevention efforts in schools and communities

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The recommendations:

Red: High community spread

- Grade schools remain in person or consider hybrid learning; Middle and high schools consider virtual learning
- No assemblies or large group activities
- Extracurricular activities cancelled
- Discourage social events
- County education leaders work with local health department to consider implementing aggressive prevention efforts in schools and communities

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The recommendations:

All school systems are asked to make every effort to keep one school building open, even during high community spread, to assist students with remote learning and ensure a safe environment and provide food security.

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