Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley School Districts
Indicator Framework for School Planning
Updated: September 17, 2020

The Metro Denver Partnership for Health (MDPH) has identified three key metrics that schools and local public health agencies across the metro region are monitoring to inform their decisions regarding in-person school attendance.

These "regional" metrics – COVID-19 case rates, trends in case numbers, and test positivity – are measured at the county level and provide an overview of COVID-19 transmission within a community. While case rates appear to be the primary determinant of community transmission, the other two metrics provide important contextual information in interpreting case rates. When assessed together, these metrics can provide greater understanding of the magnitude and trajectory of transmission within a county, and we believe that they can prove valuable to all districts for monitoring and decision-making. Following these metrics uniformly across the entire metro region can provide important comparative data.

There are additional metrics that may be useful for schools to consider tracking to inform discussions with their school boards, public health agencies, teachers, and community partners. These include **trends in the number of hospitalizations** and **case rates among school-age children**, **district specific test results from Gary Community Investments**, if there is **community wide spread of the virus or if it's contained to geographical areas**, **capacity of the local public health agency to complete case investigations and contact tracing in a timely fashion**, the **size of the school and the number of students** that will be attending (ability to cohort or maintain distancing), and **availability of tests and turn-around time for test results** in the community.

The categories listed are not mutually exclusive and may require further analysis of some of these indicators to help make local school decisions. For example, we may have a high 14-day case rate, but if those cases are contained to a small geographic area and there is not broad community-wide transmission, and our test positivity and hospitalization rate is low, then in-person or hybrid may still be warranted.

Boulder County Public Health has worked closely with schools across the metro area, as well as our local school districts to come up with this set of metrics. We will track and report on these weekly as we move forward with the intention it can offer guidance to schools to make decisions on what level of in person school is most appropriate for them. These metrics are based on both health indicators as well as operational indicators. It's important to note that **these are guidelines for schools and are not intended to be orders.**

These metrics may be updated over time to align with state indicators, public health orders, and as necessary to serve as an effective planning tool for schools in Boulder County.

REGIONAL METRIC	PURPOSE	GREEN THRESHOLD In person or hybrid	YELLOW THRESHOLD Hybrid or Remote	RED THRESHOLD Remote	Current Level Boulder (through 9/20)	Current Level Weld (through 9/18)	Current Level Broomfield (through 9/14)	COMMENTS
Case rates: 14-day case number per 100,000 population	Current level of community transmission to understand where the community has been.	Less than 50	50-100	Greater than 100	Red: 373.1 per 100,000	Yellow: 94.3 per 100,000	Yellow: 50.9 per 100,000	A 14-day case number per 100,000 measures the magnitude of COVID-19 infection in a community and is the single best indicator for the likelihood of transmission across the community as well as in settings such as schools. • Excluding cases associated with long-term care facilities
Trend in case numbers per 100,000 in the past two weeks	Trend in community transmission to understand where the community is heading.	Less than 25% increase	25-50% increase	Greater than 50% increase	Red: Compared to the previous 2 weeks, the most recent 2 weeks have had 279.5% more cases	Yellow: Compared to the previous 2 weeks, the most recent 2 weeks have had 25.3% more cases	Green: Compared to the previous 2 weeks, the most recent 2 weeks have had 5.2% fewer cases	Trend in case rates informs the directionality of transmission within a community and provides context for interpreting and responding to different levels of case rates.
Percent positivity on polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing	Adequacy of testing to understand if it is enough to	Less than 5%	5.1-7%	Greater than 7%	Green: Current 14-day positivity is 3.5%	Green: Current 14-day positivity is 3.8%	Green: Current 14-day positivity is 2.8%	Test positivity provides important insights as to whether testing across the community is

	understand community transmission.							sufficient to measure the true magnitude of infection and also how testing is impacting case rates. Rising test positivity rates indicate that rising case rates are not simply a result of increased testing, but a measure of true increases in transmission.
ADDITIONAL METRICS TO INFORM DECISIONS		**GREEN THRESHOLD**	**YELLOW THRESHOLD**	**RED THRESHOLD**	**Current Level Boulder**	**Current Level Weld**	**Current Level Broomfield**	**COMMENTS These are additional measures and we would use these in addition to the above to inform decisions.**
Trend in case rates (numbers per 100,000) in the past two weeks for school-age children (5-17)		Less than 25% increase	25-50% increase	Greater than 50% increase	Green: Decreased by 7.7%	Green: Increasde 9.5%	Green: 0% change	Assessing trends in case rates among school-age children may provide unique insights on the impact of schools and COVID-19 transmission in the event that they change before overall community-wide case rates do.
Local public health agency is able to implement Colorado's case investigation	To be able to effectively and timely respond to outbreaks and contain	Greater than 85% of cases contacted within 24 hrs.	Between 40% - 85% of cases contacted within 24 hrs.	Less than 40% of cases contacted within 24 hrs.	Yellow: 69% of cases and 69% of contacts of cases	TBD	Green: 90% of cases and contacts	Measured weekly.

and contact tracing protocol: at least 85% percent of assigned cases contacted within 24 hours.	the spread of the virus.				reported 8/24-8/30			