COVID Measures to Inform School Planning

As of October 18, 2020*

*Please note that the science of COVID-19 is evolving rapidly. The information here reflects current existing models and will be updated as needed as science and evidence informed guidance emerges.
Description

- The enclosed measures are offered as a tool to assist school leaders as they consider choices about on-site, hybrid, and remote learning models for their student populations.

- The existing **Ohio Public Health Advisory System** contains valuable community metrics. But 4 of the 7 indicators lag days or weeks behind new infections (increases in outpatient visits, ED visits, hospital admissions, ICU occupancy)
  - School Planning measures focus at the front end to catch increases in infections as they start

- Measures on the next slides are front-end indicators of a rise in new community infections. Schools can use these to assist in real-time decision making about remote, hybrid, and in-person learning.
  - **Primary Measures**: Assess how many people in the community have COVID & direction of trend
  - **Secondary Measures**: Community Performance Indicators - how community systems are coping
  - **For Both**: Proposed Thresholds for interpretation and decision support for in-person / remote / hybrid learning models
Primary measures: New Cases

1. Daily new cases per 100,000 (7-day moving avg)
   - Demonstrates level of virus in community

2. Trend line of daily new cases per 100,000
   - Indicates whether cases are increasing or decreasing

Secondary measure: Community Performance Indicators

- Percent of COVID tests that are positive
  - Demonstrates adequacy of community testing (and prevalence of disease)

*Also consider:* Time from test to result (“turnaround time” – see appendix); Positive test rates in asymptomatic people; Contact tracing success rate

For all In-Person Learning, at all levels:

- Bundle: Stay Home when Sick, Distancing, Masking, Hand Hygiene, Cleaning
- Also consider Cohorting, Ventilation

- School measures of daily cases and quarantine
- Important to maintain protocols consistently over time
  - Create systems to track school cases over time
  - Measure implementation of protection protocols
  - If protocols cannot be maintained, consider remote / hybrid models

Read more:
Primary Measures and Proposed Thresholds

Below is an adaptation of suggested thresholds from Harvard Global Health Institute *(see link below for original recommendations)*. Schools should consider student needs and ability to implement protection protocols as they make the decision for their district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Daily New Cases per 100,000</th>
<th>Schools should:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>&gt;25</td>
<td>Encourage remote learning for all learners when possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>10&lt;25</td>
<td>Consider remote or hybrid learning unless Community Performance Indicators <em>(slide 3)</em> met. If Community Performance Indicators are met, follow guidance in Yellow:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Yellow   | 1<10                       | **Consider if school protective protocols can be strictly implemented** *(see slide 4)*  
  → If no, consider remote or hybrid learning  
  → If yes, consider return to in-person with possible prioritization & phase-in:  
    • Priority 1: preK-5, special education through 8th  
    • Priority 2: grades 6-8 and special education for grades 9-12  
    • Grades 9-12:  
      o Not a priority in Orange – continued remote or hybrid learning  
      o Return in Yellow on hybrid schedule IF distancing can be maintained for all grades, majority of time |
| Green    | <1                         | All grades in school with strict protection protocols |

Daily new cases per 100,000 (7-day moving avg); 10.18.20

Values when selected other countries opened schools: Denmark = 3.3, Germany = 0.8, Norway = 1.6
Trend line of daily new cases per 100,000; 10.18.20

Previous 2 weeks. CDC positive indicators for continued re-opening:

• 14th day less than 1st day, 9 of past 14 days declined
• REBOUND = 5 consecutive days of increase

Secondary Measure: Percent of COVID tests that are positive
Goal: < 5% (CDC)*, < 3% (Harvard)**


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Goal: < 5% (CDC)*, <3% (Harvard)**

Open circles indicate points highly subject to change. Location is based on address provided to the lab.
Source: The Health Collaborative data as of 10/18/2020


References and Data Sources


**Data Sources:**

- The Health Collaborative Situational Dashboard: [https://www.cctst.org/covid19](https://www.cctst.org/covid19). Includes
  - Daily New Cases per 100,000 people by county, Greater Cincinnati Regional Data
  - Daily COVID Tests that are Positive

- Harvard Global Health Institute, Key Metrics for COVID Suppression: [https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/](https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/)
  - Daily New Cases per 100,000 people by county, United States
  - Current Test Positive Rate by State, vs target of 3% or lower
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