

Jackson County Health Department: School Metrics

Jackson County Health Department (JCHD) has developed a version of a metric system for schools to utilize adapted from the Dupage County Health Department document. The document was designed to help us better operationalize the earlier [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\) guidance on “Adaptive Pauses”](#) where we would move to more or less restrictive learning models based on COVID metrics related to community spread in Jackson County and within our schools.

The JCHD has been working closely with the Regional Office of Education #30 (ROE) and school district administrators in Jackson County to help inform decisions about school reopening plans this fall. JCHD encourages school districts follow the health and safety protocols set forth by state and local health officials.

There are three levels of transmission that we will be monitoring: Minimal, Moderate, or Substantial community transmission. Each of these levels is defined by a variety of factors: weekly cases per 100,000 people, changes in case numbers, changes in county youth case numbers, positivity rates, and rate of community spread. As health experts learn more about COVID and community spread these metrics may be modified or changed.

As Jackson County has a very diverse group of school districts, we encourage each district to use the information provided to best fit their needs. Along with the below metrics, districts may utilize the [IDPH School Metrics website](#) as well as a weekly case county that JCHD will send the district superintendents each Monday.

IDPH County Transmission Levels and Determining Factors		
Minimal Transmission (Blue)	Moderate Transmission (Orange)	Substantial Transmission (Red)
<p>Jackson County remained BLUE at any point in the last 4 weeks on the IDPH Dashboard</p> <p>Weekly cases <= 50 per 100,000</p> <p>Weekly overall case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a >5% to <=10% increase occurring each week (Pending IDPH Dashboard)</p> <p>Weekly youth case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a >5% to <=10% increase occurring each week (Pending IDPH Dashboard)</p> <p>Weekly test positivity <=5%</p>	<p>Jackson County transitioned to ORANGE once in last 4 weeks on the IDPH Dashboard</p> <p>Weekly cases >50 to <= 100 per 100,000</p> <p>Weekly overall case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a >10% or <=20% increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly youth case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a >10% or <=20% increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly test positivity >5% but <=8%</p>	<p>Jackson County in ORANGE for >2 consecutive weeks on the IDPH Dashboard</p> <p>Weekly cases above > 100 per 100,000</p> <p>Weekly overall case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a > 20% increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly youth case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a >20% increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly test positivity >8%</p>

JCHD encourages each district to determine the number of metrics met in each transmission level that will move them into a higher lever or a lower level. It is possible moving forward that we move to a more restrictive level or less restrictive level due to local spread of COVID within our communities or schools.

The table below is offered to give an idea of what each district can use for instruction plans. Please adapt and utilize this table and plan how best fits your needs.

Instructional Models by Transmission Level		
Minimal Transmission (Blue)	Moderate Transmission (Orange)	Substantial Transmission (Red)
Encourage in-person learning with at least six feet of physical distancing between students and faculty/staff*	<p>Encourage learning models that maintain at least six feet of physical distancing. Some-to-no mixing of groups of students and teachers throughout/across school days Some students participate in virtual and some participate in-person.</p> <p>School officials should use their discretion and expertise to determine which populations of students should receive in-person instruction whose needs are less likely to be met by virtual instruction; maintain essential services in-person and/or with remote access*</p>	<p>Encourage remote learning</p> <p>School officials should use their discretion and expertise to determine which populations of students should receive in person instruction whose needs are less likely to be met by virtual instruction.</p>