



Version 12/15/20

How Health Conditions Determine the Level of In-Person Schooling DPS Can Offer

'Metrics for Operational Viability' created in consultation with health experts, metro school districts

What we considered to be measures of community health and school safety in July 2020 are better identified now as “measures of operational viability”--the health conditions that determine what level of in-person schooling can be offered.

Based on actual data collected by school districts in Colorado, a growing scientific base and with [support of the Metro Denver Partnership for Health](#), we can identify ranges of capacity for in-person schooling and additional levels of protection to offset increased community spread. At the same time, we can confidently demonstrate that, in schools that stringently implement the recommended, overlapping safety strategies, school transmission of COVID appears to be low.

We will reevaluate this plan as vaccines become available to educators.

How Health Conditions Determine Levels of In-Person Learning/Measures of Operational Capacity:

Based on our collective experience and with the support of the MDPH, we can identify community incidence rate as the most reliable measure of potential impact on our ability to operate. Our data and experience demonstrate that at, or slightly above a community incident rate of approximately 500 per 100,000, it becomes increasingly difficult for some schools to maintain in-person learning. In alignment with the [State Dial](#) the following levels represent the method of school and health strategies to support continued in-person schooling.

COVID Dial Level	Green	Blue	Yellow	Orange	Red	Purple
Denver County Incidence Per 100,000 14-day Avg	None	0-75	>75-175	>175-350	>350	Determined by CDPHE
Elementary School	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person or Remote*	Remote
Secondary Schools	In-Person	Hybrid*	Hybrid*	Hybrid*	Hybrid** or Remote***	Remote

Elementary Model

100% of In-Person learners five days per week

*Schools will move to remote on a case-by-case basis when operational issues require closure.

Secondary Model

**Hybrid = in-person with restrictions. Reduced class sizes and/or not all learners in person every day of the week (number of days depends on school size). Must meet approved cohorting guidance from health officials. Center classrooms remain open full-time.

***Schools will move to remote on a case-by-case or district-wide basis when operational issues require closure.

Additional Health Strategies above Health Guidance Already Universally Implemented:

Provide access to free, ongoing and expanded testing to students and staff in partnership with COVID Check Colorado to allow for early identification of children and adults who have been infected with the COVID virus but are also asymptomatic, thereby creating a safer, lower-risk environment for in-person schooling.

Utilize updated guidance from the CDC to provide free [polymerase chain reaction \(PCR\) testing](#) to students and staff placed on quarantine due to potential exposure. We are currently exploring the feasibility of testing quarantined students on day 5 of quarantine so that students with a negative test can exit quarantine on day 7 to return to school.

Additional Measures to Monitor:

We will actively monitor the following data points to inform the necessity for additional mitigation strategies or the need to move remote.	Measure of Intra-School Transmission	Student - Active COVID Positive Rate	Staff - Active COVID Positive Rate
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