

# SCHOOL RE-ENTRY METRICS & PROTOCOLS

The School Re-entry Metrics and Protocols – developed by Governor Jim Justice, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, and the West Virginia Department of Education – provide a consistent tool to determine whether schools can hold in-person instruction and scheduled athletic and extracurricular activities. **The protocols set forth in this document will be in effect so long as the state as a whole remains below a 5% positivity rate based on a seven-day rolling basis.** This tool will assess community transmission. The color-coded system is driven by data and science to monitor the level of COVID-19 in each county. Once the disease reaches identified levels, counties must respond with mitigation to prevent further spread. The metrics provide county education and local health officials the opportunity to make local decisions within permissible guidelines. Communities are key in managing the transmission of COVID-19 so that school, athletic and extracurricular activities can begin as scheduled and continue uninterrupted.

On September 8, 2020, all counties identified as green and yellow may begin in-person instruction and may maintain this status as long as levels remain steady. Counties with orange or red levels will not be permitted to open to in-person instruction until yellow or green levels are reached on a seven-day rolling basis. After opening, if a county elevates to orange, it may continue to operate under the orange school re-entry protocols. If the county continues to elevate to red, in-person instruction will be suspended and will not resume until the county's levels return to green or yellow.

Protocols outlined in the WVDE School Re-entry Toolkit remain in effect and still apply.

**For more information, visit [wvde.us/reentrymetrics](https://wvde.us/reentrymetrics)**





**In-person Instruction**

**GREEN**

**Minimal Community Transmission**

**3 OR FEWER CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE**

- » Continue best health practices to prevent the spread of disease as outlined in the WVDE Re-entry Toolkit.
- » Require face coverings\* for grades 3 and above on buses and in congregant settings (outside of core groups) where social distancing cannot be maintained. 
- » Limit activities where social distancing is not feasible.
- » Engage community to actively participate in continued mitigation.

**YELLOW**

**Increased Community Transmission**

**3.1-9.9 CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE**

- » Require face coverings for grades 3-5 on buses and in congregant settings (outside of core groups) where social distancing cannot be maintained. Require face coverings for grades 6 and above at all times. 
- » Increase student cohorting by limiting exposure outside of core groups.
- » No assemblies or activities where social distancing is not feasible.
- » Local education leaders work with county health officials to determine if increased mitigation and community engagement activities are necessary to prevent escalation of disease.

**ORANGE**

**Heightened Community Transmission**

**10-24.9 CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE**

- » Require face coverings for grades 3 and above at all times. 
- » No assemblies or large group activities.
- » Local county education leaders will work collaboratively with local health departments to implement aggressive mitigation measures both in schools and in communities.

**RED**

**Substantial Community Transmission**

**25+ CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE**

- » Suspend in-person instruction and all school-related activities until yellow level is maintained on a seven-day rolling basis.
- » Activate remote learning.
- » Staff continues essential student support services including meals, student engagement and special education services.



**Athletic & Extracurricular Activity Guidance**

- » Athletic and extra-curricular activities permit immediate household family members only.

- » Athletic and extra-curricular activities permit parents/guardians only.

- » Athletic and extracurricular activities limited to controlled practices/activities only.

- » All school-related athletic and extracurricular activities are suspended until yellow level is maintained on a seven-day rolling basis.

**\*This guidance reinforces face coverings unless they aggravate existing health conditions.**

**If COVID-19 levels increase steadily within color bands according to WV DHHR data, counties should consider increased protocols beyond these requirements.**