



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
Office of the Assistant Commissioner

COVID-19 Metrics for Schools Dutchess County, New York

Updated 1-6-2021

1 Absenteeism

Measure absenteeism among students and staff by school. Absenteeism numbers should include general illness in addition to individuals in quarantine and isolation due to COVID-19.

- Establish baseline for normal flu season (i.e. average percent from Oct-March)
- Monitor trend (i.e. weekly)
- Determine threshold (i.e. 10% greater than baseline)

2 Community Spread of COVID-19

Monitor trends of COVID-19 in local municipalities, Dutchess County, the Mid-Hudson Region, and New York State. The following metrics were previously identified by New York State as indicators that schools may need to close.

- **PERCENT OF POSITIVE TESTS, 7-DAY AVERAGE**
 - Low Risk: 0-4%
 - Medium Risk: 5-8%
 - High Risk: 9%+
- **DAILY INCIDENCE RATE PER 100,000, 7-DAY AVERAGE**
 - Low Risk: Under 5 per 100K
 - Medium Risk: 5-9 per 100K
 - High Risk: 10+ per 100K

Low risk circumstances should be monitored but are unlikely to necessitate closure. Medium risk circumstances may warrant building, partial, or full district closure depending upon situations. In High risk circumstances closure **may be necessary**. **Based on the most recent guidance from New York State, as well as the very low rate of transmission of the virus within school facilities to date, schools are encouraged to consider employing surveillance testing to verify that the positivity rate within the in-person students and staff population is lower than the community positivity rate. New York State has indicated that if the school positivity rate is below the community positivity rate schools may remain open at their discretion.**

3 Containment Level of School Outbreak

Schools must assess the extent to which each positive case/cluster is contained and controlled. In instances where close contacts of a positive case are rapidly identified and isolated, and proper disinfecting protocols are followed, and the risk of broad school-wide exposure is low. In such cases, schools may choose to remain open.

In instances where positive cases have high levels of exposure to large groups in an uncontrolled manner, and contact tracing and exposure identification is complex and/or ambiguous, schools may wish to close until the outbreak concerns can be contained and properly mitigated. In the event of a public health emergency and/or broad public health risk the local Commissioner of Health can issue an order of closure as needed in order to protect the public health.