

Howard County Public School System COVID-19 Response Color Bands

HCPSS will move to a virtual environment if the HCHD/MDH report: a positivity rate above 5% over a 7 day range **and** the 7 day rolling average case rate per 100,000 increases to 10 or greater for two consecutive weeks or based on a Howard County Health Department Recommendation. The seven day testing positivity rate and seven day rolling average per 100,000 will serve as primary guides for determining the color band but other data points will be considered. Data will be gathered from the Howard County Health Department on Thursday, analyzed on Friday and on Saturday HCPSS will release the color band for the upcoming week.

	Green <i>Lowest Risk of Transmission in Schools</i>	Yellow <i>Lower Risk of Transmission in Schools</i>	Gold <i>Moderate Risk of Transmission in Schools</i>	Orange <i>Higher Risk of Transmission in Schools</i>	Red <i>Highest Risk of Transmission in School</i>
Testing Positivity Rate (over a 7 day average)	< 3%	3 to ≤ 5%	5.01 to ≤ 5.13%	5.13 to ≤ 5.25%	> 5.25%
7 day rolling average case rate per 100,000 increases for two consecutive weeks	< 4	4 to < 10	10 to < 20	20 to < 25	≥ 25
Instructional Model	Hybrid instructional model moving to full face to face instruction	Hybrid instructional model	Virtual instructional model except those participating in small groups	Virtual instruction model except individual student assessments as needed	Virtual instruction model
School Activities	Broader attendance at activities where we can maintain universal precautions	Limit attendance at school activities where universal precautions can be maintained	Limit school activities to small groups where universal precautions can be maintained	School activities in a virtual format	School activities in a virtual format
Mitigation	Continue to engage the community on following universal precautions/mitigation strategies.	HCPSS leaders work with HCHD to determine if increased mitigation and community engagement is necessary to prevent escalation of disease.	HCPSS leaders work with HCHD to determine if increased mitigation and community engagement is necessary to prevent escalation of disease.	HCPSS leaders work with HCHD to increase mitigation and community engagement to prevent escalation of COVID- 19.	HCPSS leaders work with HCHD to increase mitigation and community engagement to prevent escalation of COVID- 19.
Athletics and Extra-curricular Activities	Athletics - Out of county contests where rates are as above. Spectators limited to the number that can socially distance in the venue.* Extra-curricular - HCPSS Clubs/other groups upon approval may expand gathering numbers not to exceed state/local levels	Athletics - All sports may resume with Intra-county contests only and no spectators Extra-curricular - HCPSS Clubs/groups limited to the number that can socially distance.	Athletics - In person conditioning for all sports and non-contact sport practice Extra-curricular - No more than 5 HCPSS Clubs/groups per school meeting at a time.	Athletics and extra-curricular activities limited to virtual conditioning/meetings.	Athletics and extra-curricular activities limited to virtual conditioning/meetings.
Staffing	Staff required to be in schools	Staff required to be in schools	Staff volunteers and admin coverage	Staff volunteers and admin coverage	No staff in buildings

HCPSS urges everyone to follow CDC and Howard County Health Department guidelines regardless of which color band the system is in.

- Individual schools could have programming altered due to an outbreak in the building. The Maryland Department of Health defines a school outbreak as 3 or more classrooms with cases from separate households that meet the classroom outbreak definition that occur within 14 days or 5% or more unrelated individuals have confirmed COVID-19 within a 14-day period (minimum of 10 unrelated individuals) in the building.
- HCPSS participation in state and regional athletics contests will be determined based on the metrics of HCPSS and participating counties.