

COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance



Overview

On Friday, August 14, the State Public Charter School Authority approved the following COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance for all SPCSA-sponsored public charter schools. The COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance is based on the new, county-level approach to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 that relies on public health data.

Mitigation Level (Established by Governor’s Emergency Directive 030 and Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal)	SPCSA COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance (Established by SPCSA Board on Friday, August 14, 2020)
Baseline Level	A charter school sponsored by the SPCSA <i>may, but are not required to</i> , operate under an in-person or hybrid model in accordance with Emergency Directives 022 and 028.
Mitigation Level 1	Except with written approval of an exemption from the Executive Director, all charter schools sponsored by the SPCSA <i>shall</i> operate under a distance education model , with the option to provide in-person instruction at a very limited scale (less than 25% of the school’s enrollment) for students most significantly impacted by the loss of in-person instruction and in accordance with Section 8 of Emergency Directive 028. In accordance with Section 8 of Emergency Directive 028, schools may consider the following when identifying students for in-person instruction:
Mitigation Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating students' Individualized Education Programs or 504 Plans to determine whether the provision of services requires in-person instruction or interaction; • Prioritizing in-person instruction for students based on English Learner status; • Determining that certain grade levels or courses are better suited to in-person instruction or distance education; • Considering documented student and family medical circumstances.
In addition, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Executive Director <i>must</i>, open a fast response process to consider appeals by schools for exemptions and <i>may</i> approve and enact individual plans informed by consultation with schools. • The Executive Director <i>may</i>, in unique circumstances require additional restrictions for specific schools and/or counties based on public health data and/or non-compliance with prevailing Emergency Directives. 	

Immediate Impacts to SPCSA-Sponsored Charter Schools:

Based on data released on August 13, 2020, the counties listed below had 2 consecutive weeks of meeting 2 or more criteria and therefore are moving into Mitigation Level 1, with County-Level Mitigation Plans expected to be approved by the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force during the week of August 17, 2020. **Therefore, except with written approval of an exemption from the Executive Director, SPCSA-sponsored schools in these counties shall operate under a distance education model, with the option to provide in-person instruction at a very limited scale as detailed in the table above:**

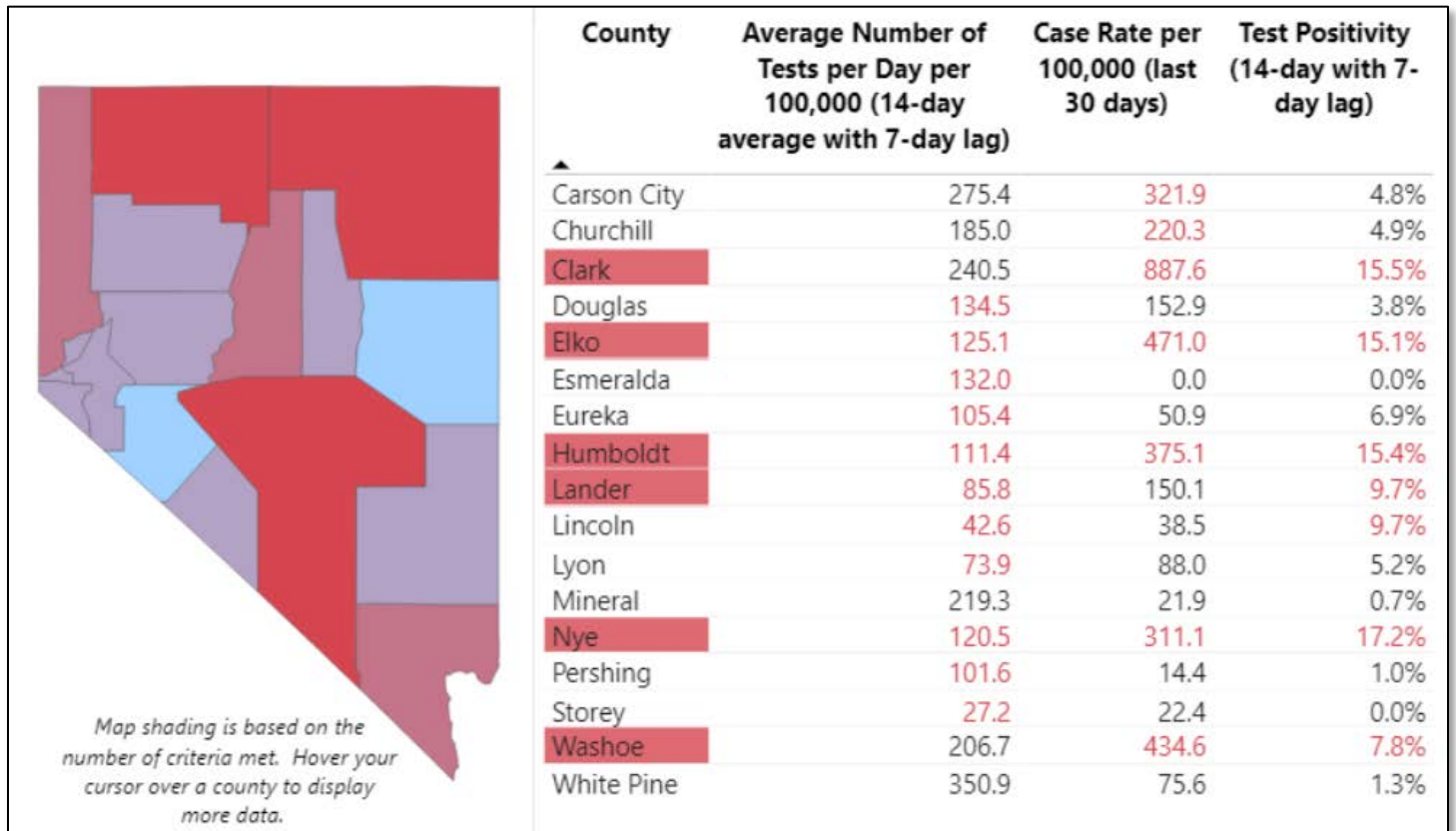
- Clark County
- Elko County
- Washoe County

At this time, SPCSA-sponsored schools in White Pine and Churchill Counties may, but are not required to, operate under an in-person or hybrid model in accordance with Emergency Directives 022 and 028.

Schools that would like to seek an exemption should reach out directly to Rebecca Feiden at Rebecca.Feiden@spsca.nv.gov. Meetings to discuss exemptions will be scheduled within 2 business days and every effort will be made to respond to requests as quickly as possible.

Long-term Impacts to SPCSA-Sponsored Schools

Going forward, the SPCSA will provide weekly updates to schools as to each county's Mitigation Level and the underlying public health data. If a county currently in Mitigation Level 1 or 2 appears to be making progress toward returning to Baseline Mitigation, the SPCSA will specifically highlight this information in weekly emails and Wednesday calls so that schools can prepare for the potential return to hybrid or in-person instruction. Similarly, if a county currently in Baseline Mitigation has an increase in the public health indicators that points to a potential for moving into a heightened Mitigation Level, the SPCSA will specifically highlight this information so that schools can begin to prepare for a possible transition to distance education with limited in-person instruction. Below is the most recent county-level data released on August 13, 2020.



Appendix: Additional Information on County-Level Mitigation Approach

There are three mitigation levels defined in [Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal](#): Baseline Mitigation, Mitigation Level 1, and Mitigation Level 2. A county's mitigation level can increase or decrease based on three criteria that serve as indicators of risk of elevated COVID-19 transmission.



1. Criteria

The following criteria are established in the *Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal* as indicators of risk of elevated COVID-19 transmission.

1. Average number of tests per day (per 100,000) < 150
2. Case rate (per 100,000) > 200
3. Case rate (per 100,000) > 50 AND testing positivity > 7.0%

2. Mitigation Levels

As defined in the *Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal*, each county's mitigation level is based on the number of criteria met and, if a county meets two or more criteria, how many weeks in a row the county has met two or more criteria.

Mitigation Level	County Restrictions	What causes a County to be at this level?
Baseline Level	Current Directives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Default Level • "Warning week" – one week of meeting 2 or more criteria
Mitigation Level 1	Targeted approach or reduced capacity and gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or more weeks of 2 or more criteria met • Level determined by degree of severity and the duration at the level • The speed at which mitigation levels may increase is implemented at a shorter duration than relaxing mitigation levels. Therefore, increases in mitigation measure may occur within a week or two if the trend is showing increased spread but lessening or relaxing of those mitigation levels will be reviewed at longer intervals
Mitigation Level 2	Potential return to Phase 1 Compliance Requirements	

Increased Restrictions ↓

3. COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance

The table below summarizes the COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance:

Established by Governor’s Emergency Directive 030 and <i>Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal</i>			Established by SPCSA on August 14, 2020
Mitigation Level	County Restrictions	What causes a County to be at this level?	SPCSA COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance
Baseline Level	Current Directives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Default Level • “Warning week” – one week of meeting 2 or more criteria 	A charter school sponsored by the SPCSA <i>may, but are not required to</i> , operate under an in-person or hybrid model in accordance with Emergency Directives 022 and 028.
Mitigation Level 1	Targeted approach or reduced capacity and gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or more weeks of 2 or more criteria met • Level determined by degree of severity and the duration at the level • The speed at which mitigation levels may increase is implemented at a shorter duration than relaxing mitigation levels. Therefore, increases in mitigation measure may occur within a week or two if the trend is showing increased spread but lessening or relaxing of those mitigation levels will be reviewed at longer intervals 	<p>Except with written approval of an exemption from the Executive Director, all charter schools sponsored by the SPCSA <i>shall</i> operate under a distance education model, with the option to provide in-person instruction at a very limited scale (less than 25% of the school’s enrollment) for students most significantly impacted by the loss of in-person instruction and in accordance with Section 8 of Emergency Directive 028.</p> <p>In accordance with Section 8 of Emergency Directive 028, schools may consider the following when identifying students for in-person instruction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating students' Individualized Education Programs or 504 Plans to determine whether the provision of services requires in-person instruction or interaction; • Prioritizing in-person instruction for students based on English Learner status; • Determining that certain grade levels or courses are better suited to in-person instruction or distance education; • Considering documented student and family medical circumstances.
Mitigation Level 2	Potential return to Phase 1 Compliance Requirements		

Increased Restrictions