

CDC: Indicators & Thresholds for Community Transmission

Quick Review

Table 1. CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19¹

Indicator	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days ²	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days ³	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

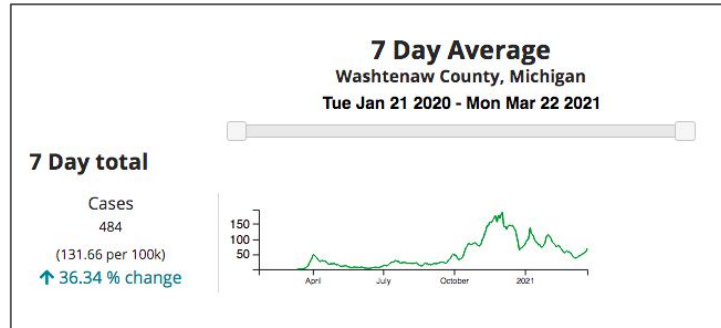
NAATs = nucleic acid amplification tests (PCR tests)

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#mitigation-strategies](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#mitigation-strategies)

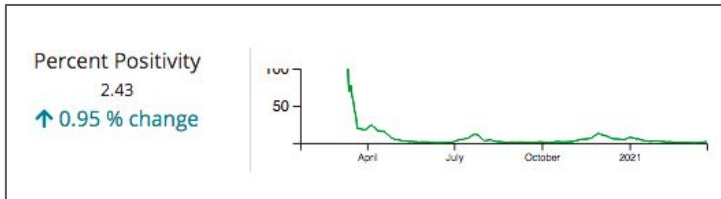
CDC: Washtenaw County Data

as of Monday March 22, 2021

7 day total cases
484, or 131.66 per 100K



Percent positivity
2.43%



<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

High Transmission Red
≥100
≥10.0%
Low Transmission Blue
0-9
<5.0%

Updated CDC Operational Guidance (3/19)

The updated [CDC guidance on physical distancing](#) is more detailed than what's included on the chart at the right. Relevant additional details include:

- “In middle schools and high schools, students should be at least 3 feet apart in areas of low, moderate, or substantial community transmission. In areas of high community transmission, middle and high school students should be 6 feet apart if cohorting is not possible.
- Maintain 6 feet of distance in the following settings:
 - Between adults (teachers and staff), and between adults and students, at all times in the school building. Several studies have found that transmission between staff is more common than transmission between students and staff, and among students, in schools.¹
 - When masks cannot be worn, such as when eating.
 - During activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band, or sports and exercise. Move these activities outdoors or to large, well-ventilated space, when possible.
 - In common areas such as school lobbies and auditoriums.”

In addition, the Washtenaw County Health Department’s rules for contact tracing and quarantine have not changed with the above CDC update. The definition of a close contact who needs to quarantine based on exposure is still anyone within 6 feet for 15 or more minutes over the course of a day.

Table 2. Recommended Prevention Strategies for K-12 Schools and Levels of Community Transmission

Prevention Strategies: All Schools			
<p>All schools implement 5 key prevention strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal and correct use of masks required • Physical distancing • Handwashing and respiratory etiquette • Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities • Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine 			
Prevention Strategies by Level of Community Transmission			
Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
<p>Elementary Schools Physical distancing: at least 3 feet between students in classrooms</p>		<p>Elementary Schools Physical distancing: at least 3 feet of distance between students in classrooms Cohorting² recommended when possible</p>	
<p>Middle and High Schools Physical distancing: at least 3 feet between students in classrooms</p>		<p>Middle and High Schools Physical distancing: at least 3 feet of distance between students in classrooms Cohorting recommended when possible</p>	<p>Middle and High Schools Schools that can use cohorting: at least 3 feet of distance Schools that cannot use cohorting: at least 6 feet distance between students in classrooms²</p>
<p>Sports and extracurricular activities Sports and extracurricular activities occur with at least 6 feet of physical distance to the greatest extent possible²</p>		<p>Sports and extracurricular activities Sports and extracurricular activities occur with at least 6 feet of physical distance required²</p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities Sports and extracurricular activities occur only if they can be held outdoors, with more than 6 feet of physical distancing²</p>