School District Guidance for Increasing and Decreasing Intensity of In Person Instruction, Allegan County

This guidance is to help schools understand the public health risk to make decisions about opening/reopening schools.

**HOW TO USE THIS GUIDANCE:**

**County Risk Determination Level:** For schools, epidemiologic risk is determined at the county level rather than the Michigan Economic Recovery Council Labor Shed Region as schools tend to draw pupils and staff from surrounding (unlike businesses).

County epidemiologic indicators on the MiSafeMap (cases per million people, case rate trends, percent of positive tests, and trends in percent positivity) are used to determine county risk level.

- **DECREASE BETWEEN (COUNTY) LEVELS:** when the cases per million people rate and percent positivity values reach the next risk determination level on the grid and the average daily cases per million people in community cases has declined for 14 days

- **INCREASE BETWEEN (COUNTY) LEVELS:** should be assessed by local public health in context of outbreaks within the community. INDICATOR OF INCREASE to be concerned about within a level: 5 days of sustained increase in community; and/or 3 days at 10 percent increase in community cases.

Using available data on cases in the community and the association with school buildings, the Allegan County Health Department will work with each school district to determine which column of the chart below their district is in. The health department uses case investigation and contact tracing data to assess if buildings in their district have known cases among staff or students in the past 14 days and if the building has evidence of ongoing transmission (i.e., continued spread between students and staff at the school who live in different households).

**FOOTNOTES FOR GRID:**

(A) These indicators are meant as guidance for consideration by the local health officer and school superintendent. School district may take into account operational factors, such as staff and student absenteeism, to make decisions about level of instruction.

(B) This risk levels is a guidance for consideration by the local health officer. Local health departments shall assess this risk level based on knowledge of source of outbreaks in their communities. Definitions of risk levels available at MiSafeMap.info

(C) Work with local health department on contact tracing; appropriate closure for cleaning and disinfection

(D) Work with local health department to consider short suspension of in person instruction (2-5 days) in the building or affected portion of building to ensure contact tracing and determine if ongoing transmission. Review mitigation measures and strengthen if any gaps in implementation are identified

(E) Work with local health department to consider up to a 14-day suspension of in-person instruction in building or affected portion of building to break transmission. Review mitigation measures and, address gaps in implementation and strengthen mitigation measures where possible.
Ongoing transmission in a building: defined as multiple cases (3 or more) in students or staff occurring within a 14-day period that do not have a known source outside the school building. Schools should be tracking how and where students and staff are moving throughout the building and who they are interacting with. Consideration to whether cases within the school building that occur within 14 days of each other actually had contact with one another should be given.

Mitigation measures: include required measures for Mi Safe Schools: Michigan’s 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap. Strict Mitigation measures include required and strongly recommended or recommended measures in Return to School Roadmap. Other innovative approaches to risk reduction may be considered from sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or Resolve to Save Lives.

Reduce density: hybrid instruction approach of some in person and some remote learning to ensure social distancing and learning are both possible.

At high level of community transmission, individual buildings become early indicators of future spread and their status impacts the rest of the district.