

Benchmarks

There are two key components to reopening school buildings for in-person instruction. First is the quality of the school's mitigation plan, or the "how". This plan outlines strategies the school will implement to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among students and staff upon reopening school buildings regardless of if the building is open for [onsite support services](#) or in-person instruction. This plan must be adopted, implemented, and posted on the LEA's website before onsite support services may begin. The second is the level of spread occurring within the community, or the "when".

Both the school's individual mitigation plan as well as degree of community spread are equally important in determining when it is safe to reopen a school building. If community transmission is low but the school and/or community mitigation strategies are not implemented, then the risk of introduction and subsequent transmission of COVID-19 in a school will increase. Alternately, if community transmission is high, but school and community mitigation strategies are implemented and strictly followed as recommended, then the risk of introduction and subsequent transmission of COVID-19 in a school will decrease.

The ADHS further defines community spread levels with the thresholds outlined below. These thresholds are consistent with the national standards set by the Coronavirus Task Force.

Benchmarks	Minimal	Moderate	Substantial
Cases	<10 cases/100,000	10 - 100 cases/100,000	>100 cases/100,000
Percent Positivity	<5%	5 - 10%	>10%
COVID-like Illness	<5%	5 - 10%	>10%
Recommended Delivery Model	Traditional	Hybrid	Virtual (w/onsite support services)