

GENERAL METRICS FOR RETURNING TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION THROUGH THE ON-SITE OR HYBRID MODEL Version 10/28/2020

For a school to fully return to in-person instruction through ODE’s On-Site or Hybrid instructional models, the criteria below must be met, including the metrics table that follows:

If a school draws >10% of students or >10% of staff from a given county where case rates or test positivity put them in the “Transition” column (see metrics table below) they should consider delaying a return to in-person instructional models until these counties also meet the required metrics, unless after discussion with the local public health authority a collaborative decision is made that the neighboring county community spread does not pose significantly higher-risk.

METRICS & MODELS	ON-SITE	ON-SITE AND DISTANCE LEARNING	TRANSITION	DISTANCE LEARNING
County Case Rate per 100,000 People Over 14 days	<50.0	50.0 to <100.0	100.0 to ≤200.0	>200.0
County Case Count Over 14 days (for small counties ¹)	<30	30 to <45	45 to ≤60	>60
County Test Positivity ²	<5.0%	5.0% to <8.0%	8.0% to ≤10.0%	>10.0%
Instructional Model	Prioritize On-Site or Hybrid (as needed to maintain small cohorts) instructional models.	Prioritize careful phasing in of On-Site or Hybrid for elementary schools (starting with K-3 and adding additional grades up to grade 6). Middle school and high school primarily Comprehensive Distance Learning with allowable Limited In-Person Instruction. Over time, if elementary schools can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment ⁴ , transition to On-Site or Hybrid.	Consider transition to Comprehensive Distance Learning with allowable Limited In-Person Instruction. For counties with an upward case/positivity trend (entering from a lower risk category), school officials should discuss with their local public health authority (LPHA) and consider the spread of COVID-19 within schools and the local community in deciding whether to return to Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL). ³ Schools in counties with downward case/positivity trend must remain in CDL until they drop into the Moderate Risk category or lower.	Implement Comprehensive Distance Learning with allowable Limited In-Person Instruction only.

- Counties with <30,000 residents.
- If statewide testing volume decreases by more than 10% in the week prior compared to the previous week due to external factors (such as due to a natural disaster or acute decrease in testing supplies), then OHA and ODE will consider temporarily suspending the use of percent positivity in the reopening considerations.
- In considering community spread, public health should take into consideration the cases in the community, COVID-19 test availability in the community, recent percent positivity of tests, capacity in the community to respond to cases and outbreaks and the regional hospital capacity available for those with severe disease.
- As a measure to monitor limited introduction or spread, local public health should look for an average outbreak size of 3 or less, excluding outbreaks with only one case, over the prior 4 weeks.

STATEWIDE ALLOWANCE FOR LIMITED IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION (LIPI) FOR SPECIFIC GROUPS OF STUDENTS

ODE's [Comprehensive Distance Learning guidance](#) provides [Limited In-Person Instruction](#) (LIPI) to meet the needs of specific groups of students based on needed educational, relational, social-emotional, curricular, instructional, and/or assessment supports. This includes, but is not limited to, provisions for supporting students experiencing disability, English language learners, as well as programs such as career technical education (CTE) that may require hands-on demonstration of skills and the provision of secure assessment environments. This allowance does not count for instructional time requirements. An exception to meeting county metrics to implement LIPI as an enhancement to [Comprehensive Distance Learning](#) should be prioritized under the following conditions:

Ensure strong screening measures are in-place from day one and refer to the [Planning for COVID-19 Scenarios in Schools Toolkit](#) for positive cases, symptomatic individuals, and exposure.

Fully comply with sections 1-3 of the Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance.

Fully comply with Comprehensive Distance Learning Guidance for [Limited In-Person Instruction](#) (LIPI), which includes further limitations on cohort sizes, time, and more.

STATEWIDE EXCEPTION: SMALL REMOTE SCHOOLS

Small and remote public or private schools with enrollments of ≤75 in total who are located in a county that does not meet the General Metrics (Section 0b) can consider opening to in-person instruction (On-Site or Hybrid) only when and if their LPHA establishes the following criteria has been met:

The school has a total enrollment of ≤75 and is located in a county that does not meet the General Metrics (Section 0b).

There is not community spread in the school catchment area (the places where attending students live).

The school is more than 25 miles by the nearest traveled road from any town or city with a population over 3,000 people.

In considering community spread, local public health should take into consideration the cases in the community, COVID-19 test availability in the community, recent percent positivity of tests, capacity in the community to respond to cases and outbreaks and the regional hospital capacity available for those with severe disease.

The school is striving for a COVID-19-free start. Ensure strong screening measures are in-place from day one and refer to the [Planning for COVID-19 Scenarios in Schools Toolkit](#) for positive cases, symptomatic individuals, and exposure.

There is not community spread in the communities that serve as the primary employment and community centers (for shopping and other in-person services) and the school is isolated by a significant distance from communities reporting COVID-19 community spread in the previous two weeks.

Schools should consider pausing Limited In-Person Instruction when county case rates climb over 200 cases per 100,000 in population in counties with populations >30,000 (or over >60 cases in counties with <30,000 residents. When considering closing to in-person instruction for schools that have opened under any one of the exceptions to the General Metrics (0b) for reopening schools for in-person instruction, including the LIPI exception:

Schools should work with LPHAs to consider the spread of COVID-19 within schools and the broader community in deciding to temporarily return to [Comprehensive Distance Learning](#). If there are cases in two or more cohorts without an identified common exposure, school officials should discuss with LPHAs to determine if this represents unexplained spread within the school or broader community. It is encouraged that the school follow recommendations from their LPHA on whether a temporary transition away from any in-person instruction (for two weeks or longer) is recommended to protect the health and safety of the students, staff, families and broader community.