

# The COVID-19 Crisis: Impact on Schools and Locating More Information

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Superintendent of Schools

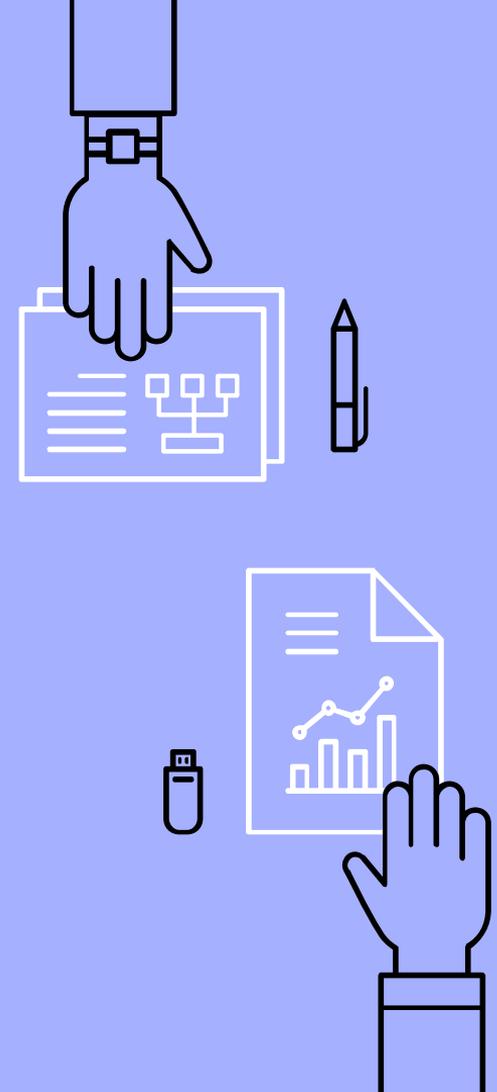
# Our Talking Points

Where can parents find information?

What are the successes we've seen in schools?

How does contact tracing work?

What does the Dashboard and COVID Activity Report tell me, in detail?



# Information: Where can I find it?

Our district website (main page)

Superintendent's Corner

COVID 19 Update Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64ufH9LmozQ&t=257s>

NJ Department of Health Dashboard

[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019\\_dashboard.shtml](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_dashboard.shtml)

COVID-19 Activity Reports

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/>



# Success for Schools

Low levels of transmission statewide

Statewide there were 66 school outbreaks, 1 from Hunterdon County

Social distancing and wearing a mask work to prevent transmission

Enhanced cleaning protocols ensure surfaces are 'germ' free

Our *Readington Ready* Plan

Consultation and communication with the Health Department

- ▶ Weekly Superintendent calls
- ▶ Nurse contact to DOH nurses



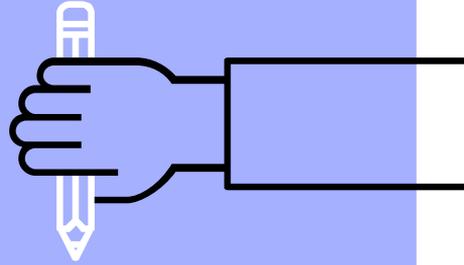
# Contact Tracing

Notification comes from parents or from the DOH

Our response to identify close contacts:

- ▶ Gather class seating charts
- ▶ Gather bus seating charts
- ▶ Review the student(s) schedule and interview teachers
- ▶ Review the restroom sign-out log
- ▶ Interview the positive student(s) or parent(s) (DOH responsibility)
- ▶ Gather all data and report to the DOH

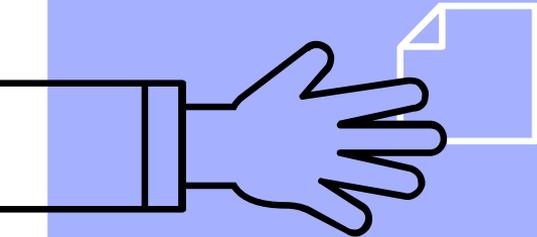




1.

# The Dashboard

What does the dashboard tell me? I thought that was the thing in my car.



# Dashboard

Cases and Trends  
"Tab" shows:

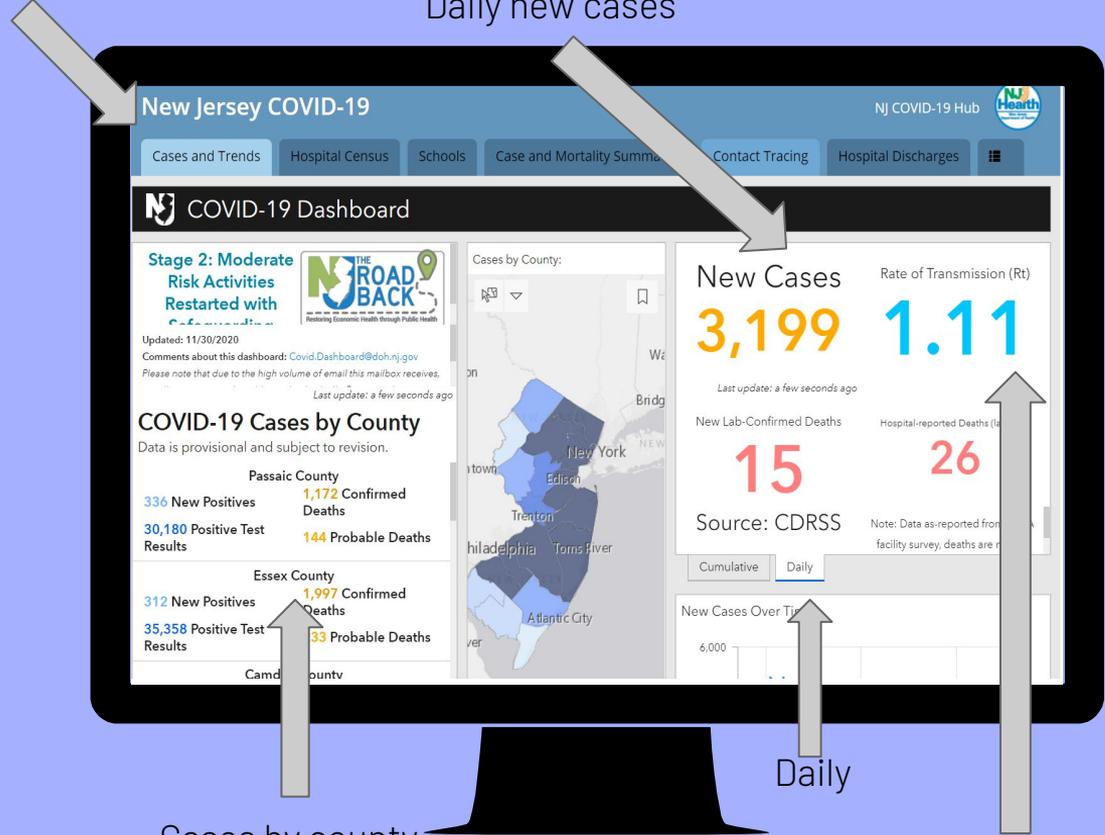
Daily new cases  
statewide

Cases by county

Transmission rate

Cases and Trends Tab

Daily new cases



Cases by county

Daily

Transmission Rate

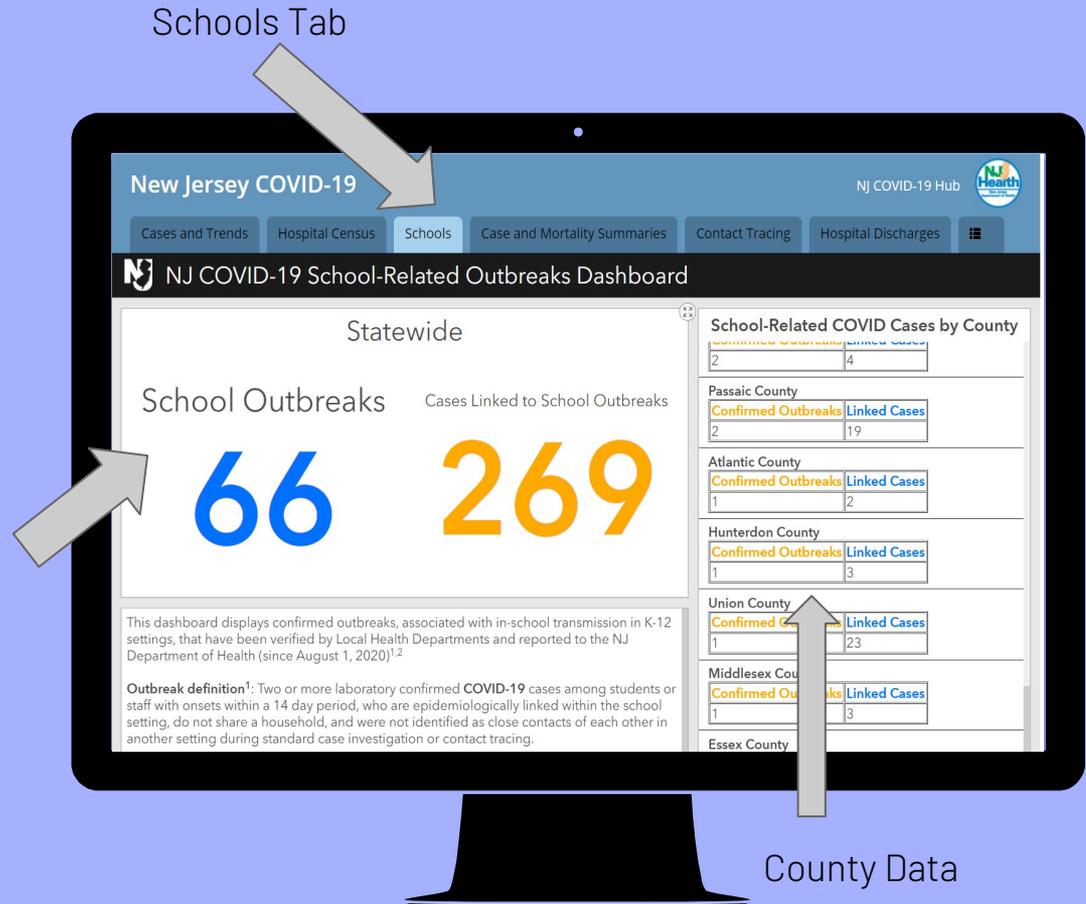
# Dashboard

Schools "Tab"  
shows:

School outbreaks  
statewide

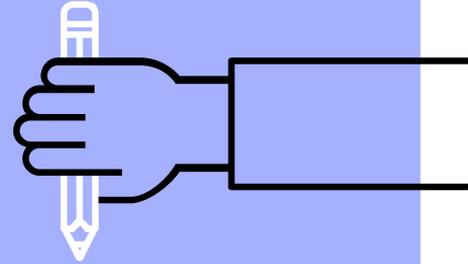
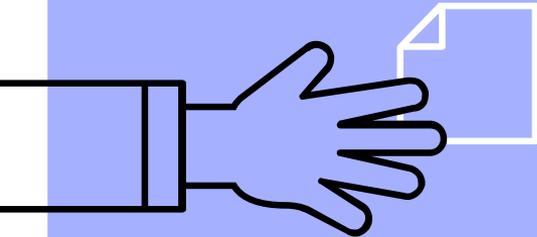
School outbreaks by  
county

Cases linked to  
schools



## 2. The COVID-19 Activity Report

What is Dr. Hart talking about? Why is it important?



# NJ DOH

It is a weekly report that monitors the COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI)

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/>



Improving Health Through Leadership and Innovation



## Communicable Disease Service

Home Diseases & Health Topics A-Z List Disease Reporting Immunization Requirements Education & Training Statistics, Reports & Publications Forms

Home · Statistics, Reports & Publications · COVID-19 Weekly CALI Reports · COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) Weekly Reports

### Statistics, Reports & Publications

COVID-19 Weekly CALI Reports  
Influenza-like Illness Weekly Reports  
Vector-borne Surveillance Reports  
Reportable Disease Statistics  
Animal Rabies Statistics  
Immunization Status/Exemption Reports  
Publications

## COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) Weekly Reports

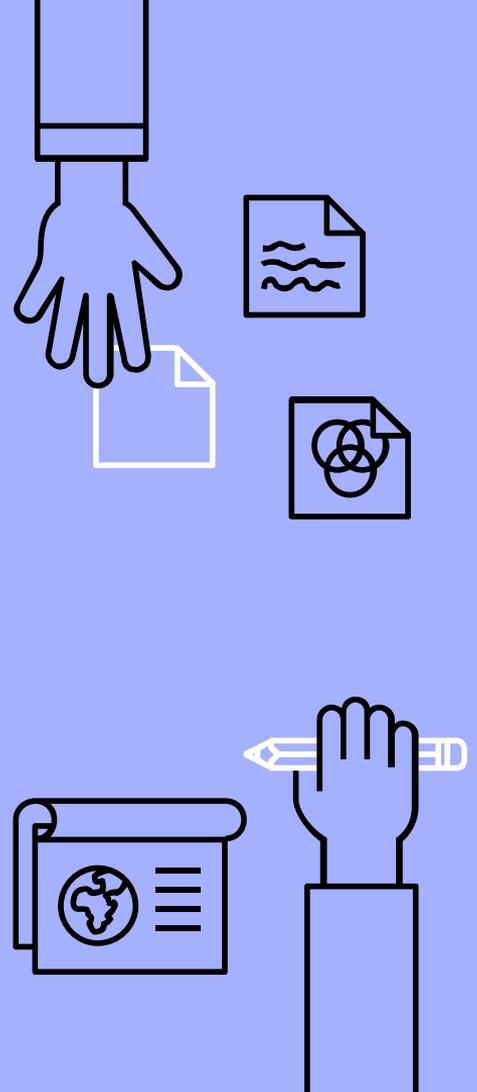
The COVID-19 Weekly Activity Report provides data on COVID-19 transmission risk by six regions. This report is posted on Thursdays and uses Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) dates, which are from Sunday to Saturday. MMWR dates are commonly used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to standardize weekly reporting across years.

### Weekly COVID-19 Activity Reports 2020-2021

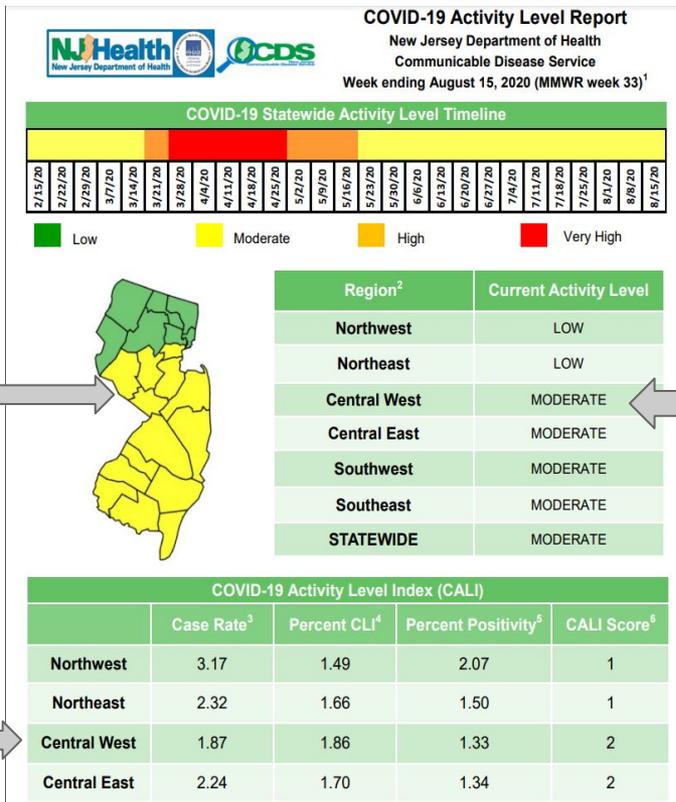
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 47 \(MMWR week ending November 21, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 46 \(MMWR week ending November 14, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 45 \(MMWR week ending November 7, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 44 \(MMWR week ending October 31, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 43 \(MMWR week ending October 24, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 42 \(MMWR week ending October 17, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 41 \(MMWR week ending October 10, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 40 \(MMWR week ending October 3, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 39 \(MMWR week ending September 26, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 38 \(MMWR week ending September 19, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 37 \(MMWR week ending September 12, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 36 \(MMWR week ending September 5, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 35 \(MMWR week ending August 29, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 34 \(MMWR week ending August 22, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 33 \(MMWR week ending August 15, 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Activity Report Week 32 \(MMWR week ending August 8, 2020\)](#)

# Why is the report important?

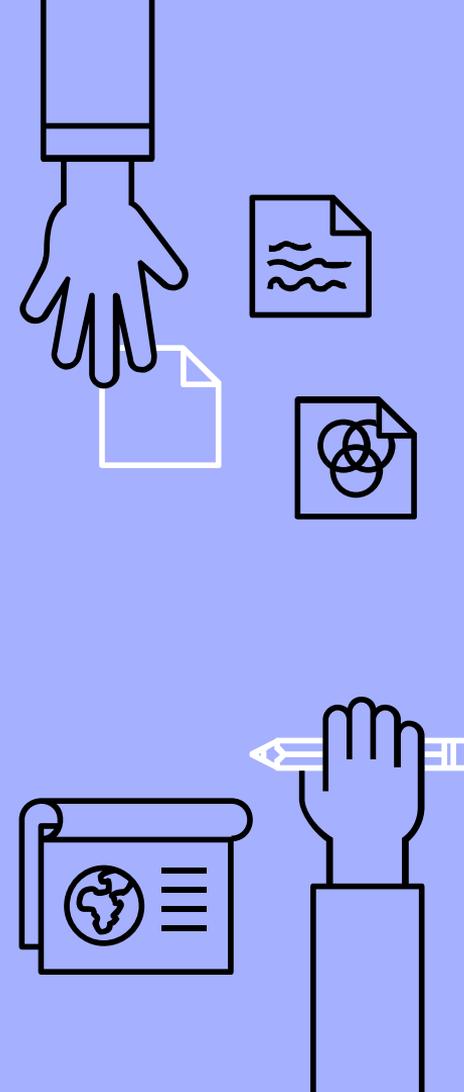
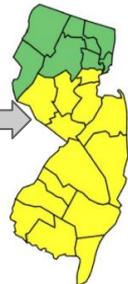
- ▶ Divides the state into six (6) regions where COVID-19 activity is monitored. This allows for more local metrics.
- ▶ Contains easy-to-use color coding.
- ▶ There are three (3) indices that make up the CALI score: case rates, percent of COVID-like illness, and percent positive.
- ▶ Schools launch protocols based on the weekly color code.



# What does the report look like?



Our region



**COVID-19 Statewide Activity Level Timeline**


■ Low     
 ■ Moderate     
 ■ High     
 ■ Very High



Region <sup>2</sup>	Current Activity Level
<b>Northwest</b>	LOW
<b>Northeast</b>	LOW
<b>Central West</b>	MODERATE
<b>Central East</b>	MODERATE
<b>Southwest</b>	MODERATE
<b>Southeast</b>	MODERATE
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	MODERATE

**COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI)**

	Case Rate <sup>3</sup>	Percent CLI <sup>4</sup>	Percent Positivity <sup>5</sup>	CALI Score <sup>6</sup>
<b>Northwest</b>	3.17	1.49	2.07	1
<b>Northeast</b>	2.32	1.66	1.50	1
<b>Central West</b>	1.87	1.86	1.33	2
<b>Central East</b>	2.24	1.70	1.34	2

# Activity Report Sample

August 15, 2020

Color code: yellow

Notice how Northwest and Northeast are green

# Activity Report Sample

September 19, 2020

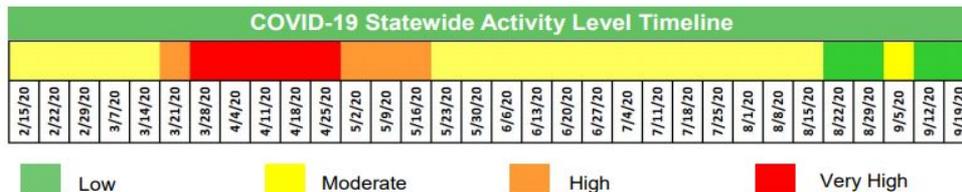
Color code: green

Notice how Central East is yellow



## COVID-19 Activity Level Report

New Jersey Department of Health  
Communicable Disease Service  
Week ending September 19, 2020 (MMWR week 38)<sup>1</sup>



Region <sup>2</sup>	Current Activity Level
Northwest	LOW
Northeast	LOW
Central West	LOW
Central East	MODERATE
Southwest	LOW
Southeast	LOW
STATEWIDE	LOW

**COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI)**

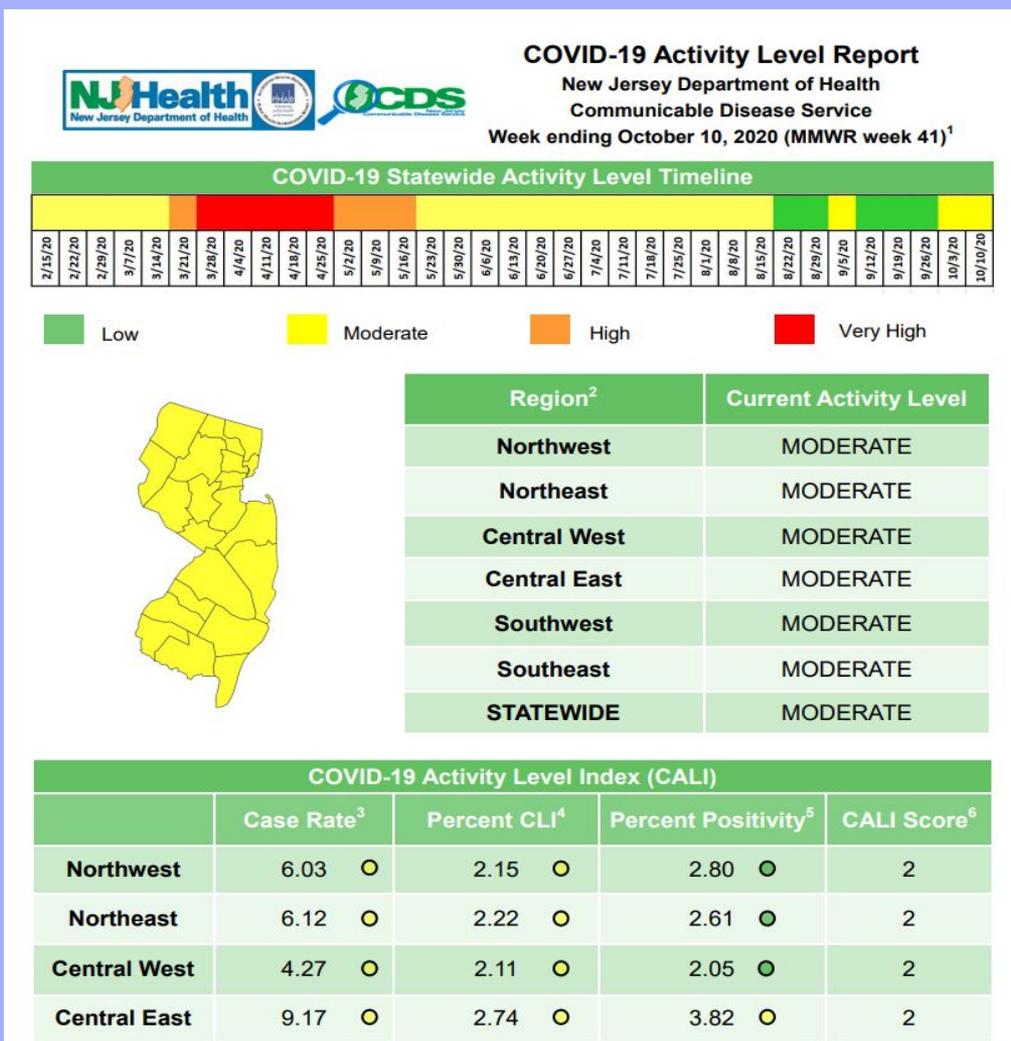
	Case Rate <sup>3</sup>	Percent CLI <sup>4</sup>	Percent Positivity <sup>5</sup>	CALI Score <sup>6</sup>
Northwest	2.80 ○	1.39 ●	1.81 ●	1
Northeast	2.28 ○	1.36 ●	1.44 ●	1
Central West	2.68 ○	1.21 ●	1.28 ●	1
Central East	5.42 ○	2.06 ○	2.71 ●	2

# Activity Report Sample

October 10, 2020

Color code: yellow

This is the date the entire state turned yellow and remained, until...



# Activity Report Sample

November 14, 2020

Color code: orange

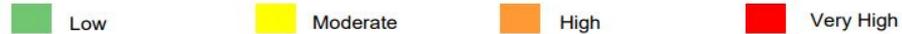
The majority of the state turned orange. By the week of November 21, the entire state was orange.



## COVID-19 Activity Level Report

New Jersey Department of Health  
Communicable Disease Service

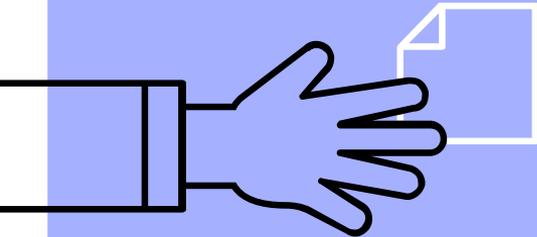
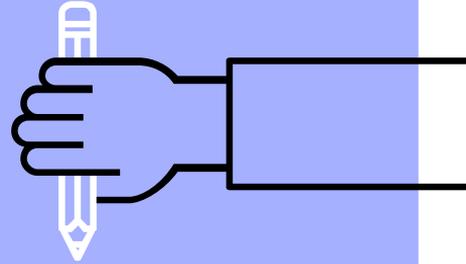
Week ending November 14, 2020 (MMWR week 46)<sup>1</sup>



Region <sup>2</sup>	Current Activity Level
Northwest	HIGH
Northeast	HIGH
Central West	HIGH
Central East	HIGH
Southwest	HIGH
Southeast	MODERATE
STATEWIDE	HIGH

COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI)				
	Case Rate <sup>3</sup>	Percent CLI <sup>4</sup>	Percent Positivity <sup>5</sup>	CALI Score <sup>6</sup>
Northwest	34.03 ●	6.81 ○	10.39 ○	3
Northeast	32.83 ●	6.44 ○	10.04 ○	3
Central West	29.72 ●	5.50 ○	8.52 ○	3
Central East	27.87 ●	4.76 ○	8.68 ○	3

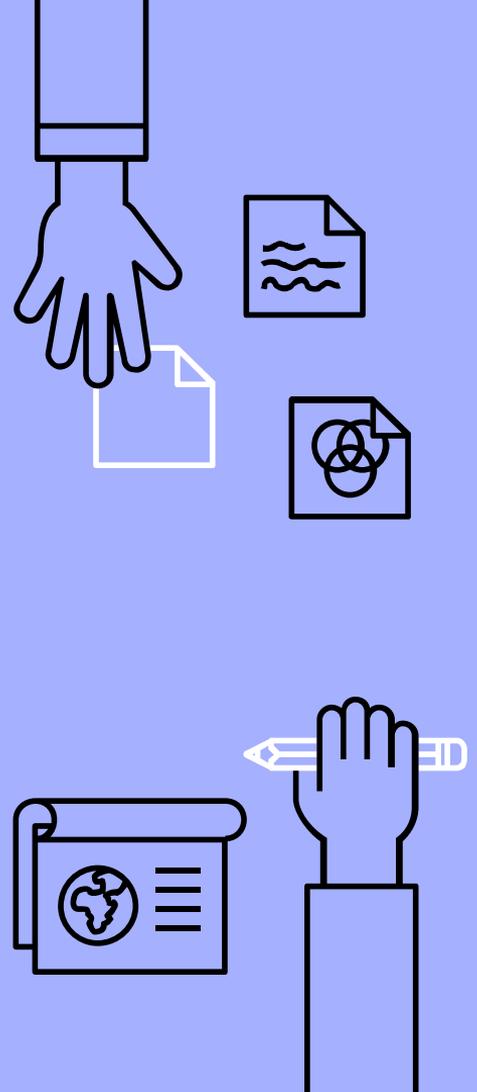
### 3. Color Change in the Activity Report



What changes as the colors  
change?

# What does the change to orange mean?

- ▶ The color coding assists schools with the response to COVID-19.
- ▶ Green and yellow colors have the Department of Health (DOH) contact tracing only positive cases.
- ▶ Orange color has the school, in collaboration with the DOH, contact tracing presumptive positive cases.
- ▶ Presumptive positive cases are those cases exhibiting symptoms.



# Matrix

- ▶ Contact trace symptoms.
- ▶ Exclude those who have symptoms.
- ▶ Exclude those who have come in close contact with the individual displaying symptoms.
- ▶ If someone in the household is symptomatic and waiting results, those in the home should remain home until the test results returned.

## COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix

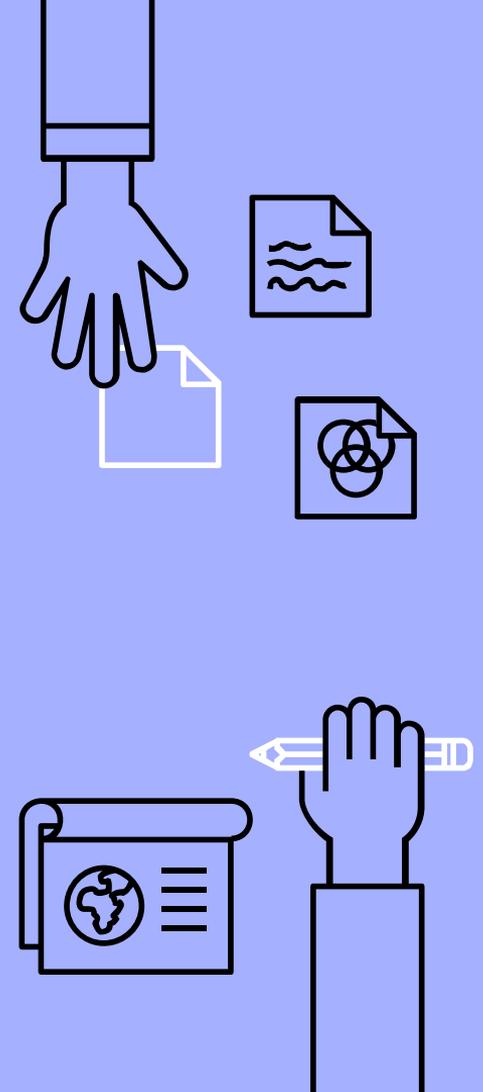
*\*For use by LHDs when providing guidance to school districts*

Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk
<p>Evaluate alternatives to in-person learning to ensure continuity of work or educational services.</p> <p>In response to a COVID-19 case among staff or students, follow <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>; work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts following CDC guidance; refer to guidance on <a href="#">cleaning and disinfection</a>.</p> <p>In response to ill students and staff, follow <a href="#">NJDOH School Exclusion List</a>.</p> <p>* If ill person had potential exposure in past 14 days, follow <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>; wait at least 24 hours and <a href="#">clean/disinfect</a> areas where ill person spent time.</p> <p>Permit limited activities involving interaction with multiple cohorts, ensuring adherence to precautions.</p>	<p>Consider a mixture of remote and/or hybrid learning approaches, and/or fully remote learning.</p> <p>In response to a COVID-19 case among staff or students, follow <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>; work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts following CDC guidance; refer to guidance on <a href="#">cleaning and disinfection</a>.</p> <p>In response to ill students and staff with <a href="#">COVID-19 compatible symptoms</a>, follow <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>; wait at least 24 hours and <a href="#">clean/disinfect</a> areas where ill person spent time.</p> <p>Minimize activities that involve interaction with multiple cohorts.</p>	<p>Consider implementing fully remote learning.</p> <p><b><i>If schools remain open for in-person learning:</i></b></p> <p>In response to staff or student is a COVID-19 case or who has <a href="#">COVID-19 compatible symptoms</a> (not yet tested), follow <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>; work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts according to CDC guidance; refer to guidance on <a href="#">cleaning and disinfection</a>.</p> <p>* Decisions on when ill person's close contacts can return to school are dependent on the ill person's medical evaluation and COVID-19 test results.</p> <p>Restrict activities that involve interaction with multiple cohorts.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Implement fully remote learning</p>
<p><b>RISK LEVELS GREEN, YELLOW, AND ORANGE (IF OPEN FOR IN-PERSON LEARNING):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require staff and students to stay home when sick or if they have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days. <b>If someone in their household is being tested for COVID-19 due to illness, students/staff should also stay home until the test result is received.</b> Parents/guardians, students and staff should notify school administrators of illness and known exposure.</li> <li>Have a policy for daily symptom screening for students and staff; have plans for students and staff to report symptoms that develop during the day.</li> <li>In conjunction with local health department, identify COVID-19 rapid testing resources (viral testing) for when staff and students develop <a href="#">COVID-19 compatible symptoms</a>.</li> <li>Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily.</li> <li>Ensure adequate hand hygiene supplies are readily available.</li> <li>Implement physical distancing measures (e.g., reducing occupancy (staggered schedules, use of alternate spaces), installation of partitions/physical barriers, cancelling large gatherings/events, maintaining defined cohorts).</li> <li>Implement source control through wearing masks.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>ALL RISK LEVELS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep abreast of NJDOE and NJDOH COVID-19 guidance and surveillance indicators.</li> <li>Exchange after-hours contact information with your local health department.</li> </ul>			

# What are the symptoms?

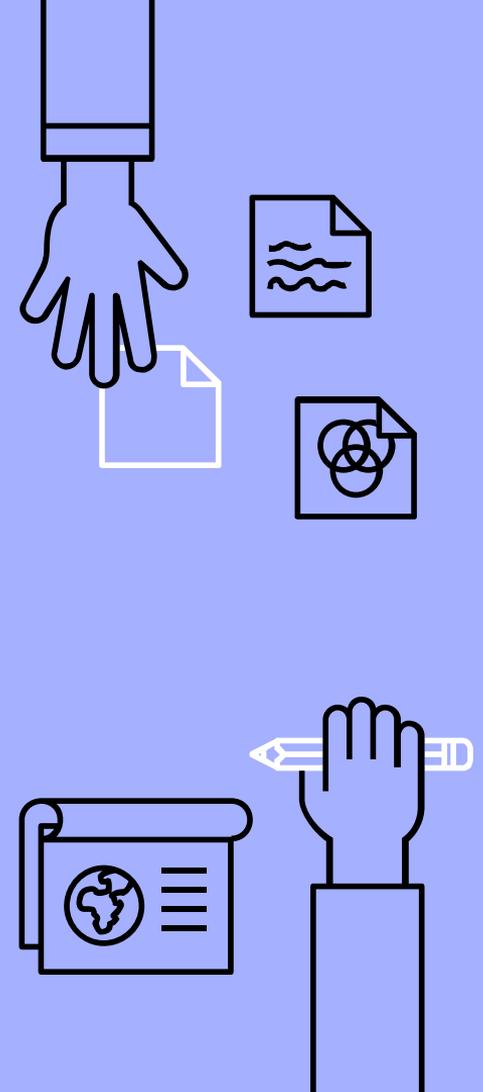
Parents should not send students to school when sick. For school settings, the DOH recommends individuals with the following symptoms be excluded:

- ▶ At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure of subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, runny nose; OR
- ▶ At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.



# What does a color red mean?

- ▶ If our region meets the criteria for a red designation on the COVID-19 Activity report, the **DOH recommends implementation of full virtual learning.**
- ▶ Reports are published on Thursday afternoons.
- ▶ We would anticipate full virtual learning by the following Monday.



# THANKS!

Any questions?

