

Health Guidance Levels

The COVID-19 Transmission Index is a balanced approach intended to protect communities. The goal of this model is for each county’s citizens to work together at lowering their county’s transmission index level, and for as many counties to be in the low level as possible.

Changes to a county’s transmission index level will occur on a seven-day cycle with announcements made on Thursdays. Changes from a lower transmission level to a higher transmission level may occur weekly. Changes from a higher transmission level to a lower transmission level may occur every 14 days at minimum, when thresholds are met.

The transmission levels in this model will be based primarily on the following metrics:

- Positivity rate
- Case count
- ICU utilization

COVID-19 Transmission Index	High	Moderate	Low
7-day average % positivity per county	≥13%	6-12.9%	≤5.9%
14-day case rate per 100k per county <small>(If a county has ≤20 cases over the last 14 days, the recommendation will be listed as "Review." Counties with low case volume shouldn't be evaluated with strict criteria since a small change in cases can result in large swings in the measures, which may not represent the actual situation.)</small>	≥325/100k	324-101/100k	≤100/100k
Statewide ICU utilization	Total utilization ≥72% AND ≥15% COVID-19 ICU Utilization	Total utilization 69-71.9% AND 6-14.9% COVID-19 ICU Utilization	Total utilization ≤68.9% AND ≤5.9% COVID-19 ICU Utilization

Actions for all individuals and businesses	High	Moderate	Low
Gathering Safely Casual social gatherings <i>(not including formal religious services or events with organizational oversight)</i>	Social gatherings of 10 or fewer are permitted.	Until 10/29: Social gatherings of 10 or fewer are permitted. After 10/29: Social gatherings of 25 or fewer are permitted. The size may exceed 25 if each individual wears a face mask.	Social gatherings of 50 or fewer are permitted. The size may exceed 50 if each individual wears a face mask.



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Masks worn in public indoor settings, and outdoors when physical distancing is not feasible; this includes both employees and patrons	Required	Until 10/29: Required by public health directive. After 10/29: Strongly recommended by public health; mask requirement is at the discretion of county executives in consultation with the local health officer	Strongly recommended by public health; mask requirement is at the discretion of county executives in consultation with the local health officer
Physical distancing between household groups where feasible, even at social gatherings	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
Hygiene practices	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
Stay home when sick	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
Follow public health quarantine/isolation guidance	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
BUSINESS			
All businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Business Manual • Require 6' of distancing between household groups, unless masks are worn • Post signage listing COVID-19 symptoms, asking employees and customers with symptoms to stay home, and encouraging physical distancing • Offer alternative pickup options when possible (such as curbside pickups, delivery, takeout) • Ensure ventilation systems operate properly • Plexiglass barriers between staff and customers where feasible at cash registers and customer service counters when 6' distancing is difficult • Thoroughly clean and disinfect restrooms at least twice daily • Facilitate employees working from home when ill or if they are higher-risk individuals • Stay Safe to Stay Open Pledge (or a similar industry-approved pledge that increases health and safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19) is strongly encouraged 		
Physical distancing in restaurants (including buffets)	6' between parties at all times (including waiting areas and when seated)	6' distancing between parties strongly recommended when seated, required in waiting areas	6' distancing between parties strongly encouraged



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Bars	6' between parties at all times (including waiting areas and when seated)	6' distancing between parties strongly recommended; limit occupancy to 75% of capacity; patrons should wear a mask when intermingling with other parties	6' distancing between parties strongly encouraged
Any establishment that allows public gathering, such as live events, movie theatres, sporting events, weddings, recreation and entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Masks are required; performers are excluded - Completion of Event Management Template is required - Individual businesses will be expected to modify their operations based on individual outbreaks; LHD discretion on severity of modifications, supported by UDOH 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6' physical distancing between household groups - Exception to 6' physical distancing between household groups can be requested through county executives in consultation with the local health officer. Exceptions may be reviewed every 14 days. Due to the high risk of transmission in this level, exceptions will be rare and are strongly discouraged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6' physical distancing between household groups - Exception to 6' physical distancing between household groups can be requested through county executives in consultation with the local health officer. Exceptions may be reviewed every 14 days. Exceptions are discouraged, but may be more frequent than in high risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6' physical distancing between household groups is strongly encouraged, side by side seating without physical distance between household groups is allowed.
Schools	Refer to School Manual and Utah State Board of Education's School Reopening Planning Handbook K-12 mask mandate still applies		
Higher Education	Refer to USHE/individual university/college reopening plans		

