



Grand Ledge Public Schools COVID-19 Guide to Decision-Making – Safe Return to In-Person Instruction January 11 through June 2021

This guide makes primary reference to two mutually supportive resources: The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making](#) and the State of Michigan MI Safe Start Map specific to Eaton County: [MI Safe Start Map](#). In addition, the Barry-Eaton District Health Department is considered an excellent partner in assisting the district in collecting data and making their resources and personnel available as decisions are made.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™



MI Safe Start Map
Track the risk levels of COVID-19 indicators

STATEMENT FROM CDC (9/15/20)

“It is critical for schools to open as safely and as quickly as possible for in-person learning. To enable schools to open and remain open, it is important to adopt and correctly and consistently implement actions to slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, not only inside the school, but also in the community. This means that students, families, teachers, school staff, and all community members should take actions to [protect themselves and others](#) where they [live, work, learn, and play](#). In short, success in preventing the introduction and subsequent transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in schools is connected to and dependent upon preventing transmission in communities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, States, Tribes, Localities, Territories (STLT) and school districts have been making decisions about when and how to safely open schools. Many STLTs, partners, and members of the public have asked CDC how to determine when it is safe to open schools for in-person learning. There is no easy answer or single indicator. Many variables must be considered.”

There is common agreement between CDC and MI Safe Start Map on the importance of two key data points: **1)** the daily positive test rate over a 7-day period, and **2)** the number of daily cases scaled so that counties and regions can be easily compared over a 7-day period. CDC references these as CORE INDICATORS. Furthermore, CDC references additional information related to safely returning students to in-person instruction as SECONDARY INDICATORS. We choose to use both terms within GLPS. **All indicators will be considered as decisions are made and will likely vary in value over time given the ever-changing context during this pandemic.**

CORE INDICATORS

Current Eaton County Data from MI Safe Start Map w/ Risk Level Thresholds*

Daily Positive Test Rate – 7-Day Average					
Low: < 3%	Risk Level A: 3-7%	Risk Level B: 7-10%	Risk Level C: 10-15%	Risk Level D: 15-20%	Risk level E: >= 20%
Daily Positive Test Rate – 7-Day Average as of 12/5: 13.6%, Risk Level C Last <7% on October 27; last <10% on November 7					

Number of Daily Cases per Million (# is adjusted to a “per million” people scale so that counties and regions can be compared) – 7-Day Average					
Low: < 7	Risk Level A: 7 - 20	Risk Level B: 20 - 40	Risk Level C: 40 - 70	Risk Level D: 70 - 150	Risk Level E: > 150
Number of Daily Cases per Million – 7-Day Average as of 12/9: 313, Risk Level E Last < 20 on August 14; last < 40 on September 10; last < 70 on September 21					

Calculated Risk for Eaton County: As of 12/4, Risk Level E

** Correctional Facilities Data is Excluded*

Consistent with CDC, GLPS includes a third core indicator as the ability of the school/district to implement 5 key mitigation strategies as follows:

- Consistent and correct use of masks
- Social distancing to the largest extent possible
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Contact tracing in collaboration with local health department

SECONDARY INDICATORS

GLPS will consult with BEDHD:

- Within Eaton County, are the positive cases community-wide or isolated to a specific outbreak or confined area? Is the same true for Clinton and Ionia counties?
- Are area testing sites available and is there a reasonable turnaround for receiving test results?
- Is there capacity at local hospitals for treating COVID cases?
- Is the vaccine readily available in the area?
- Is the data trending up or down? Improving or not? Why or why not?

Will determine within GLPS:

- How many students and staff have tested positive, or are in quarantine?
- Are the transmissions from school-related activity, or community-related?
- Is the restaffing capacity within GLPS – to include all employee groups – due to the impact of positive cases or quarantining?
- Is personal protection equipment (PPE) readily available for GLPS employees?
- Has consideration been given to the impact of stopping and starting in-person instruction?

BOTTOM LINE

The GLPS administrative team, in concert with the Board of Education, **will use the core and secondary indicators as a guide** as decisions are made regarding in-person instruction for the balance of the 2020-21 school year. Of course, specific directives from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) will influence decision-making within the district, too. The safety and welfare of students and staff will remain at the fore as decisions are made. A safe return to all day in-person instruction remains the goal.

In-Person Description	Up to # of students across the district – approximate	* Daily Positive Test Rate, 7-day average	* Daily Cases Per Million, 7-day average	* Calculated Risk Level for Eaton County
Full Day, Every Day	5,000	Risk Level A or better	Risk Level B or better	Risk Level B or better
Alternate Day, ½ Day for K	2,500	Risk Level A or better	Risk Level C or better	Risk Level C or better
Up to 500 students across the district: Small group SE programs, small group support (as determined by building principals in collaboration with teachers/staff), Little Comets, Adventure Club, HS CTE, and HS & MS athletics per MHSSA guidelines may be permissible with appropriate safety protocols.				

* The core indicators (Low to Level E) will be used as well as secondary indicators in making decisions re: in-person instruction. A decision may also be made that targets just a specific classroom, activity or school, but may not impact the entire school district.

This document approved by the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education on [December 14, 2020](#).

This document available at GLcomets.net/SafeReturn