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Re-opening metrics

GISW flexible and phased re-opening plan

updated November 25, 2020

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Official Guidelines

The GISW re-opening metrics are based on the guidelines issued by the State of Maryland and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Guidelines which are followed; valid as of November 25, 2020:

- State of Maryland guidance for schools
https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Nov-2020_-MD-Schools-Guidance-and-Benchmarks.pdf
- State of Maryland Roadmap to Recovery
https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/MD_Strong.pdf
- Operating schools during Covid-19: CDC considerations
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

GISW re-opening metrics concept

To find the right balance between the social-emotional and the physical health of our community, it is essential to follow a comprehensive Covid-19 risk assessment. Further, GISW must follow the official guidelines and regulations published by the State of Maryland, Montgomery County and relevant federal regulations. In addition, peer independent schools are an important benchmark to assess, if a safe re-opening of schools can be warranted.

The GISW re-opening metrics are therefore based on following checks:

1. Does the State of Maryland current re-opening phase allow schools and childcare centers to re-open?
2. Does the health status the counties where our community resides provide the environment for safe re-opening?
3. Does the health status of our GISW community provide the environment for safe re-opening?

Based on the lowest result of these three checks, GISW has defined five re-opening indicators, ranging from A to E, where A indicates the highest level of safety to re-open and E indicates the requirement to move to distance learning. GISW is updating the indicator status on a weekly basis.

The GISW re-opening indicator shall be in such status for a minimum of two consecutive weeks before transitioning to a different phase.

As mentioned above, GISW is also benchmarking per independent schools as an additional reference.

SEL to 12th grade re-opening metrics summary

Based on the three checks as outlined above, the re-opening indicator for SEL to 12th grade is defined. While an indicator of A and B points towards a return to school on everyday basis, C points towards a hybrid learning model, and the indicators D and E suggest moving to distance learning. GISW will offer an optional distance learning under the B and C indicators.

Re-opening indicator	A	B	C	D	E
Check 1 Maryland re-opening phase	Phase 3	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 1
Check 2 County health status	Positivity rate <= 5% <u>and</u> New cases <=5/100k	Positivity rate <= 5% <u>and</u> New cases <=5/100k	<=5% and <=15/100k <u>or</u> >5% and <=15/100k	Positivity rate >5% <u>and</u> New cases >15/100k	n/a
Check 3 GISW health status	No active cases	Limited active cases	Limited active cases	Spread of active cases	Active Outbreak
GISW re-opening phase	Every Day in School Rückkehr		Hybrid model Hybrid-Modell	Distance Learning Online Unterricht	
	Optional offer: Distance Learning / Online Unterricht				

Re-opening indicator needs to be at least two consecutive weeks in the same status before moving to the next re-opening phase.

Figure 1: SEL – 12th grade re-opening metrics summary

Pre-school re-opening metrics summary

Re-opening indicator	A	B	C	D	E
Check 1 Maryland re-opening phase	Phase 3	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 1
Check 2 County health status	Positivity rate <= 5% <u>and</u> New cases <=5/100k	Positivity rate <= 5% <u>and</u> New cases <=5/100k	<=5% and <=15/100k <u>or</u> >5% and <=15/100k	Positivity rate >5% <u>and</u> New cases >15/100k	n/a
Check 3 GISW health status	No active cases	Limited active cases	Limited active cases	Limited active cases	Spread of active cases / outbreak
GISW re-opening phase	Every Day in pre-school Rückkehr				Distance Learning Online Unterricht

Re-opening indicator needs to be at least two consecutive weeks in the same status before moving to the next re-opening phase.

Figure 2: Pre-school re-opening metrics summary

The pre-school indicators A - D suggest to re-open the pre-school on an everyday basis, while E indicates to offer a distance learning program.

Check 1: Maryland re-opening phase

As outlined in the Maryland Roadmap to Recovery, the closing of the State of Maryland happened in phases, and it should be expected this to be the way the state re-opens. The roadmap begins with “low risk” activities and moves through “high risk” activities¹.

As per the current Maryland re-opening phasing concept,

- Phase 1: Schools and childcare centers are to stay closed;
- Phase 2:
 - Childcare centers can open;
 - Schools have to follow the State of Maryland guidance for schools, to determine if it is safe to re-open;
- Phase 3:
 - Childcare centers can open;
 - Schools return to normal.

Check 2: County Health Status

As per the Maryland guidelines for schools, it is safe to re-open for schools if the 3-day rolling average testing positivity rate and the 3-day rolling average daily new case rate of the applicable counties is within certain thresholds.

GISW APPLICABLE COUNTIES

As a non-public school, GISW community does reside in various counties. Based on the residence of the majority of the GISW community, the applicable counties are Montgomery, Fairfax and the District of Columbia. The highest risk level of these counties determines the status of the Check 2.

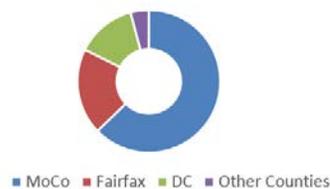


Figure 3: Place of residence of GISW community

HEALTH METRICS

Test positivity

Test positivity is the percentage of COVID testing that comes back positive. It is not the total number of positive tests. If a state or county has a high test positivity rate, it is a sign of insufficient testing in that area.

To make sure there are no unknown infections that could lead to an outbreak, states and counties need to

¹ https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/MD_Strong.pdf

test a large enough percentage of the population.

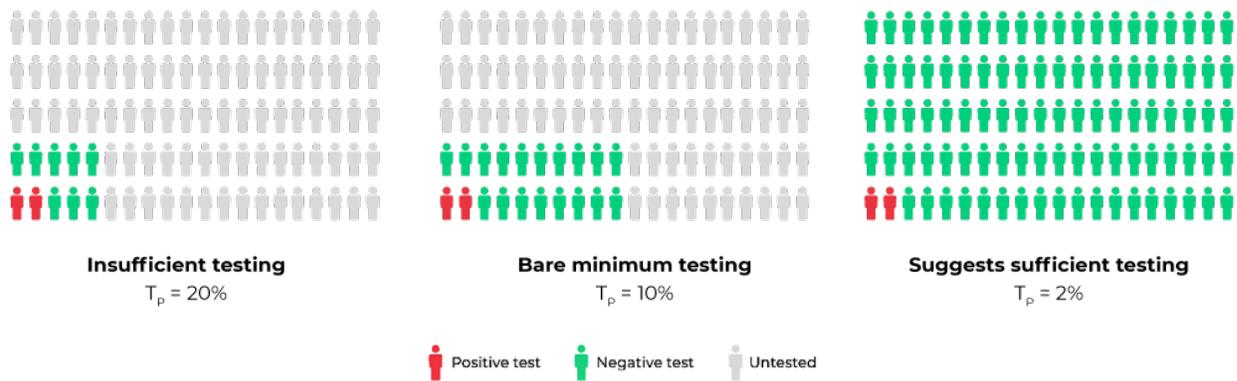


Figure 4: Test positivity explained

Red represents a positive test, green a negative test, and grey untested. There are two positive COVID tests in each of these pictures. In the first picture (left), test positivity is 20% because two people out of 10 tested positive. There are 90 people left who remain untested and could be infected. Now, looking at the third picture (right), where the test positivity is 2%. The entire population, 100 out of 100 people were tested. The closer testing gets to everyone, the less likely positive cases are missed².

Daily new cases

Daily new cases, also known as incidence in epidemiology, is the number of new COVID cases per day per unit of population. To use a clearer term, “daily new cases” that does not require expert knowledge and calculated per 100,000 people in states and counties.

Daily new cases answer the question: “How many new infections are in my area each day?” Measuring daily new cases gives a way to gauge new COVID cases without having to test an entire population.

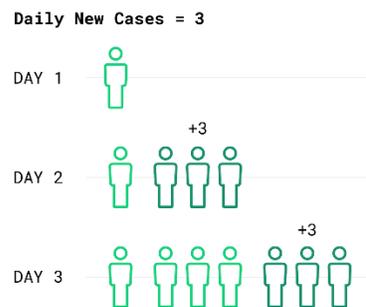


Figure 5: Daily new cases explained

In the example above, the number of daily new cases is 3. On day one, there is a single case, but each day there are 3 new cases x per 100k people. Daily new cases, or incidence, is not a measure of the total number of cases³.

² <https://blog.covidactnow.org/test-positivity-explained/>

³ <https://blog.covidactnow.org/daily-new-cases-explained/>

County Risk Assessment

As per the Maryland guidance for schools (SEL – 12), the status of these health metrics is the determining factor for the risk assessment for the GISW counties as follows:

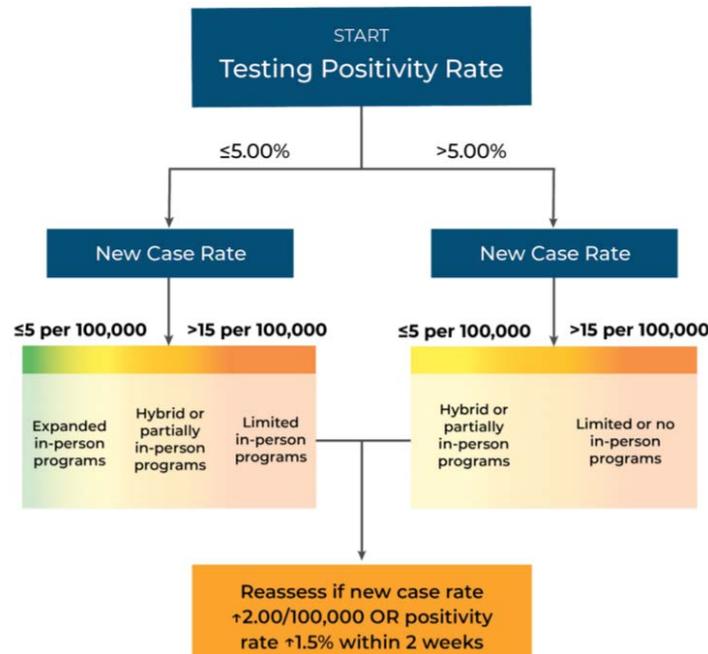


Figure 6: State of Maryland health metrics for re-opening

Check 3: GISW Health Status

In case of an active COVID-19 case of a student, faculty, or staff, GISW is reporting such cases to the local health officials. GISW re-opening plan is foreseeing contact tracing as per the applicable guidelines, as well as cleaning of the exposed areas as per the GISW cleaning policy.

GISW will consult with the local health officials on a case-by-case approach to determine the next steps and the overall approach to the GISW phased learning model. In case of

- limited active cases GISW will seek alignment with local health official to keep school open in its current phase;
- spread of active cases, e.g. active cases detected across several cohorts and an indication of spread within the GISW community, GISW will seek alignment to move to distance learning;
- an active outbreak with a wider spread throughout the GISW community, GISW expects to receive direction from local health officials to close the school.

Benchmark: Peer Independent Schools

Peer independent schools serve as an important benchmark to GISW in its endeavor to re-open the school safely. Such benchmark provides a reference if other, similar schools see the environment to re-open a school, and more important, confirms the ability to safely operate the school.

GISW has selected six schools to serve as the benchmark. These schools have been selected based on their similarity to the GISW community or based on geographic proximity. International schools which are operating on a for-profit basis, have been excluded from the selection. The defined peer schools are:

- French International School
- Washington International School
- Bullis School
- Landon School
- Norwood School
- Sidwell Friends