

RISD Guidance for COVID Mitigation Measures

COVID-19 Ad Hoc Physician Committee

Indicator 1: Community Transmission

Assess the level of community transmission using at least two metrics. Universal masking in indoor public spaces in areas of substantial or high transmission. Larger number should be used for decision-making.

GUIDANCE	DALLAS COUNTY DATA	RISD ZIP CODE DATA	TREND	STATUS
New cases/100,000 people (past 7 days based on latest available data for report date 12/31/2021)	153.94 ³ (High) ⁴	151.54 ³ (High) ⁴	Worsening	Not Met
Percent positive tests (past 7 days based on latest available data for week ending 12/25/2021)	29.0% ³ (High) ⁴	Not available	Worsening	Not Met
RISD Schools: New cases (past 7 days ending 1/4/2022) Elementary Secondary *Plan to add: Evidence of in school spread		<u>Elementary Students:</u> Students: 367 <u>Secondary Students:</u> Students: 301 <u>Staff:</u> 281	Worsening	

Status Criteria:

- Not Met** - New cases and/or percent positive High/Substantial
- Improving** - Both new cases and percent positive Low/Moderate
- Met** - Both new cases and percent positive Low

Indicator 2: Health System Capacity

Develop thresholds based on local health care system usage and capacity.

GUIDANCE	DALLAS COUNTY DATA	TREND	STATUS
Hospital admissions age 0-17 UTSW model, percentage of prior peak Data available 1/3/22	>100% of prior peak	Worsening	Not Met

Status Criteria:

Not Met - >100

Improving - 50-100

Met - <50

*Plan to add metric for all pediatric hospital admissions.

Indicator 3: Vaccination Coverage

Monitor vaccination coverage to inform the need for additional prevention strategies.

Need 80-90% vaccination for “herd immunity” in face of Delta.

DALLAS COUNTY DATA	RISD ZIP CODE DATA	TREND	STATUS
48.4% fully vaccinated ¹ (zip code data based on available data for report date 12/31/2021)	49.6% fully vaccinated ¹ (zip code data based on available data for report date 12/31/2021)	Improving	Not Met

Status Criteria:

Not Met - <60%

Improving - 60-75%

Met - >75% green

*May add age group metrics as vaccine eligible ages expand

**Develop strategies to promote vaccination/reporting

Indicator 4: Early Detection

Monitor for early introduction and spread of COVID-19. Resources not available for widespread regular asymptomatic testing at this time.

RISD ZIP CODE DATA	TREND	STATUS
Limited Availability of Screening	Stable	Not Met

Status Criteria:

Not Met - Limited availability of screening, <50% utilization

Improving - targeted screening available for exposed kids, 50% utilization

Met - Targeted screening available to all, 50% utilization

Indicator 5: At-Risk Population

Use prevention strategies to safeguard populations at highest risk for infection and/or severe outcomes from COVID-19 Delta variant. Some students and staff are high-risk (immunocompromised, pregnancy, racial/ethnic minorities, and others)

25% of RISD families have students in both elementary and secondary⁵

Ongoing need to protect special populations

RISD ZIP CODE DATA	TREND	STATUS
Children 5-11 years of age eligible for vaccination as of 11/3	Improving	Not Met

Status Criteria:

Not Met - <12 not eligible for vaccination, <12 available < 10 weeks

Improving - 5-11 available >10 weeks

Met - 6 months+ available >2 weeks

1. Based on zip codes intersecting with RISD boundaries and data accessed from Dallas County Health and Human Services: [DCHHS COVID-19 Weekly Summary](#) week ending 12/11/2021 and reported 12/31/2021
2. <https://www.utsouthwestern.edu/covid-19/assets/modeling.pdf>. Accessed 1/5- updated 1/3//22 of data from 12/30/21.
3. <https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/> Accessed as of 1/3 and updated data from week ending 12/11/2021 reported as of 12/31/2021. Vaccination Data by Zip Code remained static as week ending 12/11/2021 from 12/22/2021 reporting to 12/31/2021.
4. Guidance for Implementing COVID19 Mitigation Strategies MMWR https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7030e2.htm?s_cid=mm7030e2_w#T1_down

Committee Statements

Committee Statement January 6th 2022

Community spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is rampant. All metrics of the COVID mitigation framework are currently in the red category. Community transmission and hospital capacity are rapidly worsening. While there is a common perception that Omicron is mild, we are seeing record numbers of children admitted to the hospital secondary to COVID, including previously healthy ones. The pediatric ICU numbers are also comparable to previous waves.

The Omicron variant is much more transmissible than prior variants. Even with maximized mitigation strategies, it will be difficult to control spread and keep schools open, so we will need to use every tool we have towards this goal:

- Masks should be required districtwide
- The use of high filtration masks should be promoted (N95, KN95, KF94 and equivalent)
- Outdoor lunch should be expanded and promoted
- Large gatherings should be limited
- Unmasked indoor activities should be minimized or eliminated if possible
- Ventilation should be maximized, including opening windows as much as possible, ensuring purifiers are in operation and filters have been changed

This wave is likely to be widespread but brief, so these enhanced measures can likely be implemented for a short time.

Committee physician membership includes: infectious disease specialist, outpatient pediatricians (3), inpatient pediatrician, inpatient internal medicine physician, pulmonary/critical care (ICU) physician, and surgeon with expertise in institutional infection control. These physicians represent leading clinical and academic institutions in Dallas.

RISD Committee membership includes: Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services, Executive Director of Health Services, and the Coordinating Director of Special Projects.