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

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.
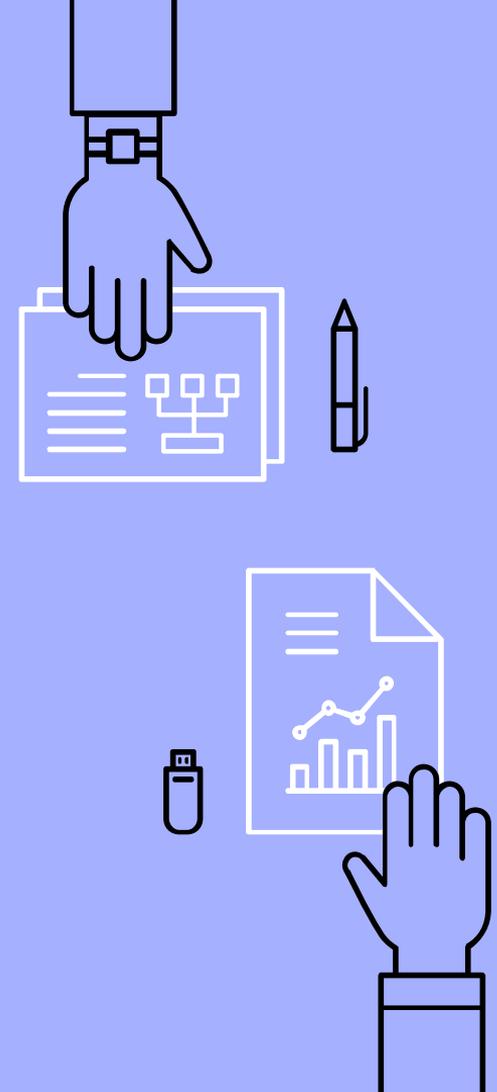Superintendent of Schools

# 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

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)
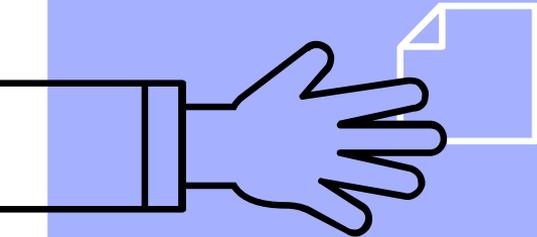▷ Gather all data and report to the DOH
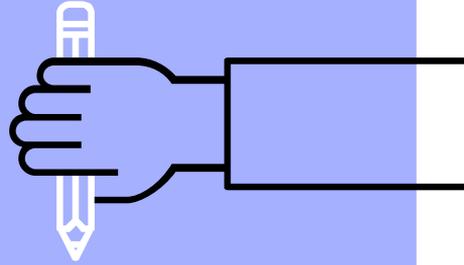
# 1.
# The Dashboard

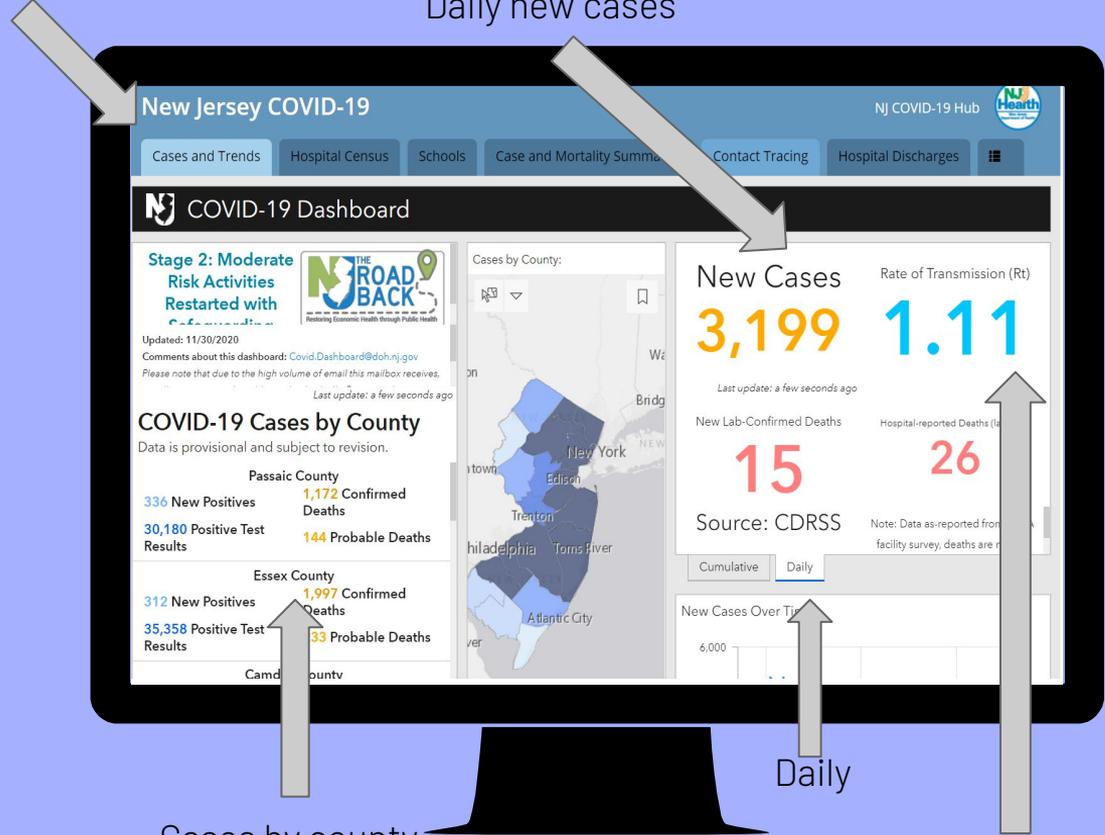What does the dashboard tell me?  I thought that was the thing in my car.

# Dashboard

Cases and Trends "Tab" shows:

Daily new cases statewide

Cases by county

Transmission rate

# Dashboard

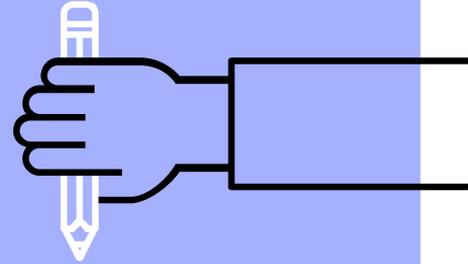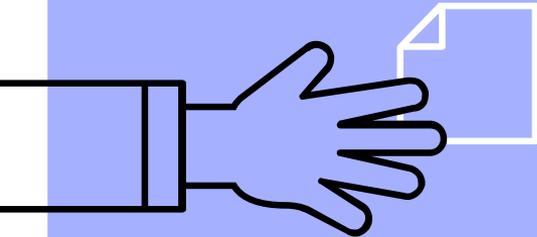Schools "Tab" shows:

School outbreaks statewide

School outbreaks by county

Cases linked to schools

Schools Tab

New Jersey COVID-19

NJ COVID-19 Hub

Cases and Trends | Hospital Census | Schools | Case and Mortality Summaries | Contact Tracing | Hospital Discharges

NJ COVID-19 School-Related Outbreaks Dashboard

Statewide

School Outbreaks

66

Cases Linked to School Outbreaks

269

This dashboard displays confirmed outbreaks, associated with in-school transmission in K-12 settings, that have been verified by Local Health Departments and reported to the NJ Department of Health (since August 1, 2020)[1,2]

Outbreak definition[1]: Two or more laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14 day period, who are epidemiologically linked within the school setting, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing.

School-Related COVID Cases by County

| | Confirmed Outbreaks | Linked Cases |
|---|---|---|
| | 2 | 4 |
| Passaic County | | |
| | 2 | 19 |
| Atlantic County | | |
| | 1 | 2 |
| Hunterdon County | | |
| | 1 | 3 |
| Union County | | |
| | 1 | 23 |
| Middlesex County | | |
| | 1 | 3 |
| Essex County | | |

County Data

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# 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)

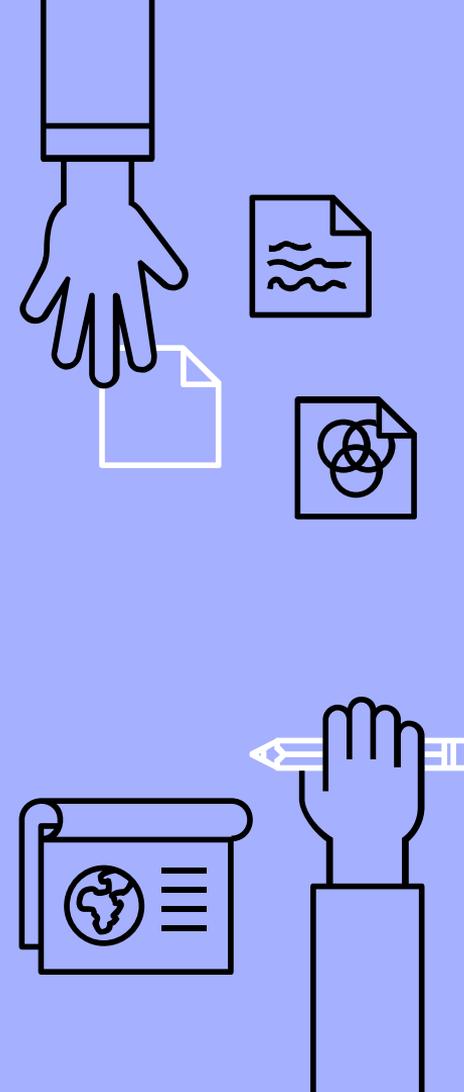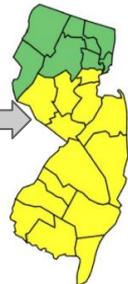https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/

# 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.
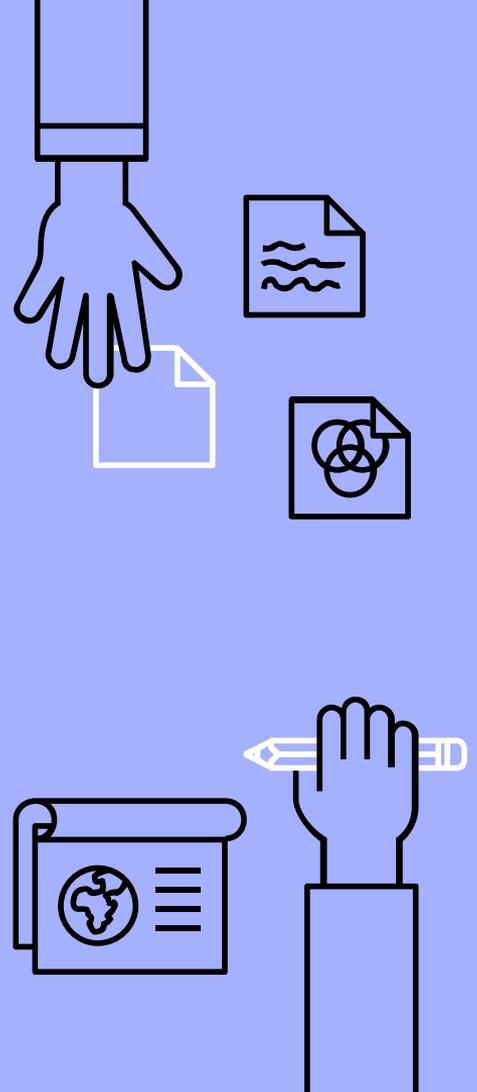
# What does the report look like?

**COVID-19 Activity Level Report**
New Jersey Department of Health
Communicable Disease Service
Week ending August 15, 2020 (MMWR week 33)[1]
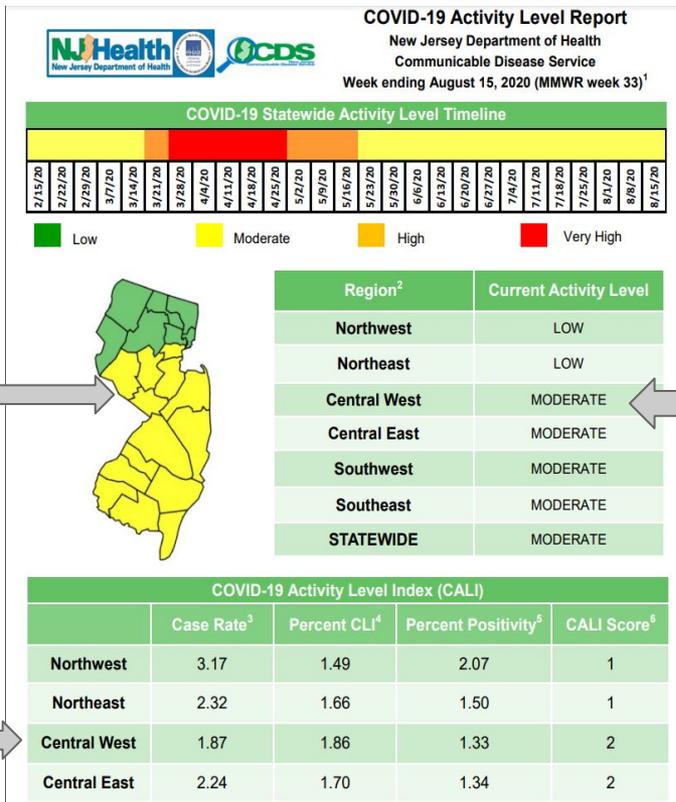
### COVID-19 Statewide Activity Level Timeline

| 2/15/20 | 2/22/20 | 2/29/20 | 3/7/20 | 3/14/20 | 3/21/20 | 3/28/20 | 4/4/20 | 4/11/20 | 4/18/20 | 4/25/20 | 5/2/20 | 5/9/20 | 5/16/20 | 5/23/20 | 5/30/20 | 6/6/20 | 6/13/20 | 6/20/20 | 6/27/20 | 7/4/20 | 7/11/20 | 7/18/20 | 7/25/20 | 8/1/20 | 8/8/20 | 8/15/20 |

Low   Moderate   High   Very High
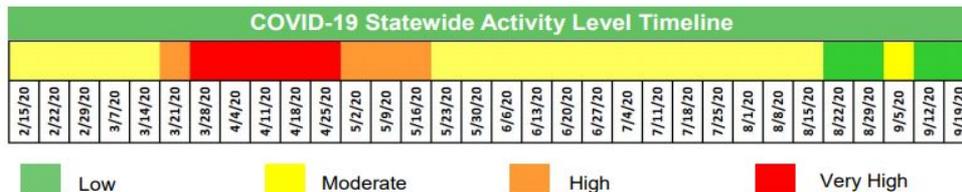
| Region[2] | Current Activity Level |
|---|---|
| Northwest | LOW |
| Northeast | LOW |
| Central West | MODERATE |
| Central East | MODERATE |
| Southwest | MODERATE |
| Southeast | MODERATE |
| STATEWIDE | MODERATE |

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

| | Case Rate[3] | Percent CLI[4] | Percent Positivity[5] | CALI Score[6] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northwest | 3.17 | 1.49 | 2.07 | 1 |
| Northeast | 2.32 | 1.66 | 1.50 | 1 |
| Central West | 1.87 | 1.86 | 1.33 | 2 |
| Central East | 2.24 | 1.70 | 1.34 | 2 |

Our region

# 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

# Activity Report Sample

October 10, 2020

Color code: yellow

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

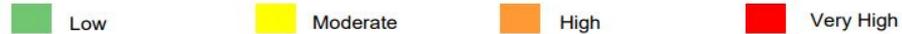# Activity Report Sample

November 14, 2020

Color code: orange

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

# 3.
# Color Change in the Activity Report
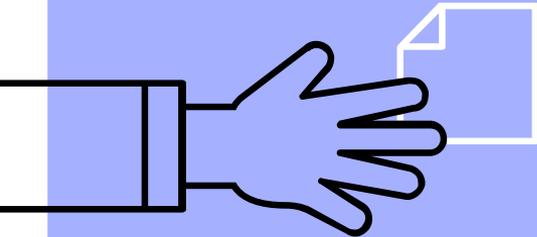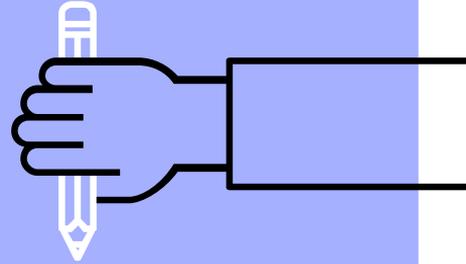
What changes as the colors change?

# 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.
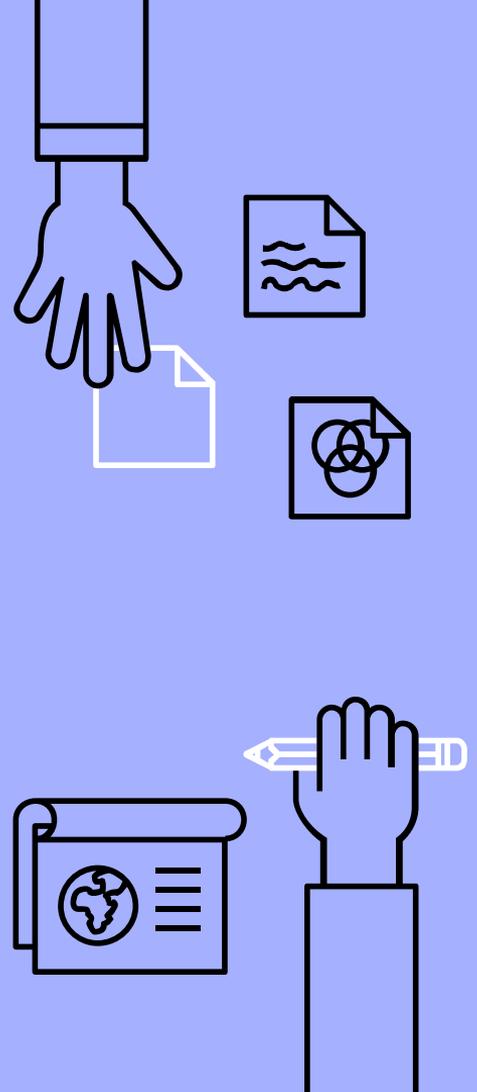
# Matrix

▷ 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.
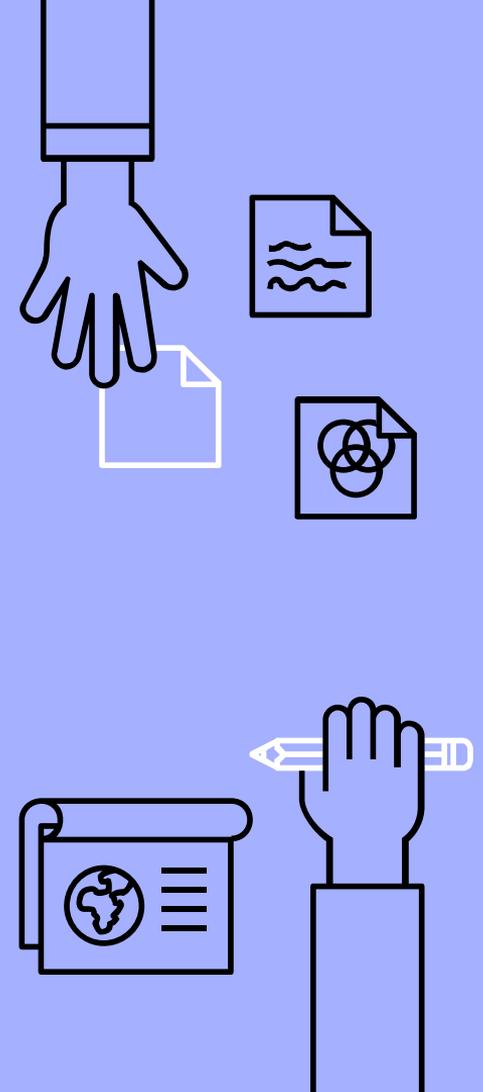
# What are the symptoms?

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

- ▷ At least <u>two</u> 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 <u>one</u> of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.
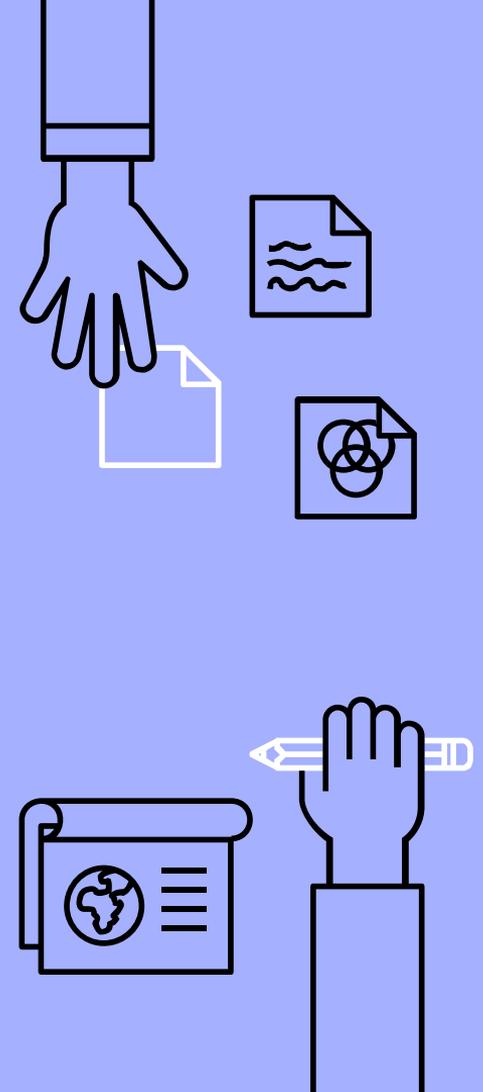
# What does a color red mean?

▷ 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?