

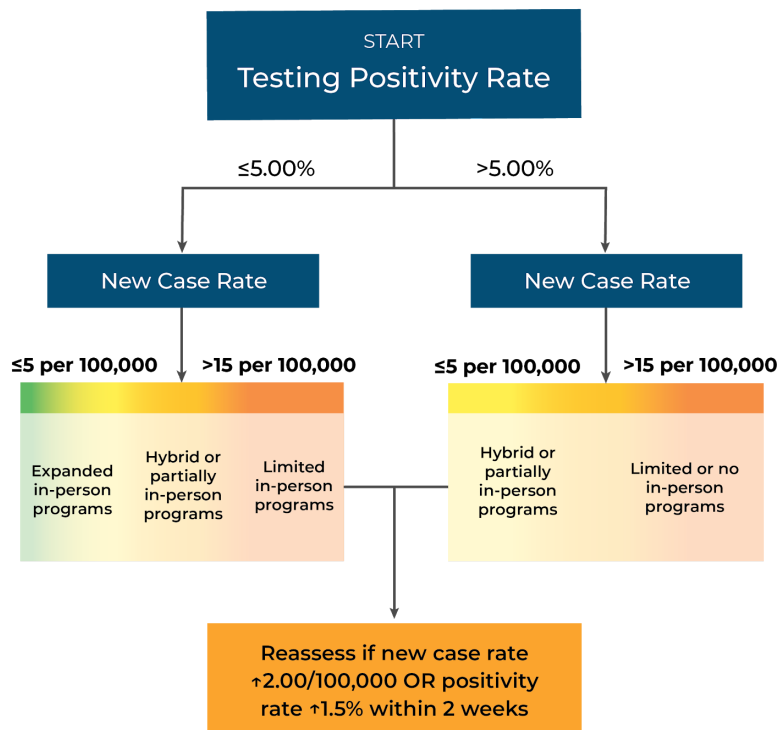
SAFELY REOPENING OUR SCHOOLS

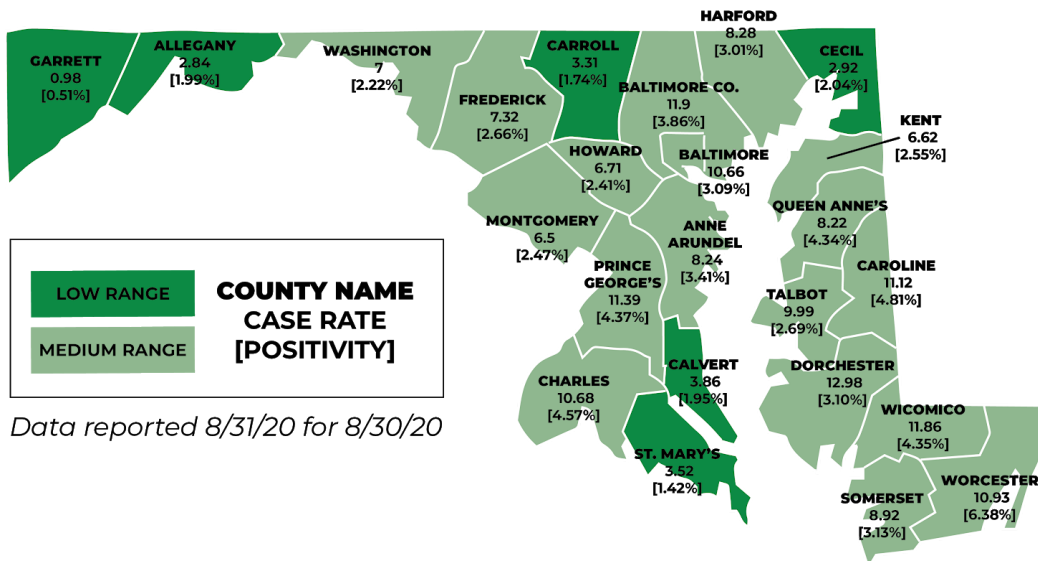
There is broad and overwhelming agreement among education and public health experts that finding a way to begin safely returning children to classrooms must be a top priority.

Decisions for how individual Maryland school systems reopen will be made by local officials. Based on guidance from the CDC, and discussions with local health officers, Maryland officials have released [new benchmarks](#) to guide discussions for how to safely reopen our schools.

These benchmarks provide the metrics of test positivity and case rates to help measure the level of community transmission, along with an algorithm to help determine based on a sliding scale whether state health officials recommend

- (1) expanded in-person instruction,
- (2) a hybrid and flexible model, or;
- (3) limited in-person instruction, prioritizing students with special needs and at-risk learners.





To date, 16 of 24 Maryland’s jurisdictions have announced some form of in-person instruction for this fall. The State Superintendent has asked all school systems to re-evaluate their mode of instruction by the end of the first quarter, post plans online, and meet with parents to discuss them.

Schools that are open for any in-person gatherings of any kind must follow all federal, state, and local guidance, especially in relation to:

- Maintaining physical distancing
- Wearing a face covering at all times while on school grounds or in school-provided transportation.
- Exclusion of staff or students who are positive for COVID-19 or have a COVID-like illness.
- Cleaning and disinfection.

For more information, visit <http://governor.maryland.gov/recovery-schools>.

Issued August 31, 2020