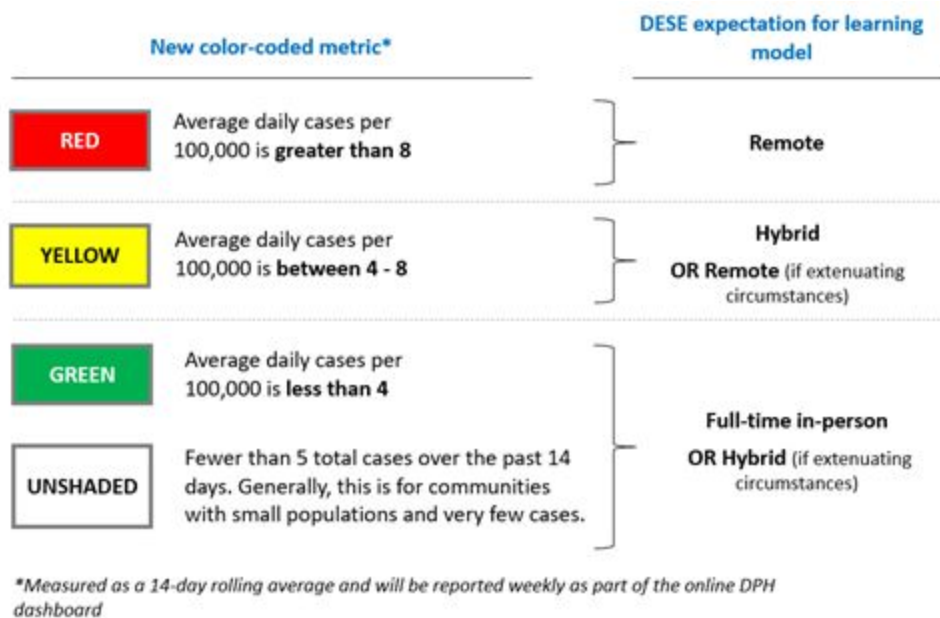


Because the impact of the virus is local, the concept of this particular COVID-19 health/safety designation is focused on the municipal level.

Based on these updated weekly COVID-19 metrics, DESE's guidance for how these data should be used to inform each school and district's learning model is as follows:



While average daily cases per 100,000 over a two-week period is the metric that determines the color-coding for each community, districts and schools should also monitor whether cases are increasing or decreasing as compared to the prior period. The local test positivity rate also remains an important metric to monitor. In consultation with local boards of health, districts should consider whether these additional metrics and underlying data may indicate other concerning trends.

- In the case of significant municipal outbreak, as determined by the local board of health or DPH, the superintendent and school leaders must consult with the local board of health to determine whether it is appropriate to close a specific school, schools, or an entire district.
- Before a final decision is made on a school or district closure, the superintendent will consult with DESE for further guidance.

State-wide regression to a previous reopening phase:

If Massachusetts moves back into a prior phase, DESE (in consultation with the Massachusetts