



# Guidance to Assess Risk for Engaging in In-Person Community-based Activity

The OE Subcommittee recommends publishing guidelines to assist MSU personnel to assess risk level for both origination and destination location to determine whether in-person activity is advisable with public stakeholders or in communities external to MSU.

## RECOMMENDATION:

Use county-level data on [covidactnow.org](https://covidactnow.org) site to guide decision-making about conducting in-person activities in communities. Assess risk level at origination and destination counties, or within county if activities are confined to one county.

## RATIONALE:

MSU personnel (faculty, staff, students) may become infected through community-based activities. They may also act as vectors if infected because they may travel to multiple locations over short periods. It is imperative to protect community members, broadly defined, by both adhering to MSU safety policies and by assessing the degree of risk within locales prior to engaging in community-based activities.

**Data source:** <https://covidactnow.org/us/>

**Unit of review:** County

## RISK IS DEFINED AS:

1. For all activities: the number of **daily new cases per 100,000 people is 25+** (“Critical,” shown as red). Rationale: as the rate of daily new cases rises, the likelihood of coming into contact with an infected person also rises. Experts believe confirmed cases underestimate the true incidence substantially, making the confirmed daily new case rate a leading indicator of higher levels of risk.
2. **And** for events of 10 people or more, regardless of whether indoor or outdoor, **ICU headroom used is +70%** (“Critical,” shown in red). Rationale: If an outbreak were to occur due to exposure at an event, cases risk overloading hospital ICU capacity in locales where ICU capacity is low. *Note. These data are in beta mode. If possible, check with hospitals directly to confirm ICU headroom used.*

At the time of scheduling, and again no more than 24 hours before the event/activity, if **either** risk indicator is at “critical: (“red”)” at **either** origination or destination county, the relevant Major Administrative Unit (MAU) administrator should consider reviewing the activity in the context of both programming priority and financial considerations.