



October 1, 2021

1. The weekly risk dial is an objective assessment of the anticipated risk due to COVID-19 in the community, measured using three sets of indicators:
 - Epidemiological (disease incidence, test positivity rate, per capita incidence),
 - Testing coverage and contact tracing (tests per capita, test reporting time, proportion of close contacts reached, disease clusters/ connected cases)
 - Healthcare service indicators (ICU bed occupancy and availability, ventilator usage, medical/ surgical bed usage)
 - Beginning from March 2021, additional variables describing vaccine coverage were added (first and second dose coverage) to make the predictive model more robust.
 - Confirmed deaths due to COVID in the previous week are also considered by the Risk Dial committee when finalizing the dial setting for the week, however, they are not included in the final numerical or subjective model.
2. Disease incidence and contact tracing data is extracted from the state-maintained National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS), weekly hospital data is sourced from the Knowledge Center and and Two Rivers Public Health Department Hospital Dashboard.
3. Each week, data for the preceding two weeks as well as the current week is considered to calculate a 3-week average which feeds into the numerical model. In addition, staff responsible for each of the analytic domains attend the weekly Risk Dial meeting (Risk Dial Committee) The following analytic domains are considered when finalizing the Risk Dial.
 - Epidemiology
 - Testing services
 - Contact tracing and case investigation
 - Healthcare capacity and utilization
 - Vaccination
4. The dial's final position is based on both a composite assessment of the numerical risk score & rate of weekly change in each variable as well as subjective assessment by committee members.
5. The Risk Dial is based on the model created and used by the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) to estimate COVID transmission risk. The LLCHD model was modified and adapted to local conditions and represents a consistent assessment of risk from July 2020 to date. For more details, please visit <https://app.lincoln.ne.gov/city/covid19/pdf/COVID19RiskDialMetricsDescription.pdf>