

Triggers to Require Usage of Non-Medical Masks by the Public

In Emergency Management, when developing plans to respond to or mitigate an emergency, it is essential to determine what will activate the plan. Different levels of risk require different levels of response.

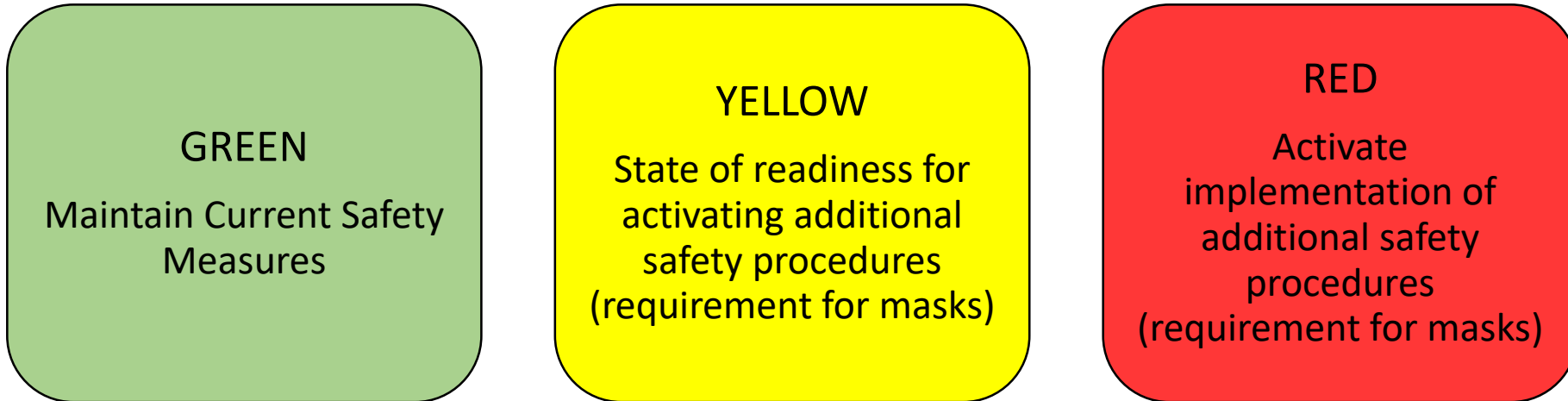
During the impact of COVID-19, there have been many different measures implemented to mitigate the risk of transmission in communities. The City of Saskatoon has followed recommendation from the Federal and Provincial Government and the Chief Medical Health Officer in Saskatchewan.

As a starting point, a framework for activating a plan to require non-medical mask use by the public, the following triggers could be used to determine when is the appropriate time to implement this measure.

It is suggested that in order to move to a higher level of measure, three of the four indicators could be used to determine when to move to the next level.

These triggers have no bearing on the approach taken by the Administration. These would only come into play should Council wish to implement a trigger-based mask-use approach past the current Provincial guidelines.

These indicators will be monitored, and a system of assessment based on:



Information about these indicators and the current assessment of the levels will be shared as part of the [COVID-19 Statistical Summary](#) on the City of Saskatoon website.

In order to move through the levels of response (green to yellow to red), three out of the four indicators must be met. This mitigates the risk of unusual variances due to reasons other than an increased risk level occurring.

Escalation

1.1 Green

COVID-19-Test
positivity of 0.1% - 1.9%

- Indicates the percentage of the number of positive lab tests out of the total number of lab tests performed.
- Potential Risk - testing positivity rates can be impacted by a change in testing strategy.

Less than five COVID-19
cases/100,000 within the past
two weeks in Saskatoon area

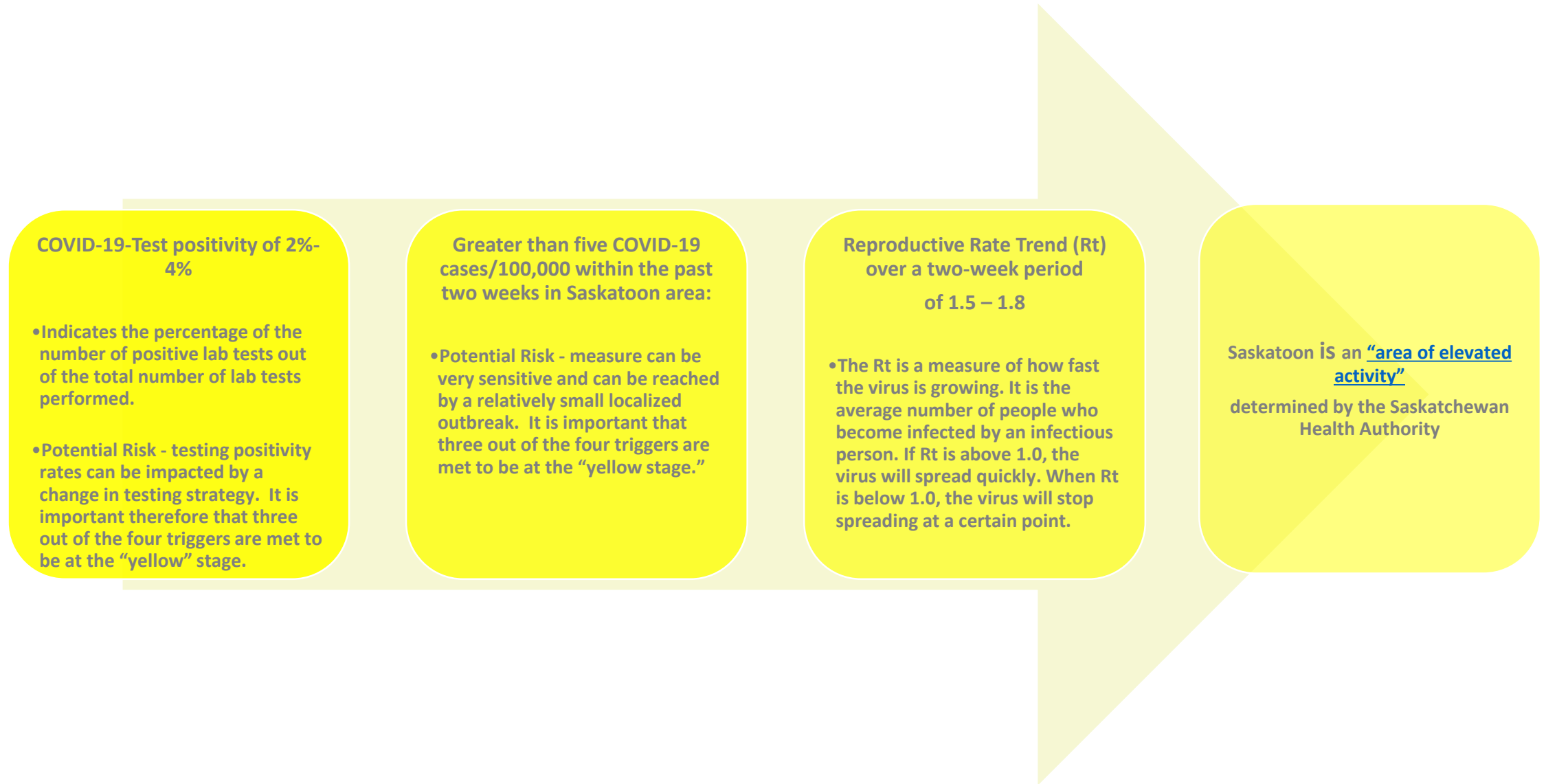
- Potential Risk - this measure can be very sensitive and can be reached by a relatively small localized outbreak. It is important that three out of the four triggers are met to move to the “yellow” stage.

Reproductive Rate Trend (Rt)
over a two-week period of
0.1 – 1.5

- The Rt is a measure of how fast the virus is growing. It is the average number of people who become infected by an infectious person. If Rt is above 1.0, the virus will spread quickly. When Rt is below 1.0, the virus will stop spreading.

Saskatoon is **NOT** an [“area of elevated activity”](#)
determined by the Saskatchewan
Health Authority

1.2 Yellow



1.3 Red

COVID-19 Test positivity of 5%

- Indicates the percent of tests that produce a positive result.
- Potential Risk - testing positivity rates can be impacted by a change in testing strategy. It is important that three out of the four triggers are met to be at the “red” stage.

Greater than 10 COVID-19 cases/100,000 in the past two weeks in Saskatoon area

- Potential Risk - measure can be very sensitive and can be reached by a relatively small localized outbreak. It is important that three out of the four triggers are met to be at the “red” stage.

Reproductive Rate Trend (Rt) over a two-week period of 1.8 – 2.0 or greater

- The Rt is a measure of how fast the virus is growing. It is the average number of people who become infected by an infectious person. If Rt is above 1.0, the virus will spread quickly. When Rt is below 1.0, the virus will stop spreading at a certain point.

Saskatoon is an “area of elevated activity” determined by the Saskatchewan Health Authority

De-escalation

Along with triggers to escalate measures to the next level, there is a need for a corresponding de-escalation plan. To mitigate the risk of moving back and forth between levels, the de-escalation plan is based on periods of sustained decline of triggers. The primary focus of de-escalation would be returning to “recommending non-medical face masks” from “requiring non-medical face masks.” The de-escalation triggers would be:

- COVID-19 Test positivity of 0.1% - 1.9% sustained over a 28 day period:
 - Indicates the percent of tests that produce a positive result.
 - Potential Risk - testing positivity rates can be impacted by a change in testing strategy. It is important that three out of the four triggers are met to be at the “red” stage.

- Lesser than five COVID-19 cases/100,000 sustained over a 28 day period:
 - Potential Risk - measure can be very sensitive and can be reached by a relatively small localized outbreak. It is important that three out of the four triggers are met to be at the “red” stage.

- Reproductive Rate Trend (Rt) 0.1 – 1.5 sustained over a 28 day period:
 - The Rt is a measure of how fast the virus is growing. It is the average number of people who become infected by an infectious person. If Rt is above 1.0, the virus will spread quickly. When Rt is below 1.0, the virus will stop spreading at a certain point.

- Saskatoon is **not** an “[area of elevated activity](#)” as determined by the Saskatchewan Health Authority sustained over a 28 day period.



Current Situation

Saskatoon is in the “green”
stage as indicated by:

- COVID-19-Test positivity of 0.7% (Green)
- COVID-19 cases /100,000 – 7 (Yellow)
- Reproductive Rate Trend (Rt) over a two-week period of 0.9% (Green)
- Saskatoon is **not** “[area of elevated activity](#)” as determined by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (Green)