

**CHARLESTON, WV** – Gov. Jim Justice joined West Virginia health leaders and other officials today for his latest daily press briefing regarding the State's COVID-19 response.

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELEASES FIRST EVER SATURDAY 9 P.M. SCHOOL RE-ENTRY MAP UPDATE**

During Monday's briefing, Gov. Justice went over the results of the West Virginia Department of Education's first ever **Saturday 9 p.m. school re-entry map update** (<https://wvde.us/school-reentry-metrics-protocols/>).

The WVDE's Saturday snapshot determines the level of athletic and extracurricular activities permitted in each county for that particular week.

Counties in green and yellow are permitted to hold competitions, counties in orange can hold practices but are not permitted to compete, and counties in red must halt all school-related activities immediately.

This past Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020, a total of 32 counties were green, while 19 counties were yellow.

Three counties were orange: Fayette, Kanawha, and Logan counties. Only one county, Monroe County, was red.

These designations will not change throughout this week unless a county enters red status, at which point all activities, including school, athletics, and other extracurriculars would immediately be halted.

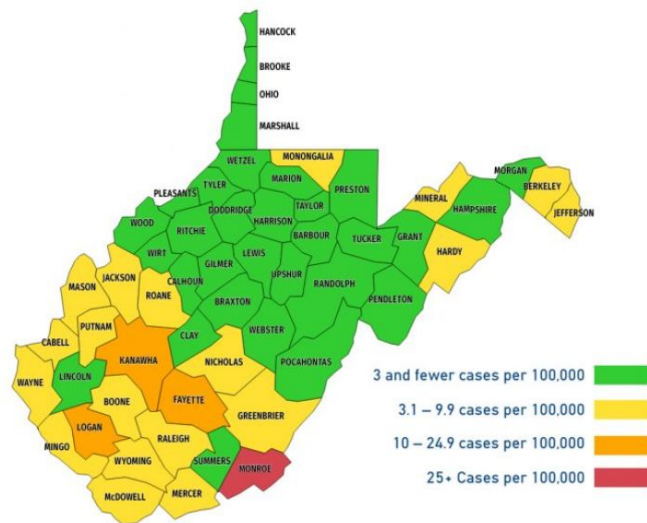
# *COVID-19 UPDATE: Gov. Justice provides opportunity for student-athletes in orange counties to play immediately by being tested*

8/31/2020

Gov. Justice holds press briefing on COVID-19 response - August 31, 2020



## County Alert System: Daily Cases per 100K (rolling average)



(<https://wvde.us/school-reentry-metrics-protocols/>)

## **STUDENT-ATHLETES IN ORANGE COUNTIES GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY IF TESTED**

In an effort to allow as many athletics programs as possible to be able to participate in competitions, Gov. Justice announced on Monday that he would provide an opportunity for student-athletes in orange counties – Fayette, Kanawha, and Logan counties – to play immediately by being tested.

“We’ve consulted with every health expert we have to try to come up with a plan that gets as many of our student-athletes on the field as possible while also keeping our communities safe,” Gov. Justice said. “So, in those counties, we’re going to offer for our student-athletes and our coaches the opportunity to be tested for free. And, if a full team would test negative, then they could play immediately, right alongside our green and yellow counties.”

The Governor added that the offer was only for the three counties designated as orange in this past Saturday’s map update and would only be available for this week. In addition to all athletics teams and coaches, school-affiliated marching bands and auxiliary groups would also be able to perform immediately by testing negative.

“This is the first week that a lot of these competitions begin, so we just need to make sure we are doing everything in our power to make sure our programs are starting on solid footing,” Gov. Justice said. “Also, by testing in these orange counties, we would be able to make our communities safer because it would give us more information about where this disease is currently located and spreading.”



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**"TRIPLE-CHECK" FOR SAFETY AND SANITIZATION SUPPLIES IN SCHOOLS UNDERWAY**

Also on Monday, State Superintendent of Schools Clayton Burch announced that West Virginia education leaders are in the process of "triple-checking" that every classroom in the state has the PPE and cleaning supplies they need to safely begin the school year.

"Our offices are reaching out to all of the principals just to triple-check that those supplies are there and ready," Superintendent Burch said. "I cannot thank our principals, superintendents, and others enough, and I encourage each and every teacher, please, continue communicating to your principal and your school leadership if you need anything at all. We have a lot of folks here willing to help."



## **MON COUNTY BARS PERMITTED TO REOPEN**

Additionally Monday, Gov. Justice announced that the countywide bar closure in Monongalia County has been lifted.

"We've confirmed with the medical experts that our numbers are stable," Gov. Justice said. "We're excited to be able to get these businesses back to work. However, we urge them to be cautious in every way."

In order to reopen, such establishments must implement additional safety measures as described in the guidance document: **Supplemental Protocols for Reopening**

### **Monongalia County Bars**

(</Documents/Covid%20Additional%20Guidances/Supplemental%20Protocols%20for%20Mon%20Cnty%20Bars%208.19.2020.pdf>).

"We're going to be watching our numbers constantly," Gov. Justice said. "If they start to move in the wrong direction, we'll shut them back down, but we hope and pray that it does go well."