

COVID-19 School Data Guide

District of Columbia

This data guide includes:

- Data notes describing methodology on how DC Health collects and reports data among school settings.
- Example interpretations of case-related figures.

Data Notes:

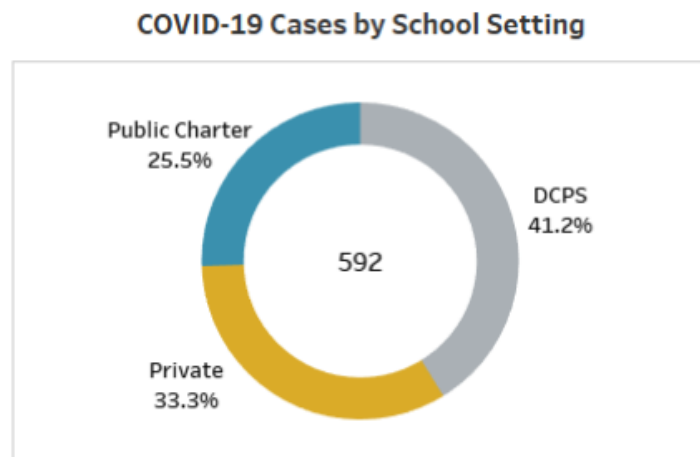
- Case investigations are initiated by reporting from school settings. Data are collected via fields and notes related to symptom onset, possible contacts, job/role of the case within the school, and other details through interviews with the cases or family members of cases. Additionally, contact tracing data are analyzed to identify potential interactions between positive cases during their exposure or infectious period.
- Schools are required to report cases directly to DC Health, though some additional school-related cases are identified through contact tracing interviews of positive cases reported from laboratories.
- Data include cases that were enrolled or employed at a school setting within the District of Columbia and were on campus during their exposure or infectious period. This includes students, teachers, and other (non-teaching) staff. Examples of other staff include administrators, secretaries, custodians, security officers, and culinary staff. These data represent both DC and non-DC residents.
- A case is defined as someone who tested positive for COVID-19; a contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of a case for a total of 15 minutes or more during the case's infectious period.
- The exposure period is defined as the period of 14 days leading up to the symptom onset date, or test date if asymptomatic.

- The infectious period is defined as the period which starts 2 days before and ends 10 days after the symptom onset date, or test date if asymptomatic
- Elementary schools include grades pre-K - 5, middle schools include grades 6 - 8, and high schools include grades 9 - 12. Public charter schools and private schools that instruct grade ranges in different groupings (K-8, 4-12, etc.) are included in the “Other” category. Off-campus administrative offices where school leadership operation occurs and instruction does not take place are also included in the “Other” category. “Independent” and “parochial” schools are included under “private schools.”
- A school outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 which have a plausible epidemiological link (>15 minutes of cumulative exposure time in the same immediate vicinity regardless of mask use).
- For the figure “Number of COVID-19 Cases by School Setting and Week,” the case is plotted by the date that DC Health received a report from the school regarding the case, or by the date the contact tracing interview was conducted if it was an additional school-associated case identified by contact tracing interviews and not reported directly from the school.
- A symptomatic COVID-19 case is defined as someone who tests positive and reports experiencing fever, dry cough, loss of appetite, loss of smell, body ache, or other symptom. An asymptomatic COVID-19 case is defined as someone who tests positive but does not report exhibiting any symptoms during the course of their infection. Data are collected through notes taken by case investigators and are analyzed manually.
- Some schools implement routine asymptomatic surveillance testing, which may lead to a higher number of cases observed at these schools compared to schools that do not implement routine surveillance.
- For schools with fewer than five cases reported, the date of case report and symptomatic vs. asymptomatic status are not shown in order to protect confidentiality.

- While it is required that schools report every COVID-19 case among their students, teachers, and other staff to DC Health, data may not reflect complete reporting of all school-related cases.
- All data are subject to change periodically as more information is collected and data is processed.

Example Interpretations:

The figure below shows the distribution of school-related cases among District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), public charter, and private schools. Of the 592 school-related cases reported from schools and laboratories, 41.2% occurred among DCPS, 33.3% occurred among private schools, and 25.5% occurred among private schools.



The figure below shows the total number of cases reported per week by school setting type. For example, during the week of January 24th, a total of 41 cases were reported; 18 cases occurred among DCPS, 11 cases occurred among private schools, and 12 cases occurred among public charter schools.

Number of COVID-19 Cases by School Setting and Week

