

# 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:

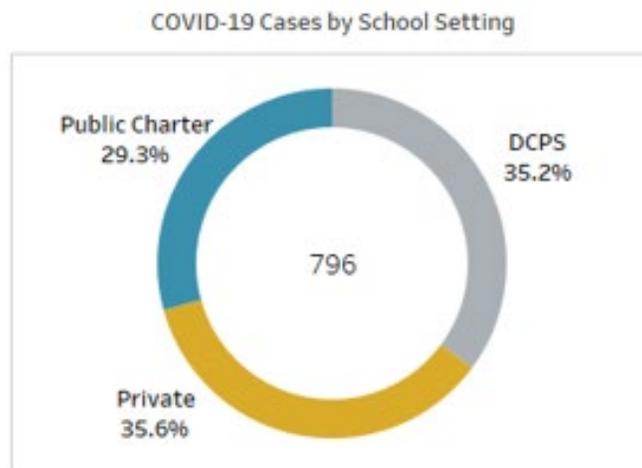
- Data is collected via case investigations initiated by reporting from school settings. Data is collected on symptom onset, possible contacts, job/role of the case within the school, and other details through interviews with the cases or family members of cases. Additionally, contact tracing data is analyzed to identify potential interactions between positive cases during their exposure or infectious period.
- Data includes cases that were enrolled or employed at a school setting within the District of Columbia. This includes students, teachers, and other (non-teaching) staff. Examples of other staff include administrators, secretaries, custodians, security officers, and culinary staff.
- Many schools have incorporated remote and hybrid learning models. Thus, some cases may not have been on premises during their exposure or infectious period. However, by October 2020, all schools had some component of in-person learning.
- Elementary schools include grades pre-K - 5, middle schools include grades 6 - 8, and high schools include grades 9 - 12. Administrative offices include sites related to schools where leadership operation occurs, and instruction does not take place. Public charter schools and private schools that instruct other grade ranges (K-8, 4-12, etc.) are included in the 'other' category.
- 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 first date which DC Health received a report from the school regarding the case.
- A symptomatic COVID-19 case is defined as someone who tests positive and experiences 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 exhibit any symptoms during the course of their infection.
- 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 796 school-related cases reported, 35.2% occurred among DCPS, 29.3% occurred among public charter schools, and 35.6% 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 December 6<sup>th</sup>, a total of 57 cases

were reported; 5 cases occurred among DCPS, 33 cases occurred among private schools, and 19 cases occurred among public charter schools.

