NCDHHS COVID-19 Response:

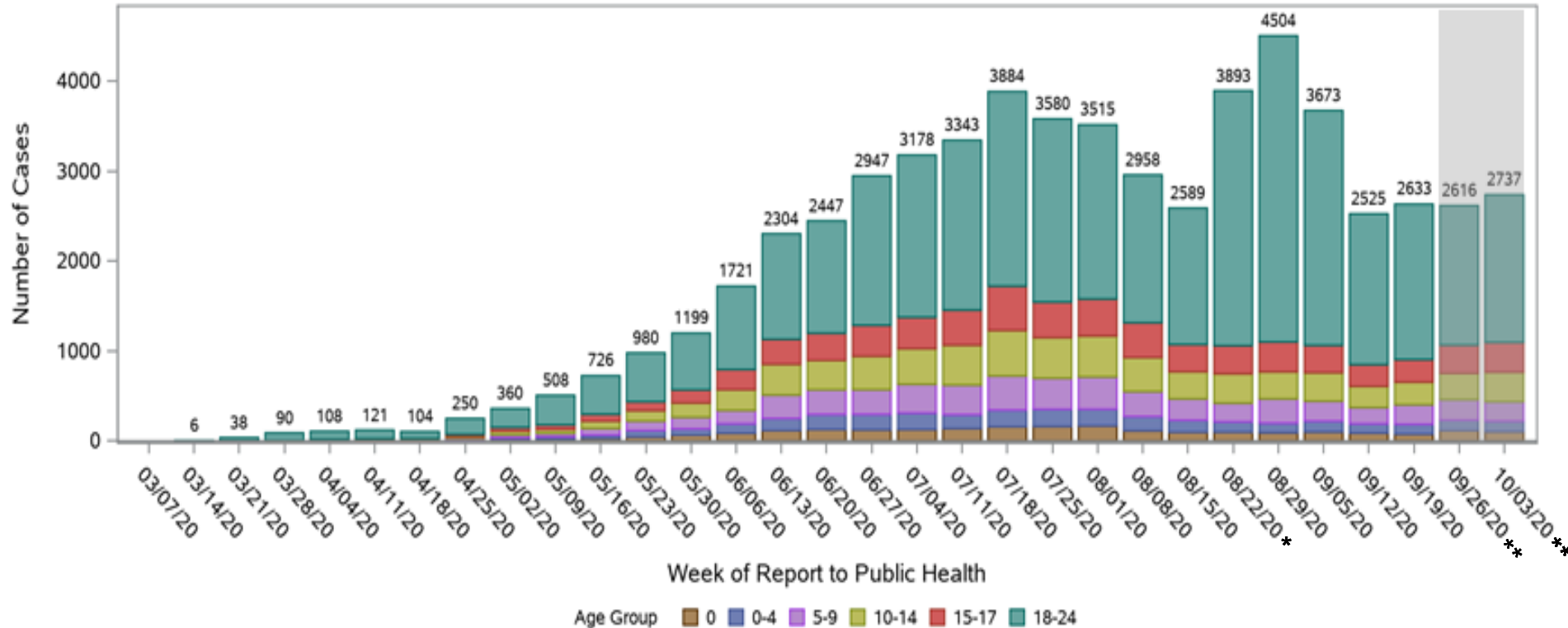# K-12 School Reopening Updates

October 8, 2020

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NC State Board of Education

What Are We Learning About COVID-19 Cases Among Children?

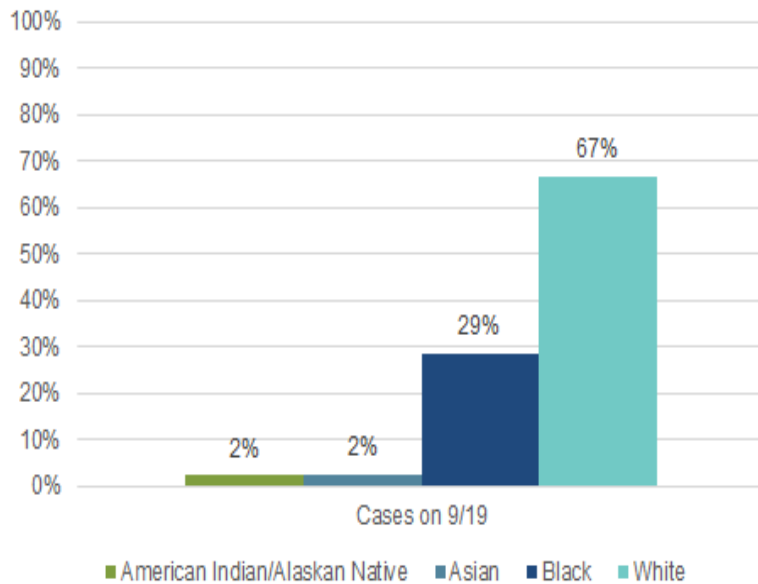# New Lab-Confirmed Cases by Age Group: Weekly Totals
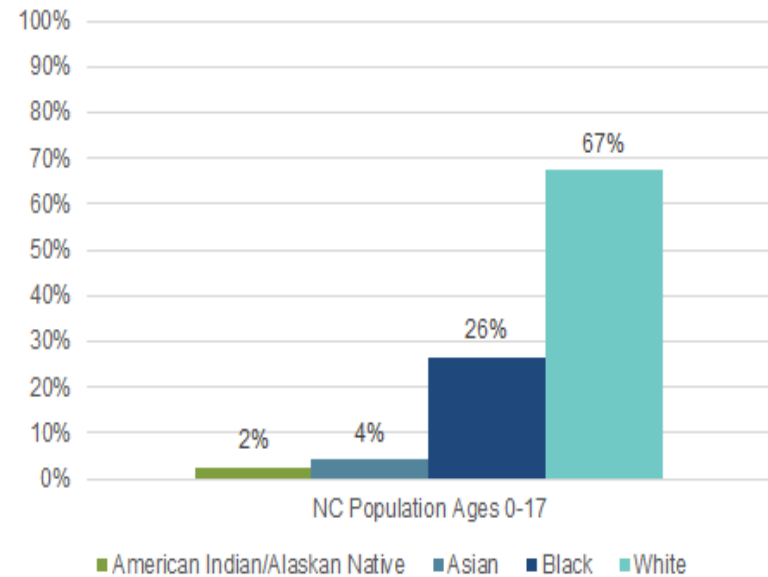

**Most Schools Reopened (8/17)

****Early Data

Children with Positive COVID-19 Cases Ages 0 – 17, By Race*

Cases on 9/19, Ages 0-17

- American Indian/Alaskan Native: 2%
- Asian: 2%
- Black: 29%
- White: 67%

Cases on 9/19

NC Population, Ages 0-17

- American Indian/Alaskan Native: 2%
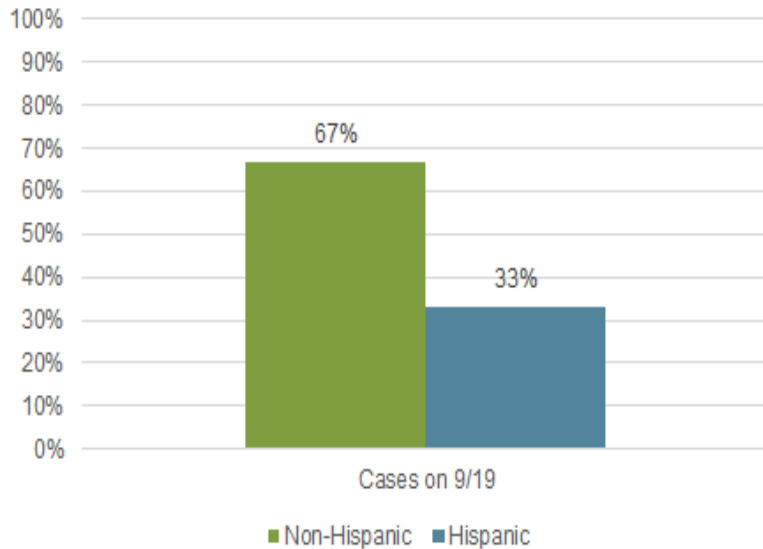- Asian: 4%
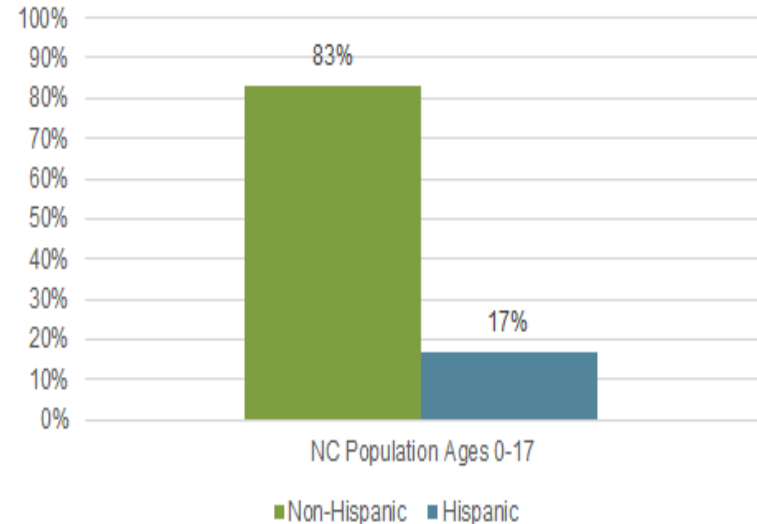- Black: 26%
- White: 67%

NC Population Ages 0-17

*Excludes all cases where race information is unknown or no data is entered into the field

Children with Positive COVID-19 Cases Ages 0 – 17, By Ethnicity *

Cases on 9/19, Ages 0-17

NC Population, Ages 0-17

*Excludes all cases where ethnicity information is unknown or no data is entered into the field

K-12 Reported Clusters

- **24 total K-12 clusters (active and complete)**
  - Disproportionate number have been private schools: 46%

- **171 total cluster-associated cases among all K-12 clusters (active and complete)**
  - 0 K-12 cluster-linked deaths

- **126 cases associated with <u>currently active</u> clusters as of 10/6/20**
  - 15 currently active clusters
  - 88 among students and 44 among staff
  - Note: more than 55% of student cases are linked to only 2 active clusters

K-12 Currently Active Clusters

Date Reported	County	School Name	# Students	# Staff	Cluster Considered Active or Complete
9/15/2020	Craven	New Bern High School	5	0	Active
9/17/2020	Gaston	Webb Street School	1	4	Active
9/21/2020	Onslow	Richlands High School	1	4	Active
9/22/2020	Cumberland	Berean Baptist Academy	5	0	Active
9/22/2020	Wayne	Wayne Christian School	34	6	Active
9/22/2020	Randolph	Bailey's Grove Baptist High School	5	0	Active
9/23/2020	Wilkes	North Wilkes High School	15	3	Active
9/23/2020	Mecklenburg	Covenant Day School	4	3	Active
9/28/2020	Robeson	East Robeson Elementary School	0	5	Active
9/30/2020	Yancey	Genesis Academy	1	4	Active
10/1/2020	Guilford	High Point Christian Academy	6	5	Active
10/2/2020	Davidson	West Davidson High School	3	2	Active
10/5/2020	Buncombe	Oakley Elementary	0	5	Active
10/5/2020	Richmond	Fairview Heights Elementary	3	3	Active
10/5/2020	Lincoln	Combine Academy	5	0	Active

Additional K-12 School Data

- **Additional case data including child age, race, and ethnicity will be available on NCDHHS public dashboard in next 2 weeks**
  - Public dashboard data updates will provide local decision-makers with all indicators aligned to CDC considerations for school re-opening

- **NCDHHS's COVID-19 case tracking system now includes questions about in-person school attendance during the exposure period**

StrongSchoolsNC
Public Health Toolkit (K-12) Updates

- **NEW: Allows option for K – 5 operating on Plan A**

- **Clarifies need to exclude household members if one individual is symptomatic**

- **Clarifies school leaders' reporting requirements to their Local Health Department**

- **Revises *Reference Guide to Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed COVID-19 Cases***

- **NEW: Quarantine calendar examples**

K-12 Testing Strategies – New Resource

RECOMMEND

- Testing Symptomatic
  - individuals with signs or symptoms

- Testing Close Contacts
  - individuals with recent known close contact to person with COVID-19, symptomatic or asymptomatic

CONSIDER

- Exploring Broader Testing Strategies

Potential Broader Testing Strategies

- **K-12 school that has experienced a cluster**
  - Could test all adults and children who were physically present on campus when the cluster was active

- **Routine repeated testing strategy**
  - District is operating any in-person learning under Plan A or Plan B
  - District is located in a county that is currently in the red, orange, or yellow zone according to the CDC Indicators and thresholds for risk of introduction and transmission of COVID-19 in schools
  - Could test a portion or sample of adults and/or children (e.g., 5%) on a regular basis (e.g., weekly or monthly).
  - Testing adults may be more effective as current data shows they may spread virus more efficiently than children.

- **Universal, one time testing of all children and adults as requirement for entry to in-person learning**
  - Recommend not requiring (consistent with CDC)
  - Potential limitations of effectiveness (just one point in time)
  - Probably more effective with follow up routine repeated testing strategy

Don't forget the 3 W's!

WEAR
WAIT
WASH