NCDHHS COVID-19 Response: K-12 School Reopening Updates

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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*

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

*Cases on 9/19, Ages 0-17*

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

**Cases on 9/19, Ages 0-17**

- Non-Hispanic: 67%
- Hispanic: 33%

**NC Population, Ages 0-17**

- Non-Hispanic: 83%
- Hispanic: 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 currently active 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

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