



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**



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

September 3, 2020

Susan Gale Perry, Chief Deputy Secretary

Rebecca Planchard, Senior Policy Advisor

NC State Board of Education

Where is NC right now?



NC will move into Phase 2.5 starting Friday, September 4th at 5PM



Face coverings required in public places, indoor or outdoor, where physical distancing of 6 feet from non-household members is not possible (also required in at least [30 states + DC](#)), including children 5 years and older



Mass gathering limits of 25 indoors, 50 outdoors

Open

- Private businesses
- Critical infrastructure businesses
- Child care
- Day camps
- Overnight camps
- K-12 Schools (at Plan B, option for Plan C)
- Places of worship
- **Playgrounds**

Open with restrictions

- Large venues (subject to mass gathering limits)
- Retail (50%)
- Restaurants (50% indoor/outdoor)
- Pools (50%, outdoor and indoor)
- Salons (50%)
- Personal care (50%)
- Tattoo parlors (50%)
- **Museums and aquariums (50%)**
- **Gyms/indoor exercise facilities (30% capacity)**
- **Outdoor visitation at nursing homes allowed, if requirements are met**

Closed

- Bars
- Movie theaters
- Indoor entertainment
- Gaming
- Amusement parks
- Night clubs
- Dance/music halls
- Adult entertainment

Where We Are Today

Trends

Trajectory of COVID-like syndromic cases



Trajectory of cases



Trajectory of positive tests as a percentage of total tests



Trajectory of hospitalizations



Capacity

Testing



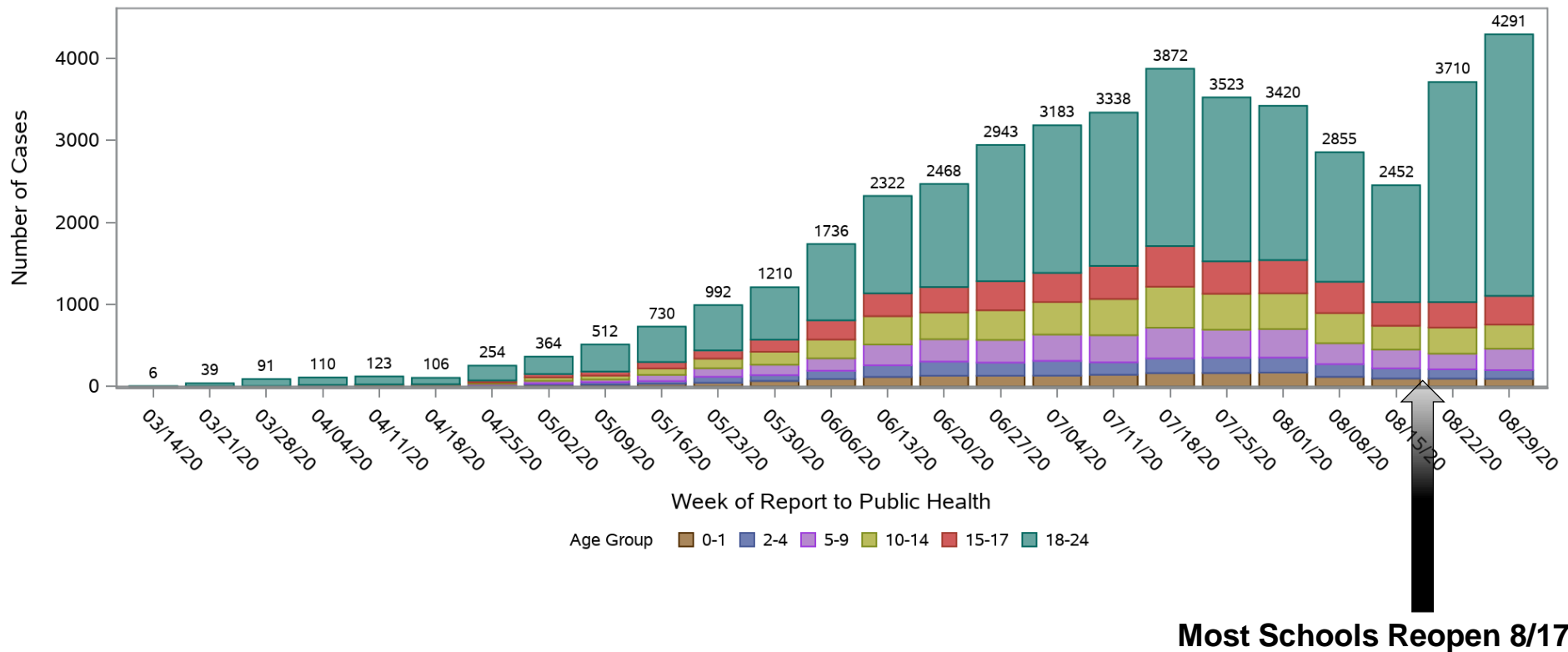
Contact Tracing



Personal Protective Equipment



Lab-Confirmed Cases by Age Group: Weekly Totals



K-12 Reported Clusters

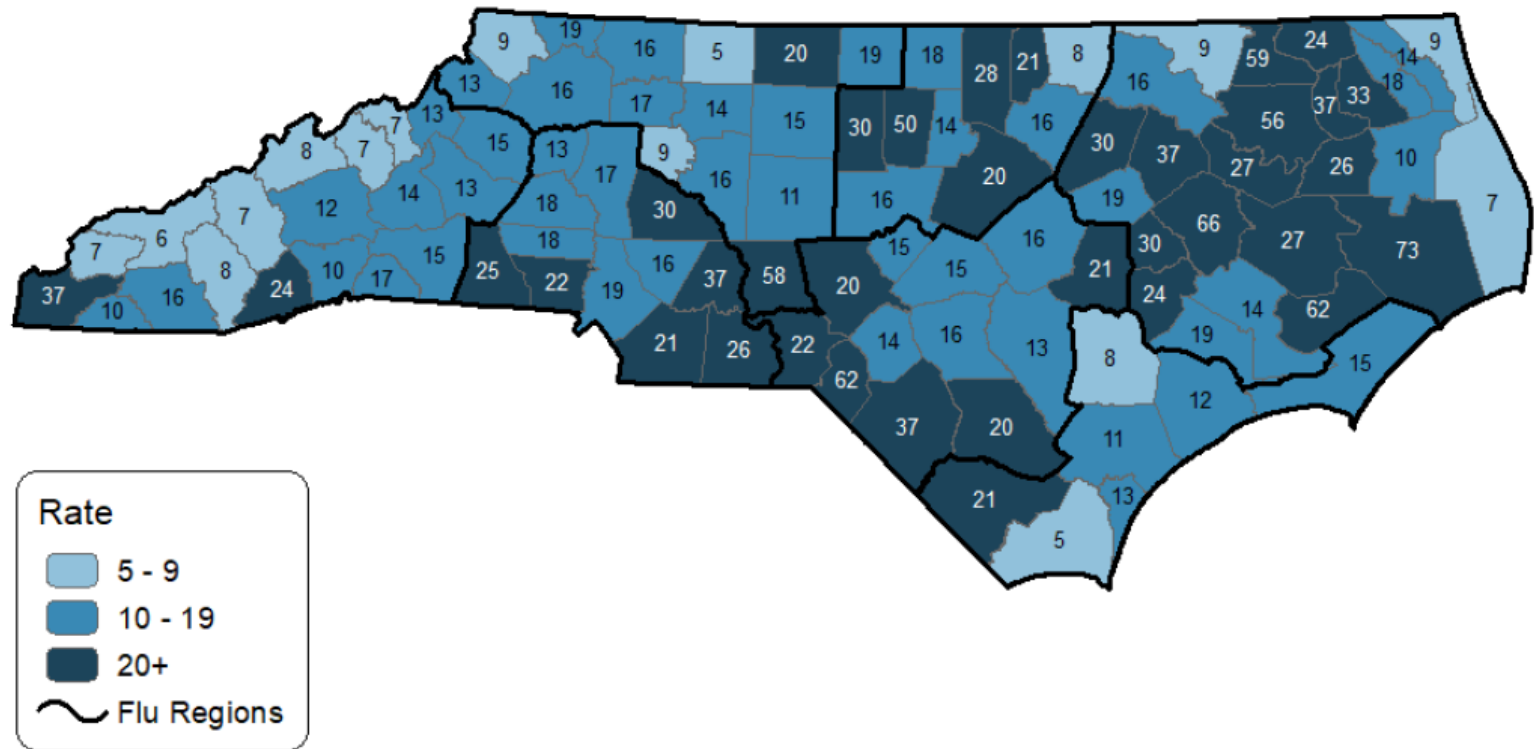
- **6 total confirmed clusters in K-12 schools as of 9/1**
 - 2 reported pre-August 17 (date most schools reopened)
 - 4 reported after August 17
 - Majority of cluster-associated cases among staff

Date Reported	County	School Name	# Students	# Staff	Cluster Considered Active or Complete
6/11/2020	Iredell	North Iredell Hight School	0	5	Complete
7/6/2020	Union	East Union Middle School	0	6	Complete
8/17/2020	Rowan	North Hills Christian School	0	5	Active
8/26/2020	Macon	Franklin High School	1	5	Active
8/26/2020	Sampson	Plainview Elementary School	1	4	Active
8/31/2020	Greene	Mt. Calvary Christian Academy	2	9	Active

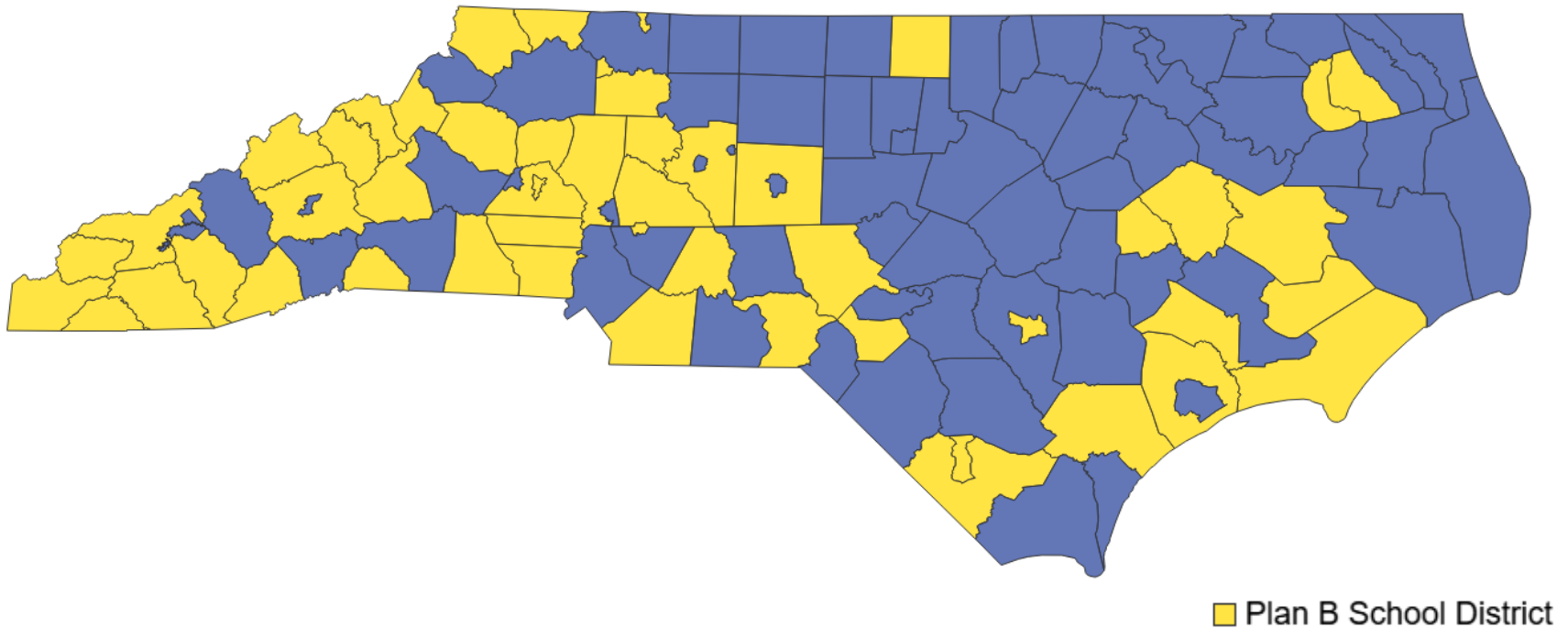
- *Note: Cluster report updated Tuesdays and Fridays publicly via link: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/outbreaks-and-clusters>

New Cases per 10,000 Residents, All Ages

Number of New Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 Cases per
10,000 Persons by County of Residence
Past 14 Days: Aug 18 - Aug 31



School District Reopening – Plan B vs. Plan C



NCDHHS-created map using [NCSBA information](#) as of 8/26

K-12 School Reopening Survey Highlights

Response: 91 school districts and 130 charter schools participated

Current Operational Plan:

- Traditional: 51% in Plan B (N=46); 49% in Plan C (N=45)
- Charter schools: 49% in Plan B (N=64); 51% in Plan C (N=66)

Preparedness To Meet Requirements For... (1=not at all, 10=very much)

- Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure
 - Districts average 7.87, range 4 to 10 | Charters average 7.39, range 1 to 10
- Monitoring for Symptoms & Handling Cases
 - Districts average 7.60, range 1 to 10 | Charters average 7.68, range 1 to 10
- Internal and External Communications Plan to Address Suspected, Presumptive or Confirmed Positive Cases
 - Districts average 8.13, range 3 to 10 | Charters average 7.59, range 1 to 10
- Cloth Face Coverings, Cleaning & Hygiene
 - Districts average 8.65, range 5 to 10 | Charters average 8.42, range 1 to 10

NCDHHS Next Steps from Survey Results

- 1. Provide our Local Health Departments with more tools that will support COVID-19 communications with traditional K – 12 and charter schools**
- 2. Consult with our education partners on best approaches to provide public health operational supports to charter schools**
- 3. Work with our education partners to follow up with districts and charter schools who self-identified as seeking additional support**
- 4. Work with our education partners to follow up with districts and charter schools who did not respond to the survey**

Approaches to School Reopening

Among survey respondents:

**11 school districts and
10 individual charter schools**

reported a Plan B approach that prioritizes bringing back younger children for in-person instruction, with older children doing primarily remote learning

School-Age Care Needs

Working families may need safe child care options during the school day for children to participate in remote learning

- **Plan C: About 64 school districts (representing about 987,000 students) started the school year fully remote in Plan C**
 - **Some children in Plan C schools may need care 5 days a week.**
- **Plan B: About 51 school districts started the school year in Plan B (hybrid) – some children will need care on days they are not attending in-person instruction.**
 - **Some children in Plan B schools may need care several days a week.**

Licensed Care Available Across State

- NCDHHS promoting child care hotline to connect families to licensed child care programs
- Flyers available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- [Social media graphics](#) to promote hotline available in English and Spanish
- Parent Toolkit – What To Know When Looking for School-Age Care available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)



#StayStrongNC

If you need child care for school-age children, call 1-888-600-1685 to be connected with options.

In partnership with NC's Child Care Resource and Referral system, representatives are available to assist weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST. Care options are also available for children from infants through age 12.

When you call the hotline, child care referral specialists will provide referrals to licensed child care programs that are open and have vacancies for the age of the child(ren) for whom care is being requested.

Availability of child care varies from community to community.

Call: 1-888-600-1685



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

www.ncdhhs.gov | NCDHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. | 8/7/20

Additional School Age Care Options

In communities where there is not enough licensed child care to meet the need for school-age care, public schools can help to fill the gap

- NC Child Care Commission adopted emergency rules allowing public schools to contract with community-based organizations (such as YMCAs, Parks and Recs, Boys and Girls Clubs, non-profits) to serve as Remote Learning Facilities
- Public schools can also offer care at school site
- At school or community-based organization, must meet K-12 health and safety guidance under Plan B, such as:
 - Daily symptom screening
 - Social distancing of 6 feet
 - Cleaning and hygiene
 - Cloth face coverings

Resources for Schools and CBOs

NCDHHS has provided several resources for public schools interested in contracting with community-based organizations to serve as remote learning facilities:

- [Sample contracts](#) are available to serve as examples for entities pursuing contracting.
- [Operational FAQs](#) provide answers to questions from public school leaders, CBOs, child care providers, and local health departments.
- [Guidance](#) on recommended sanitation standards to ensure CBO sites are safe for kids
- NCDHHS is also available to assist CBOs with the process of obtaining a license to provide school-age care if they wish to do so.

Continue Messaging Around 3 Ws

If you leave home, know your 3 Ws!



WEAR

a cloth mask over
your nose and mouth.



WAIT

6 feet apart. Avoid
close contact.



WASH

your hands or
use hand sanitizer.