

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

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State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

School Report for Florida FAQ

1. Why does the report begin on 9/6 when students returned to school before then?
 - This was a new capability for our data system developed specifically for this purpose. The Department of Health began collecting and reporting the data as soon as it had the technical capability to do so reliably.
2. Does this list include virtual schools and students using an online learning platform?
 - Every school with a reported positive case of COVID-19 is included in the report, regardless of whether it is a virtual or brick-and-mortar institution.
3. Who submits this data to DOH? Where do the numbers come from? Does this come from the schools or county health departments?
 - Information reflected in the school report is collected by county health departments through state epidemiological investigations and represents the best, most accurate data available. All positive and negative test results come directly from the CLIA-certified laboratories where the tests are performed. This report utilizes the same surveillance data as the others available via FloridaHealthCOVID19.gov.
4. Why are there inconsistencies with various school district dashboards/reports vs. the DOH school report?
 - Information reported by the Department regarding positive cases of COVID-19 is based on CLIA-certified laboratory results, all of which must be provided to the DOH immediately upon determination. Please contact school districts for information regarding how they developed their reports.
5. Why aren't daycares listed?
 - The majority of Florida's childcare programs have been open for in-person services all summer and are still serving Florida's families. The report was created to help keep students, parents and teachers well-informed as students across the state returned to K-12 schools.
6. Why are universities listed and why are there discrepancies with what the university reports compared to the DOH school report?
 - This report was specifically developed to provide COVID-19 case information associated with Florida's academic institutions, including universities. It reflects every school-related case of COVID-19 that has been reported to the Department of Health.
 - Information reported by the Department regarding positive cases of COVID-19 is based on CLIA-certified laboratory results, all of which must be provided to the DOH immediately upon

determination. Please contact universities directly for information regarding how they developed their reports.

7. Is the Department still supplying school districts with COVID-19 data regarding schools?
 - County health departments currently provide confidential COVID-19 information on positive individuals and those in close contacts to positive cases who need to quarantine to schools, superintendents or other designated individuals in school districts as that has been determined to be necessary by the State Surgeon General.
8. Are the numbers in the school report based on voluntary or mandatory testing?
 - Every Florida case of COVID-19 associated with a school district and with a confirmed positive PCR or antigen test result from a CLIA-certified laboratory is included in the school report.
9. How does the Department distinguish cases that go on the pediatric report vs. the school report? Are there duplicate cases on those reports?
 - The School Report provides information regarding cases of COVID-19 in children and adults associated with Florida's school districts, while the pediatric report provides information regarding cases in Floridians under the age of 18. Both reports utilize data obtained through the Department's epidemiological investigations and are not exclusive of each other; pediatric cases in students are also represented on the pediatric report.
10. Do these figures reflect only those students who were in school buildings at the time? There are some reports from Miami-Dade, for example, where nobody was in public school but private schools were open.
 - The information in the school report reflects all laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in students and staff associated with all Florida primary, secondary and post-secondary schools that have resumed classes. This includes students and faculty who are learning from home and teleworking.
11. Just to confirm: schools without any cases are not on the list. Right?
 - All schools listed on the report are associated with a confirmed case of COVID-19.
12. Do you know how many students were in these schools at the time the cases were reported?
 - Please contact school districts, public charter schools or private schools for information regarding questions about individual schools. Generally, the Florida Department of Education can answer questions about students learning in-person in school districts.
13. Is it known whether any of these cases resulted in deaths?
 - While the Department is unable to comment regarding ongoing epidemiological investigations, we can say that data obtained through contact tracing has largely affirmed that children are not frequent spreaders of the virus and most pediatric transmission occurs outside of schools.

14. Is there any way of knowing whether any of these cases were contracted in school?

- While we are unable to comment regarding specific cases, we have seen low secondary transmission rates in schools across the state; viral transmission seems to occur almost entirely outside school campuses. When the Department receives information regarding a confirmed case of COVID-19 associated with a school, the county health department works hand-in-hand with the school district to ensure exposed individuals limit further spread of the disease by isolating.

15. Were students quarantined after every positive case was diagnosed? Who decided about if and who should quarantine – the schools, the county health department or the state health department? And do all districts have their own contact tracing system or is there one used throughout the state?

- As Florida's public health authority, the Department can ask individuals to quarantine or isolate in response to a confirmed case of COVID-19. County health departments work in conjunction with school districts to facilitate contact tracing.

16. What does unknown mean?

- Unknown means the information was unavailable at the time the report was generated. However, data are provisional and subject to change. As epidemiological investigations progress, more details often become available and cases are updated where appropriate.