

For further information on the COVID-19 Public School Case Report form, please see the 2020-2021 COVID-19 Public School Case Reporting Instructions and FAQ located in the Data and Reporting card under TSDS & PEIMS.

1. What is the source data for the Department of State Health Services Texas Public Schools COVID-19 Data report? Posted September 24, 2020

The data is reported by public schools using an online form on a weekly basis. Schools report by 5 p.m. each Monday any test-confirmed cases they had on campus for the prior Monday-Sunday timeframe and is then reported out publicly two days later. As a result, the posted data report has a lag and is not real time.

2. Does the public reporting of this data include charter schools and private schools? Posted September 24, 2020

All public schools, including charter schools, will be included in the data reporting. Private schools are not required to report this information, so they will not be included in the data set.

3. Why is the total number of students on campus an estimated number? Posted September 24, 2020

The total students on campus is an estimate provided by school systems as of the first week of school, which can vary from district to district. This number will be updated on October 7th and November 11th.

4. Why is the total number of staff an estimated number? Posted September 24, 2020

This number reflects the total staff, including teachers, support staff, and contractors employed by school systems in Texas during the 2019-20 school year. This data has not been collected yet for school year 2020-21. The number of estimated total staff will not change from week to week on the DSHS reporting page.

5. Will this data set match other COVID-19 reporting sources? Posted September 24, 2020

This data is self-reported by schools and only includes individuals who work or attend school on the school campus who are test-confirmed and have shared that information with the school. It will not match local reporting or other reporting sources if their parameters are not exactly the same as DSHS parameters for collection.

6. On the LEA level data file report, what does NR mean in the column marked *Total District Enrollment First Week of School*? **Posted September 24, 2020**

NR represents “Not Reported” and reflects that an LEA has not reported its enrollment data to TEA.

7. How do I interpret the School Reported Source of Infection column? **Posted September 24, 2020**

Districts are asked to indicate the source of infection, and the column describes, to the best of their knowledge, how a case was contracted.

- NEW
10/1/20
8. Will the hospitalization rate or death rate be included in this data set? **New October 1, 2020**

No, that information is not included in the report school districts must submit as part of the COVID-19 Public School Case Report form.

- NEW
10/1/20
9. Why are some districts’ COVID-19 case report dashboards different in format from the DSHS Texas Public School data display, and why do some of those district dashboards show different numbers than the state display provides? **New October 1, 2020**

Each school district can independently determine if it wants to share a separate dashboard. Because the information included in a district’s dashboard is not standardized each school district can determine what type of information is collected and shared on its dashboard.