

**K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education (ECE) COVID-19 Outbreaks and Reporting**

K-12 schools should report weekly aggregate case counts and core group outbreaks to the LDH COVID-19 Reporting Portal. If school systems need to be enrolled in the LDH COVID-19 Reporting Portal, please email [SchoolCOVIDreporting@la.gov](mailto:SchoolCOVIDreporting@la.gov).

Early Care and Education (ECE) programs should report outbreaks to their regional epidemiologist.

**Definitions**

**Core group outbreak:** At least three (3) student, teacher, or staff cases within a specified core group with symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other, **AND NO likely known exposure to a case outside of the school setting (e.g., household).**

- **Core group:** A core group includes but is not limited to extracurricular activity, classroom, cohort group, before/after school care, etc.

**School-wide outbreak:** 5% or more students, teachers, and staff with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 over a 14-day period

**Outbreak conclusion:** An outbreak is considered over when there have been 14 days without any new cases.

Use the below tool for each core group where multiple cases have been identified to determine if you have an outbreak(s).

Determining If You Have an Outbreak in a Core Group		
Question	Response	Interpretation
1a. How many cases have been identified in the core group?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If 3 or more cases, then continue to question 2.</li> <li>• <b>If less than 3 cases, then this is not an outbreak.</b></li> </ul>
2. Do cases have a symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If no, remove the cases that don't meet this criteria from your case count.</li> </ul>
3. Do any of the cases have a known exposure to a case outside of the school setting? (Note: if exposure to another case outside of the school setting is unknown, the case should be counted toward the school-associated outbreak)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If yes, remove the cases with exposure to a case outside of the school setting from your case count.</li> </ul>
4. After removing cases that don't meet the criteria in questions 2 and 3 are there still at least 3 cases in the core group?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>If yes, then this is a core group outbreak.</b></li> <li>• If no, then this is not an outbreak.</li> </ul>