

Louisiana Institutions of Higher Education COVID-19 Public Health Reporting

Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) are common congregate settings for young adults and often serve as large employers within a community. Public health investigations within these settings can be complex. It can be difficult to distinguish between transmission within the school versus detection of community cases, particularly in areas, such as Louisiana, that are experiencing high levels of community transmission. For individual COVID-19 cases, IHE, in collaboration with the Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH), should initiate prompt case investigation and contact tracing to prevent transmission and to ensure early outbreak detection. When multiple cases with the same exposure are identified, additional public health investigations in partnership with IHE officials may be required.

In order to systematically collect COVID-19 surveillance data that will be needed to inform public health actions, OPH has developed a secure web-based IHE reporting system for COVID-19. Case-based reports with specific patient information will not be collected through this system but may be requested by OPH staff if further investigation appears warranted. Aggregate case data will be collected on a weekly basis utilizing a survey that will be sent each Monday at noon; it is requested that reporting be completed each Friday by 3:00 PM. Suspected clusters/outbreaks should also be reported by phone to the appropriate [regional OPH office](#) as soon as they are identified.

OPH will collect the following data elements from each IHE upon initial enrollment:

1. COVID-19 point of contact and alternate contact
2. Total number of students enrolled
3. Total number of students attending classes on campus
4. Total number of employees
5. If on-campus housing is available:
 - Number of students that are housed on campus
 - Number of dormitories on campus
6. If isolation/quarantine facilities have been identified for students:
 - Number of students that can be isolated
 - Number of students that can be quarantined
7. Is contact tracing being conducted on campus?
8. Is any testing being performed by the institution?

OPH will collect the following data elements from each IHE on a weekly basis:

Cases (individuals with positive PCR or antigen test results, regardless of symptoms): Cases can be identified through on-campus testing or self-reported based on private provider testing.

1. Cases among students attending classes on campus
 - a. Cases among on-campus residents
 - Number of cumulative cases (upon initial report)
 - Number of cases since last report
 - b. Cases among off-campus residents attending classes on campus
 - Number of cumulative cases (upon initial report)
 - Number of cases since last report

2. Number of cases among students attending virtual classes only (if available)
 - Number of cumulative cases (upon initial report)
 - Number of cases since last report
3. Number of cases among IHE employees (includes faculty and staff) working on-campus
 - Number of cumulative cases (upon initial report)
 - Number of cases since last report
4. Number of cases among IHE employees (includes faculty and staff) working 100% virtually (if available)
 - Number of cumulative cases (upon initial report)
 - Number of cases since last report

Suspected Outbreaks/clusters: Identification of two or more cases with the same exposure within a 14-day period (e.g., exposure to the same dormitory, fraternity/sorority, social event, class).

1. Description/name of setting or description/date of event
2. Number of cases identified
3. Number of close contacts identified related to this cluster/outbreak
4. Date of first case onset or test (if asymptomatic)
5. IHE point of contact for further follow up