

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

What is the rolling 14-day period?

The rolling 14-day period begins with the date of the first positive case—i.e., the date of the individual's positive test result or, in the absence of a test result, the date the individual was first symptomatic.

For example, if a student is diagnosed with COVID-19 on December 1, and three more students in the building are diagnosed December 13, there are four total cases in the school's rolling 14-day period until December 14 (14 days from the date that the first student was diagnosed). The other three students then would remain in the rolling 14-day period until December 26 (14 days from December 13).

What students/staff members are included in a school building's rolling 14-day period?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [case definition](#) [Opens In A New Window](#) for COVID-19 includes both confirmed and probable cases. Therefore, the case count for a school building would include any individual (students or staff) with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 *who was physically* present in the school setting while infectious, including but not limited to, instruction, work, sports, or extracurricular activities.

NOTE: Cases and close contacts excused from school must complete their isolation or quarantine period regardless of how the long the school building may be closed.

If a student engaged in full remote learning is diagnosed with COVID-19, does this student count toward the total number of cases in a school?

No. The case count for a school building includes only individuals (students or staff) with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 who were physically present in the school setting while infectious, including, but not limited to, instruction, work, sports, or extracurricular activities.

When does a school building's case count reset?

The case count resets after the period that the school building is closed consistent with the [DOH/PDE guidance on recommended procedures following a case of COVID-19 in a school building](#). This closure allows time for case investigations, contact tracing, and cleaning and disinfecting to be accomplished prior to the building reopening. In other words, the rolling 14-day period restarts with the first new case – after the school building reopens.

NOTE: Cases and close contacts excused from school must complete their isolation or quarantine period regardless of how the long the school building may be closed.

If we are coming off a holiday break and have cases over the holidays, do we start new with the rolling 14-day window or do we count these cases from over the holidays?

Only individuals *who are physically* present in the school setting while infectious count toward the number of cases in a school.

NOTE: Cases and close contacts that occur over the holidays must complete their isolation or quarantine period prior to returning to the school building.

If a school building meets the case thresholds to temporarily close, can any student population still attend in person?

When building closure is required, the school must suspend all in-person instruction in that building. This allows public health staff the necessary time to complete case investigations and contact tracing, and to provide the school with other appropriate public health advice like cleaning and disinfecting.

When should a school building temporarily close as outlined in the procedures following a case of COVID-19 in a school building?

When a school reaches any of the case thresholds, the school building is to close consistent with DOH's procedures following a case of COVID-19 in a school building. School administrators should contact public health staff from DOH or the County or Municipal Health Department (CMHD) who will provide guidance and advice related to cleaning and disinfecting, contact tracing and quarantine recommendations, number of days of actual closure and/or the closing of certain areas of the school or entire school buildings, if necessary.

How do we determine building size?

Building size is based on the number of students who would be attending school in the building if not for the pandemic. Building size should not be based on the number of the students in the building when the case occurs or at the time of temporary closure.

For example, if there are 750 students enrolled in the middle school this year, the building size is medium.