Chicago School and Daycare Responses & Outbreaks

Data through 01/01/2021

All data are preliminary and subject to change as cases are investigated
Background

• Schools and daycares in Chicago receive reports of any staff or students with COVID-19 (cases) and reports them to CDPH

• Chicago schools and daycares need policies in place to:
  • Isolate cases
  • Identify, notify and quarantine close contacts
  • Notify the school community

• CDPH is available for consultation and to answer questions on isolation and quarantine

• CDPH also investigates clusters or outbreaks of cases to determine if spread could have occurred within the school or daycare and to provide recommendations to prevent spread, such as quarantine of a classroom
Definitions

- The Illinois Department of Public Health defines outbreaks and clusters in daycares and schools
  - Clusters are 2 or more cases in a school or daycare within 14 days
  - An outbreak in a daycare is 2 or more cases in 14 days linked to the same setting (e.g. a classroom) with no link to one another outside of the daycare
  - The definition of an outbreak in a school has changed over the pandemic as cases have risen and fallen, but is currently either 3 or more linked cases or 10% of a linked cohort within 14 days
    - Cohorts include classrooms or extracurricular activities
    - Close contact must have occurred at school and not, for example, at home
  - Cases in schools/daycares include:
    - In CPS district-run schools: cases publicly reported by CPS on their data dashboard, reflecting cases that were present in the schools while infectious/contagious*
    - In daycares and other schools: any case in the facility in the 14 days before through 10 days after start of symptoms or test date
    - Important to understand: School/daycare attendance (sometimes known as exposure data) does NOT indicate source of infection

*CPS reports cases in school while infections (2 days before through 10 days after start of symptoms or test date)
In the past 6 weeks, fewer than 5 out of every 1,000 Chicagoans with COVID-19 were part of a known outbreak*

*Includes cases considered outbreak-associated when linked to an outbreak in IDPH ORS by ORS ID; includes cases linked to out-of-jurisdiction outbreaks; does not include cases pending entry into iNEDSS or subsequent linking to outbreak IDs established by IDPH.
Chicago cases in schools (CPS and non-CPS) increased in December, similar to Chicago cases as a whole.

Data notes:
All cases are assigned to the week of report. Daycare-associated cases include cases reported by daycares to CDPH in the week of report. Cases who were in the daycare in the 14 days prior to their onset are included. All other school cases include cases reported by schools to CDPH, including private, religious, and charter schools. Cases who were in the school in the 14 days prior to their onset are included. CPS district-run school cases include cases publicly reported by CPS on the CPS dashboard. Only cases who were in the school during their infectious period are included. Data are preliminary and subject to change.
Most cases in Chicago schools have been in students compared to staff, primarily reflecting differences in vaccination rates.

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In Fall 2021, there were 100 school outbreaks among over 800 Chicago schools (including CPS and non-CPS). Of these, 94% had fewer than 5 students and/or staff.
Outbreaks at CPS

- 53 outbreaks across 51 CPS schools in this school year to date
  - There are over 500 district-run schools
- Outbreak size is small
  - Mean 2.5 cases
  - Most (64%) involve only students

As of 12/30/21. As of 10/1/21, a school-associated cluster/outbreak is defined as 3 or more epi-linked, lab-confirmed cases with onset within 14 days AND cases are not close contacts of each other in another setting (i.e., household) outside of the school setting or have a more likely known common exposure. Prior to 10/1/21, a school-associated outbreak only included 2 or more epi-linked, lab-confirmed cases. IDPH requires all outbreaks to be reported.
Less than 5% of CPS-reported **quarantined** students subsequently tested positive for COVID. (Remember, quarantined does **not** mean infected, it means being a close contact of someone potentially infectious with COVID)
COVID-19 vaccine coverage among all Chicago youth vs. CPS students

• Coverage among CPS students lower than citywide youth coverage, especially among teens

• Differences in names and birth dates between I-CARE and CPS enrollment files may lead to missing matches and underestimate coverage among CPS students

% with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine

- 12-17 yrs
  - CPS: 72.4%
  - Citywide: 57.2%

- 5-11 yrs
  - CPS: 35.8%
  - Citywide: 32.3%

Data as of 1/04/2022. Vaccination records in I-CARE were matched to CPS student rosters using first name, last name, and date of birth. Vaccination records may not match to the correct student if names and dates of birth between the two systems do not match or the student’s vaccination history is not documented in I-CARE. False matches due to identical names and dates of birth are possible. I-CARE does not contain doses of vaccine given outside of Illinois or by federal agencies (e.g., Veterans Health Administration).