



Statement from Summit County Health Department on School-Associated Cases

(November 12, 2021) —Over the last week, many have inquired about the process used to determine the case counts in Summit County, Utah schools. On August 21, 2021, when Public Health Order 2021-01 (Elementary Schools) was issued, the guidance for school-associated cases used the 2-day infectious period as the deciding timeline for school cases. After further review, the Utah Department of Health determined that a school-associated case is defined as:

"School-associated cases are defined as confirmed cases who have attended, worked in, or visited a K-12 school in-person for more than 15 minutes while symptomatic or in the 14 days before their symptom onset. This definition captures cases who were at a school during their exposure period and were potentially exposed at the school. It does not necessarily mean the individual contracted COVID-19 from being exposed to the virus while at school."

This definition is further supported by SB107 <https://le.utah.gov/~2021/bills/static/SB0107.html>

Per Summit County Public Health Order 2021-02 (Middle Schools), which was issued on September 23rd, 2021, the Summit County Health Department is committed to aligning with statewide efforts in identifying school-associated cases. The language provided in Public Health Order 2021-02 (Middle Schools) reads:

"The methodology for determining a school-associated case is set by the Utah Department of Health and applies to all staff, faculty, and students who meet the established criteria."

Given this information and the language contained within the Summit County Public Health Order 2021-02 (Middle Schools), the Summit County Health Department will begin counting school-associated cases using the current guidance provided by the Utah Department of Health and Senate Bill 107.

Per the CDC case definition, a case of COVID-19 must be confirmed positive with a laboratory test performed by a CLIA licensed laboratory, Doctor's office, school, or local health department to be recognized as a confirmed case. Only confirmed cases, as previously defined, are counted towards the 2% positive threshold needed to mandate masks in Summit County schools. Given this explanation, home tests performed by individuals without a CLIA license cannot be counted towards the school-associated cases. Individuals who test positive using an at-home COVID-19 test are encouraged to be re-tested at a CLIA approved testing site. A list of CLIA approved testing sites can be found here: <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/utah-covid-19-testing-locations/>