*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley*Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:**  | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner |
| **Date:**  | October 9, 2020 |
| **Subject:** | Update on COVID-19 Action Steps to Support Schools, Students, and Families  |

Since our meeting on September 29, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has started reporting data on the number of positive COVID-19 cases that school districts (including charter schools), collaboratives, and approved special education schools report to us. The data, which we are posting every Thursday [on our website](http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/positive-cases/), only represents what has been reported to us.

Please note the following definitions:

1. Reported positive cases for students: Number of reported positive cases for students who are learning in hybrid or in-person learning models only (excludes students learning in fully remote models)
2. Reported positive cases for staff: Number of reported positive cases for district staff members who have been in a district building within the seven days prior to the report of the positive case (excludes staff that have not been in district buildings during the seven days prior to the report of the positive case)

While DESE will not play a formal role in tracking or monitoring cases at a local or statewide level, this information will allow DESE to provide support to local officials, in consultation with local public health authorities, and to monitor statewide trends.

I will provide an update to the Board on this and other DESE activities at our meeting on October 20, 2020.