

Appendix D: Other State Dashboards

To better understand Ohio's Public Health Advisory System and COVID-19 dashboard, we looked at the other states' websites. All 50 states had a dashboard of some kind and we found examples from other states which Ohio could leverage in future outbreaks of this scale. The following images show examples of how other states provided public information in a way that was meaningful and easily understood:

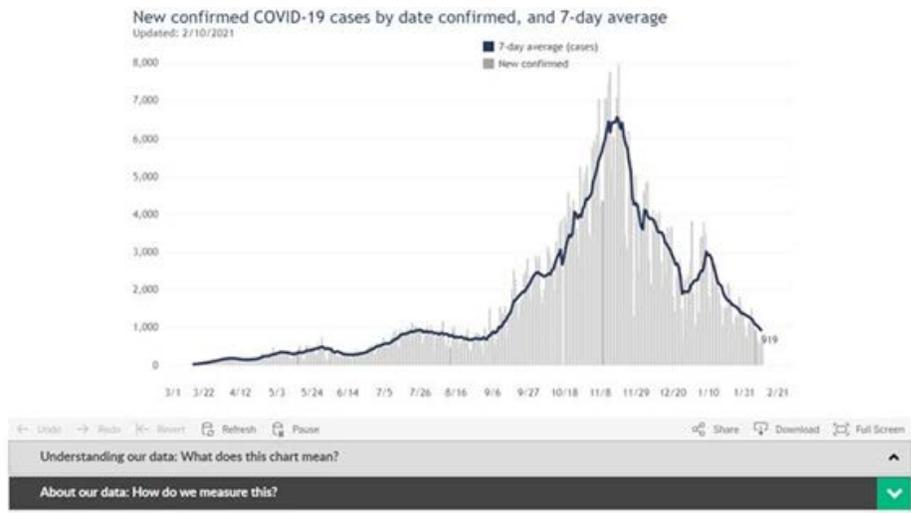
Texas DSHS Definitions



Source: Texas DSHS |

As shown in the image above, the Texas Department of State Health Services (Texas DSHS) has a single-stop website for data definitions used in its dashboard. The website includes clear and precise definitions for the data presented, often with the criteria included. For example, Texas defines 'confirmed cases' as, "A person who has tested positive through a molecular test that looks for the virus's genetic material." Texas uses the confirmed case definition adopted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Additionally, Texas defines 'fatalities' as, "Deaths for which COVID-19 is listed as a direct cause of death on the death certificate." A medical certifier, usually a doctor, determines the cause(s) of death. DSHS does not include deaths of people who had COVID-19 but died of an unrelated cause. Fatalities are reported by the location where the person lived, as listed on the death certificate.

Wisconsin DHS Definitions



Data source: Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS).

Read our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information on how cases of COVID-19 are reported to WEDSS.

Every morning by 9 a.m., we extract the data from WEDSS that will be reported on the DHS website at 2 p.m. These numbers are the official DHS numbers. Counties may report their own case and death counts on their own websites. Because WEDSS is a live system that constantly accepts data, case and death counts on county websites will differ from the DHS counts if the county extracted data from WEDSS at a different time of day. Please consult the county websites to determine what time of day they pull data from WEDSS. Combining the DHS and local totals will result in inaccurate totals.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19: Unless otherwise specified, the data described here are confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported to WEDSS. Cases are classified using the [national case definition established by the CDC](#). Confirmed cases are those that have positive results from diagnostic, confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests or nucleic acid amplification tests (NAT) that detect genetic material of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Illnesses with only positive antigen or positive antibody test results do not meet the definition of confirmed and are not included in the number of confirmed cases.

COVID-19 Deaths: Unless otherwise specified, COVID-19 deaths reported on the DHS website are deaths among confirmed cases of COVID-19 that meet the vital records criteria set forth by the CDC and Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) case definition. Those are deaths that have a death certificate that lists COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 as an underlying cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death. Deaths associated with COVID-19 must be reported by health care providers or medical examiners/coroners, and recorded in WEDSS by local health departments in order to be counted as a COVID-19 death. Deaths among people with COVID-19 that were the result of non-COVID reasons (e.g., accident, overdose, etc.) are not included as a COVID-19 death. For more information see the [FAQ page](#).

Probable cases of COVID-19 and deaths among probable cases. Some visualizations include the option of including information on probable cases of COVID-19 and deaths among probable cases of COVID-19. Cases are classified using the [national case definition established by the CDC](#) and the CSTE (<https://www.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/>). A person is counted as a probable* case of COVID-19 if they are not positive by a confirmatory laboratory test method (for example, a PCR, or NAT test), but have met one of the following:

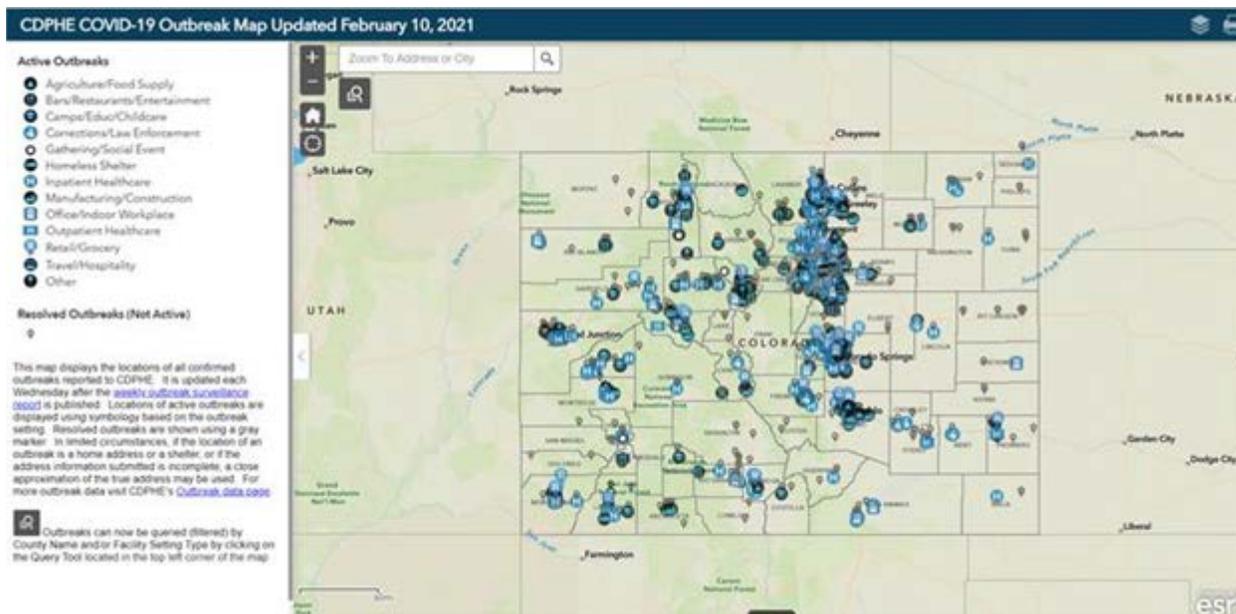
1. Test positive using an antigen test method.
2. Have symptoms of COVID-19 AND known exposure to COVID-19 (for example, being a close contact of someone who was diagnosed with COVID-19).
3. COVID-19 or SARS-CoV-2 is listed on the death certificate.

*This definition was updated as of August 19, 2020. Previously, probable cases also included those that had a positive antibody test which detects COVID-19 antibodies in the blood. For more details on this transition, see the [CDC's statement](#).

Source: Wisconsin DHS |

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (Wisconsin DHS) provides information below their visuals in sections called “Understanding our data: What does this chart mean?” and “About our data: How do we measure this?” Including this information increases transparency and clarity for the public.

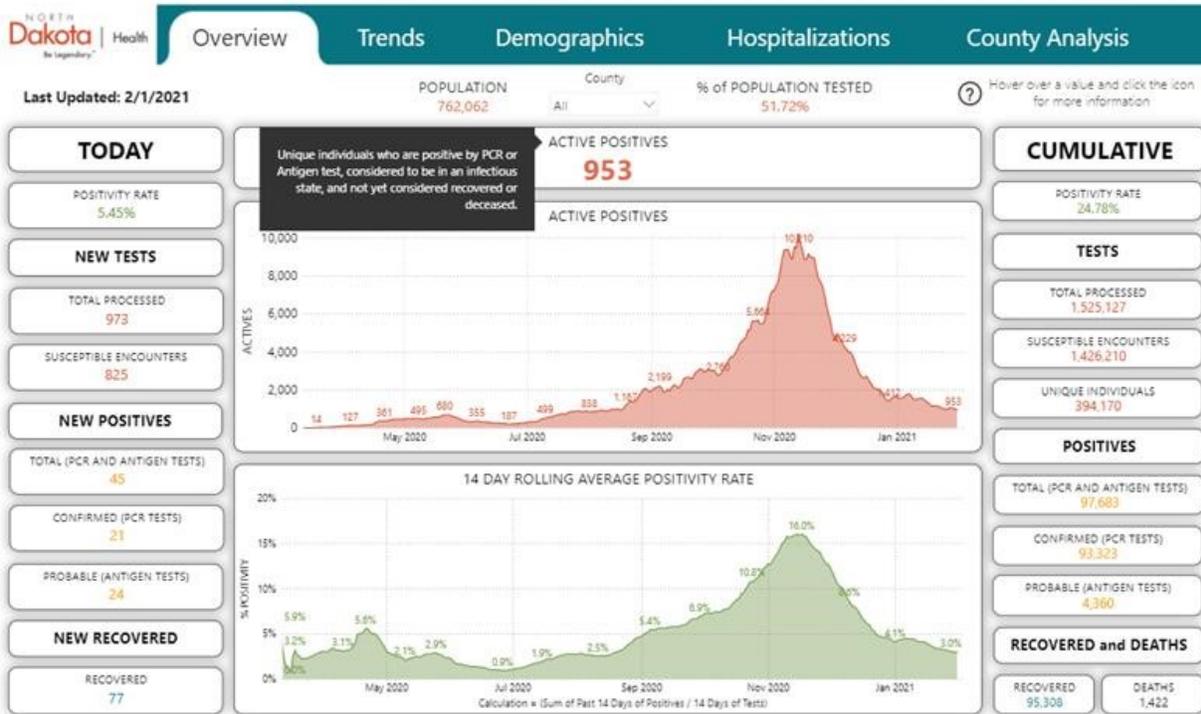
Colorado Outbreak Map



Source: Colorado DPHE |

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (Colorado DPHE) updates an outbreak map weekly, shown above. This outbreak map displays the location of all confirmed outbreaks reported to the Colorado DPHE. Outbreak locations on the map include: bars/restaurants/entertainment, offices, gathering spaces, inpatient and outpatient healthcare, offices/indoor workplaces, and more. As Ohio develops its use of location data, the state can leverage this technology for outbreak maps. This helps residents weigh the risks involved with certain activities.

North Dakota Dashboard



Source: North Dakota Department of Health |

The North Dakota Department of Health (North Dakota DH) displays active positives. The definition is clearly listed on the visual.