



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Mohammed Choudhury
DATE: September 28, 2021
SUBJECT: Reopening Logistics and Transmission Rates in Schools

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to provide an overview of Reopening Logistics and Transmission Rates in Schools.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

The first day for schools to open for full in-person instruction in the 2021-2022 school year began with schools opening in Frederick County on August 18, 2021. Allegany County Public Schools opened on August 25, 14 school systems opened the week of August 30, and the remaining eight school systems opened the week of September 7. The opening of schools in the 2021-2022 school year required the development of extensive logistics, detailed planning, and more considerations than any previous year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

How the local school systems addressed vaccinations, ventilation, physical distancing, screening, testing, and contact tracing, scenario preparation (i.e., what are the plans in the event of students or staff testing positive for COVID-19), guidance, and messaging will be shared. In addition, data on cases and numbers of students and staff who have needed to be quarantined since the opening of school will also be shared.

ACTION:

For discussion only.

ATTACHMENT:

Reopening Logistics and Transmission Rates in Schools PowerPoint



Reopening Logistics and Transmission Rates in Schools

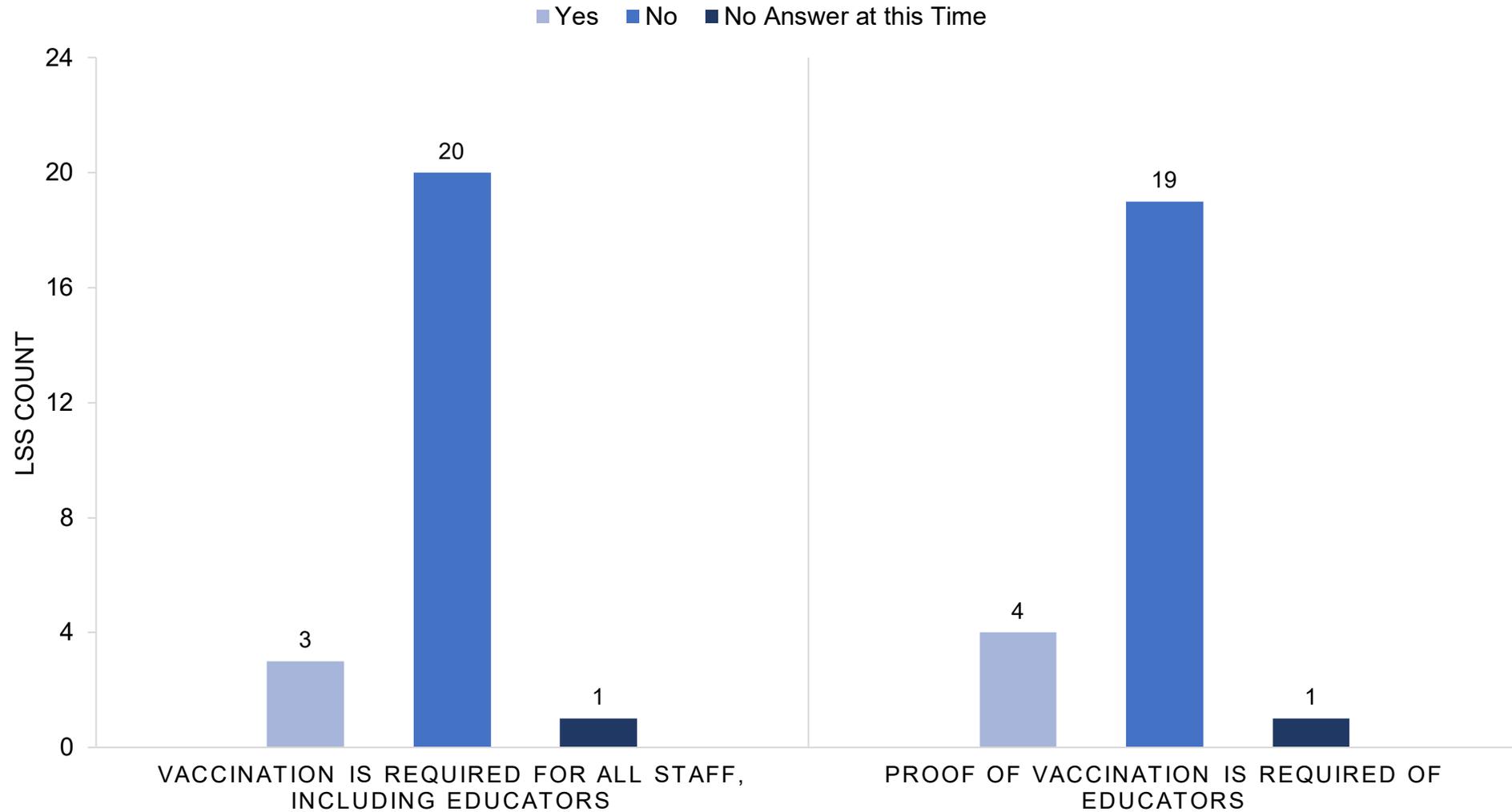
Maryland State Board of Education

September 28, 2021

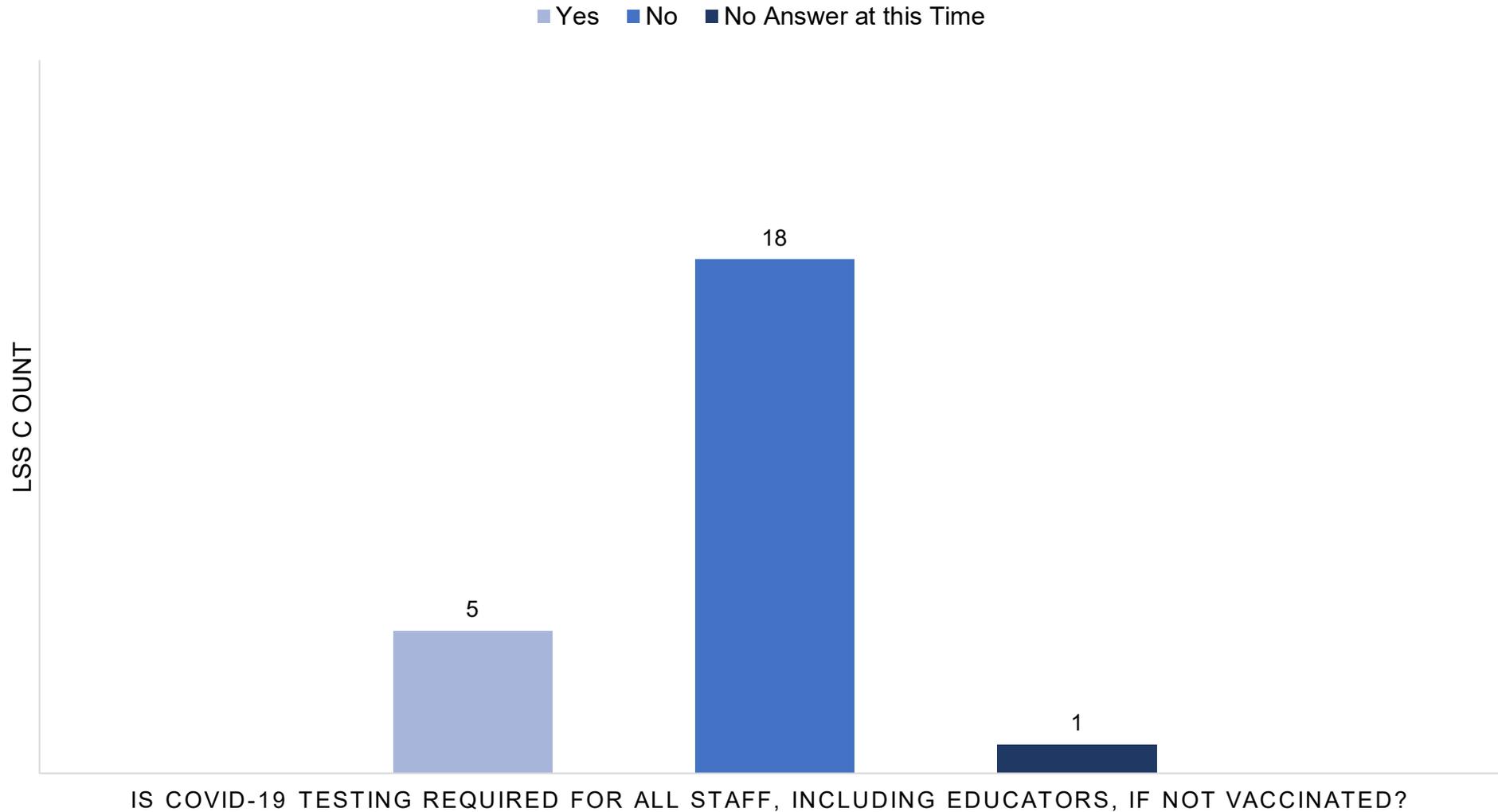
- The purpose of this presentation is to review **data collected in a survey of the 24 Local School Systems (LSSs) through September 15, 2021 (LSSs are updating the data weekly)**. The survey contains certain core COVID-19 related questions pertaining to reopening logistics, including:
 - (1) vaccinations;
 - (2) ventilation;
 - (3) physical distancing;
 - (4) screening, testing, and contact tracing;
 - (5) scenario preparation (i.e., what is the plan if a student or educator tests positive, etc.);
and
 - (6) guidance and messaging.
- The presentation also includes data published by the Maryland Department of Health on the most recent positivity rates as well as the 7-day moving average case rates per 100K population for each county in Maryland.

Vaccinations

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS as of 9/22/2021



COVID-19 TESTING as of 9/22/2021

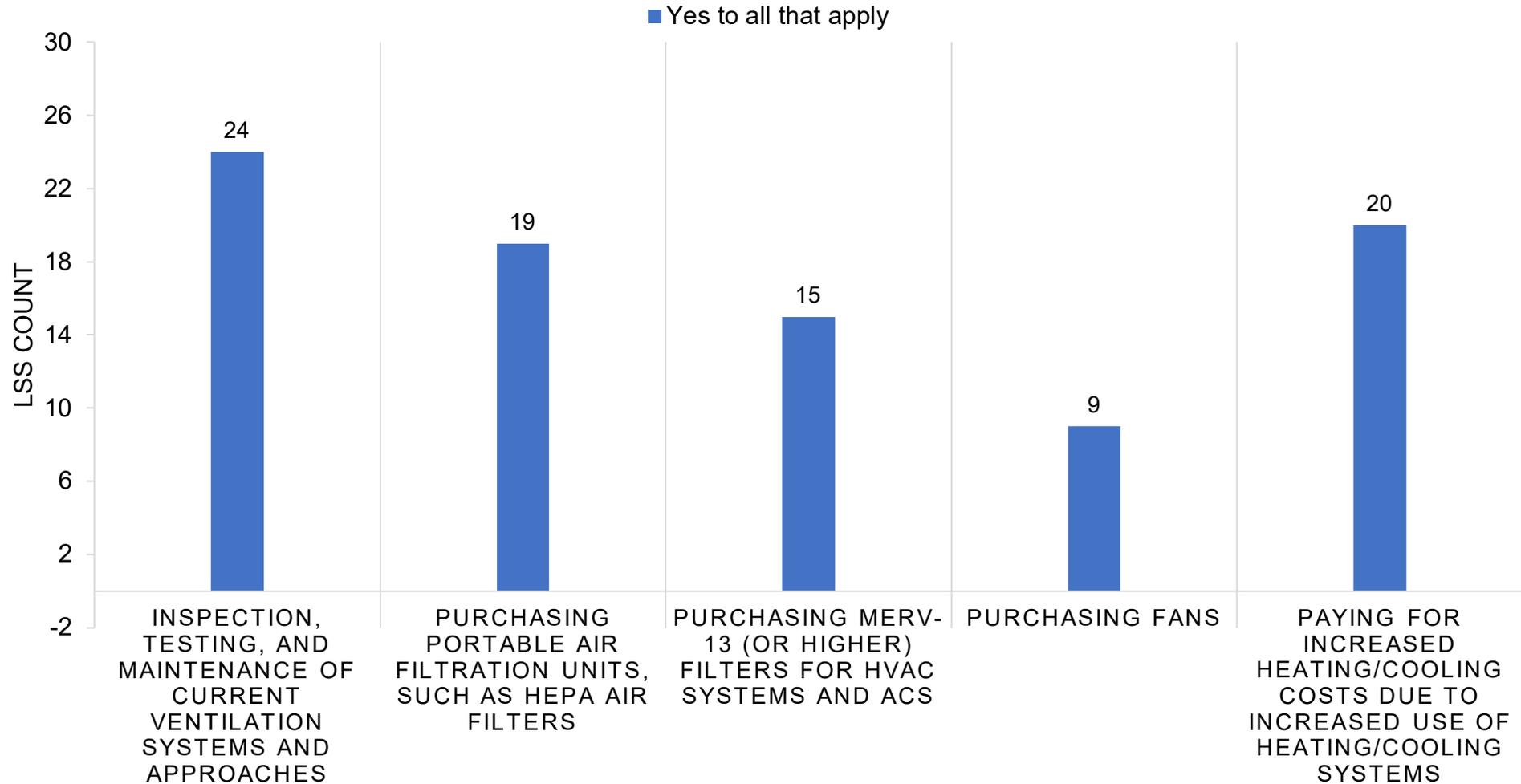


Percentage of Teachers Vaccinated as of 9/22/2021

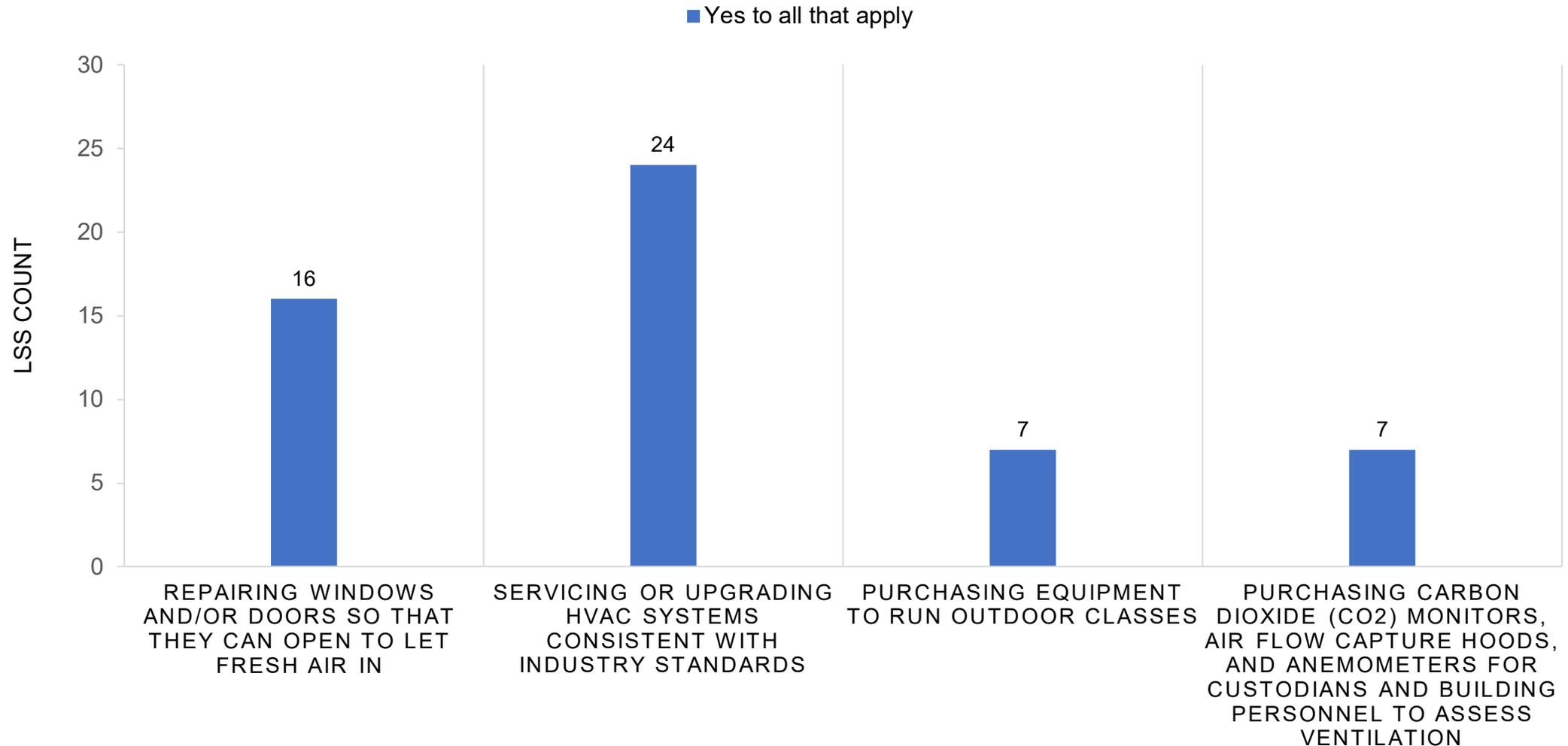
Allegany County	75%+ all of staff	Charles County	70%+	Prince George's County	87%
Anne Arundel County	Do not know	Dorchester County	48%	Queen Anne's County	Approximately 85%
Baltimore City	84%	Frederick County	70%	Somerset County	62%
Baltimore County	Still collecting data	Garrett County	76%	St. Mary's County	Approximately 77%
Calvert County	80%	Harford County	49% of teachers who are Harford County Residents	Talbot County	85% all staff
Caroline County	65-70% of all staff	Howard County	Approximately 85%	Washington County	72%
Carroll County	85% for all staff based on Health Dept info	Kent County	78%	Wicomico County	Approximately 57%
Cecil County	85%	Montgomery County	80% of the 82% who have reported	Worcester County	66%

Ventilation and Supplies

AIR QUALITY AND VENTILATION IMPROVEMENT



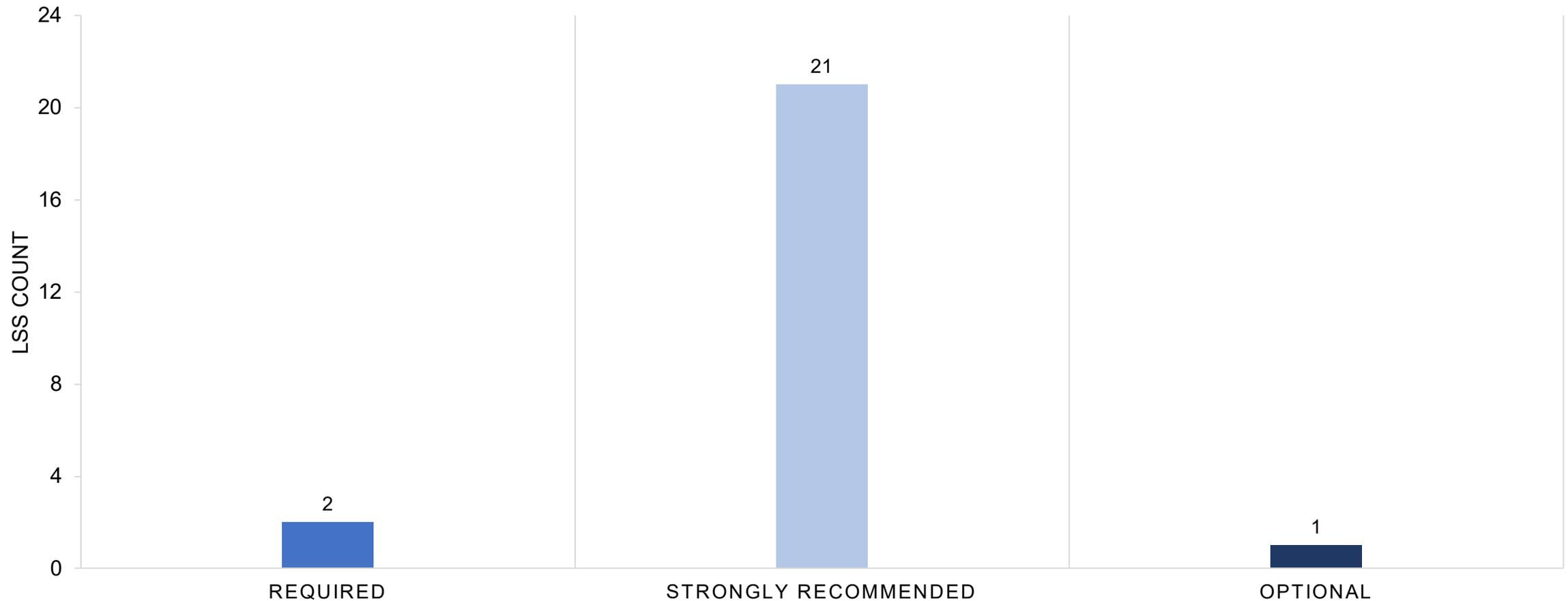
AIR QUALITY AND VENTILATION IMPROVEMENT



Physical Distancing

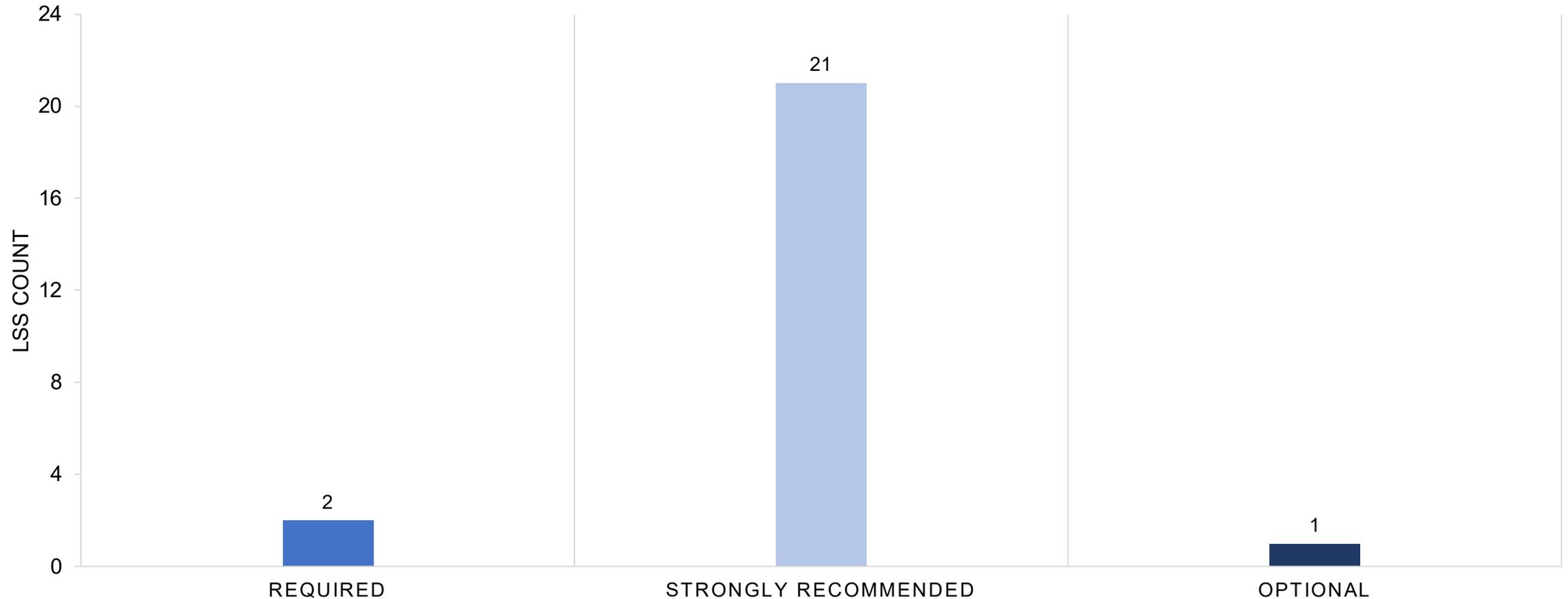
Physical Distancing

COMBINED WITH OTHER LAYERED PREVENTION STRATEGIES TO REDUCE TRANSMISSION RISK, AT LEAST 3 FEET OF PHYSICAL DISTANCE BETWEEN STUDENTS UNDER 12 WILL BE REQUIRED, STRONGLY RECOMMENDED, OR OPTIONAL



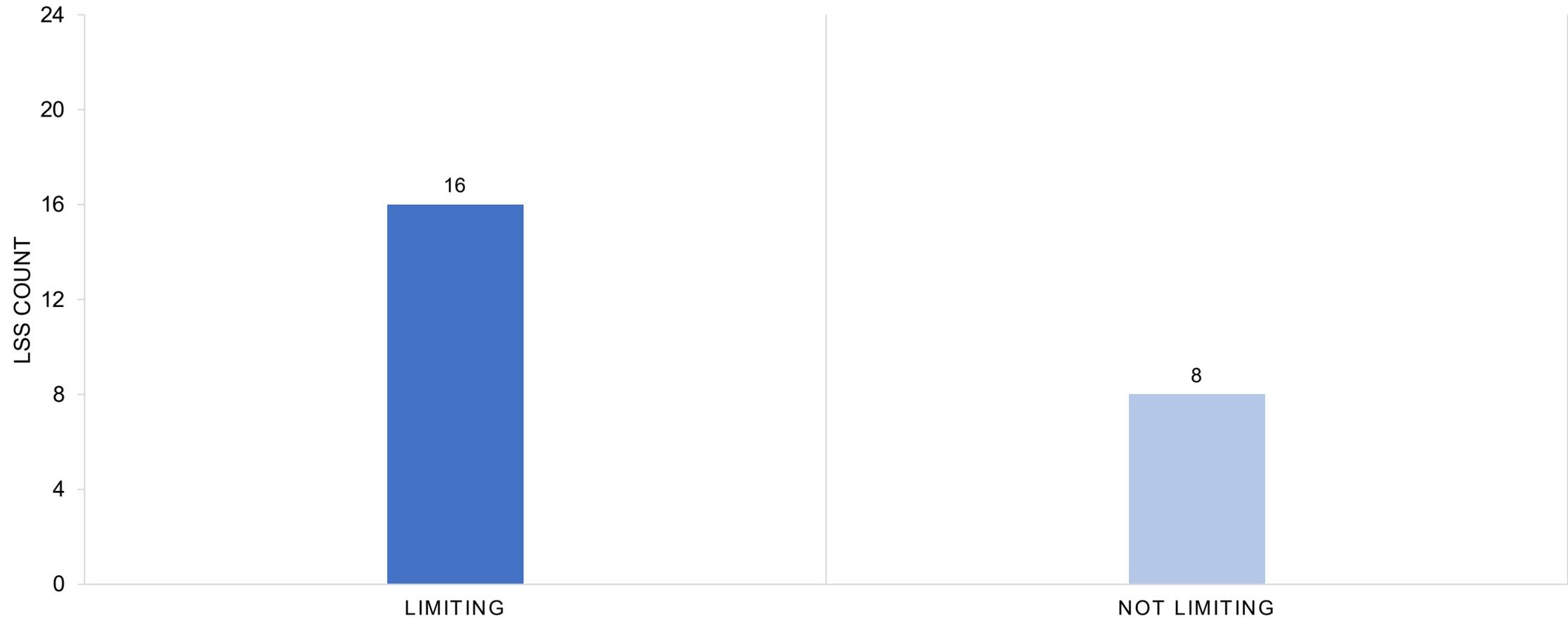
Physical Distancing

COMBINED WITH OTHER LAYERED PREVENTION STRATEGIES TO REDUCE TRANSMISSION RISK, AT LEAST 3 FEET OF PHYSICAL DISTANCE BETWEEN STUDENTS OVER 12 WILL BE REQUIRED, STRONGLY RECOMMENDED, OR OPTIONAL



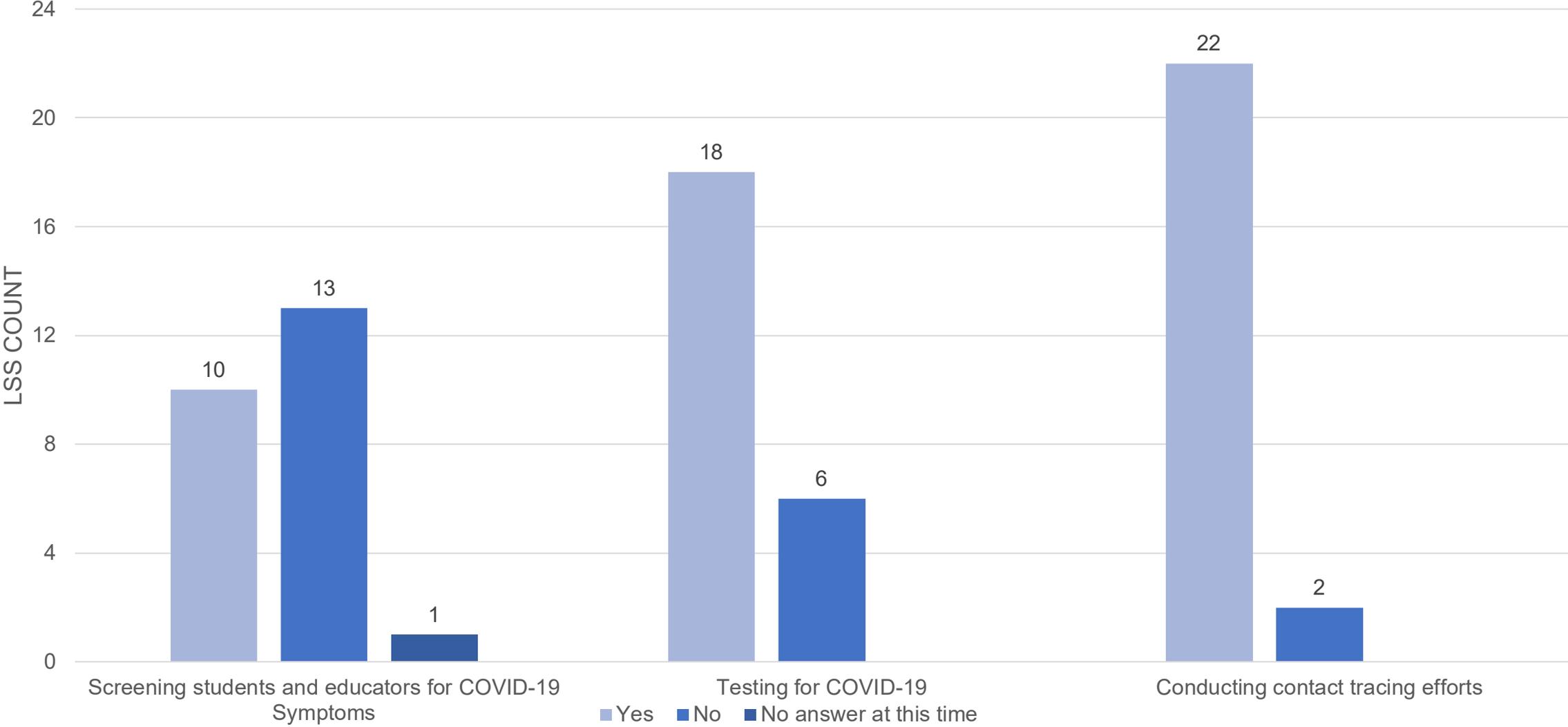
Physical Distancing

**NUMBER OF SCHOOL SYSTEMS LIMITING NONESSENTIAL VOLUNTEERS, AND
ACTIVITIES INVOLVING EXTERNAL GROUPS OR ORGANIZATIONS TO SCHOOL
BUILDINGS, REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS**



Screening, Testing, and Contact Tracing

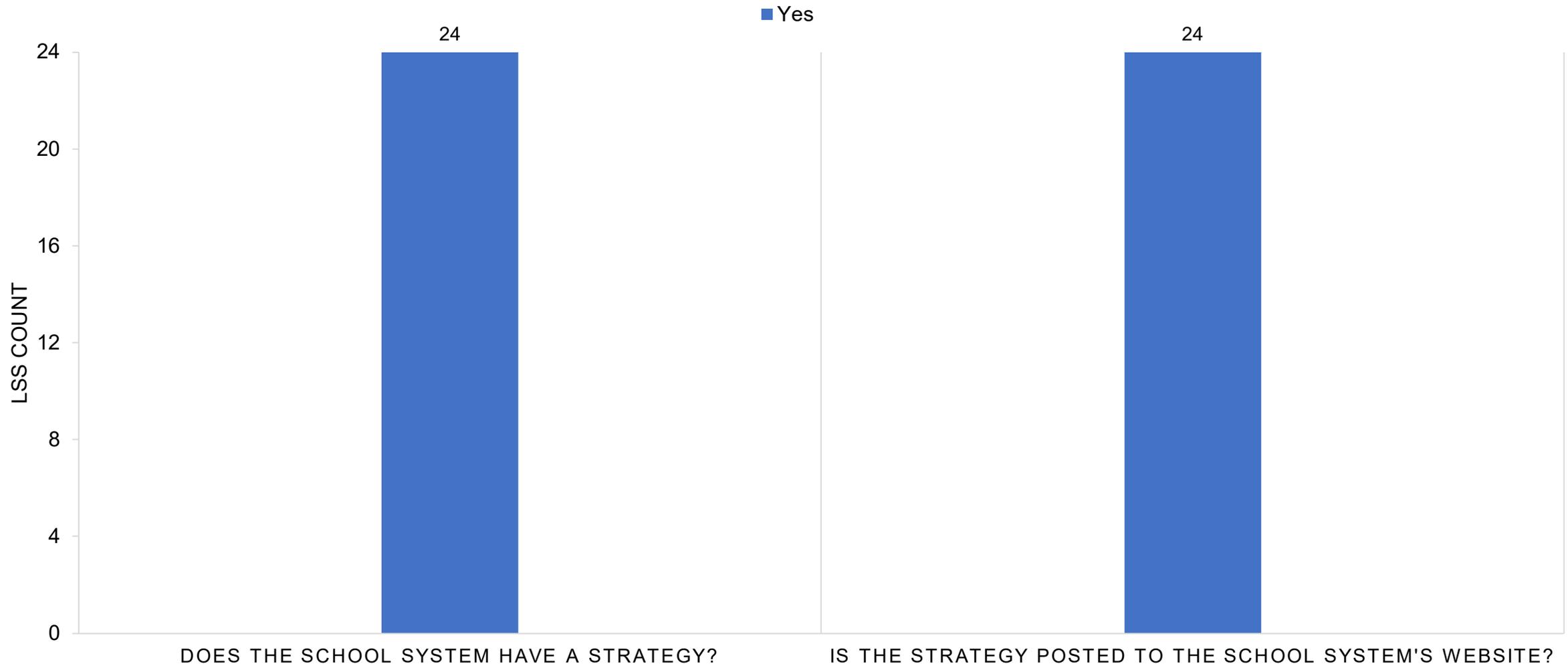
Screening, Testing, and Contact Tracing



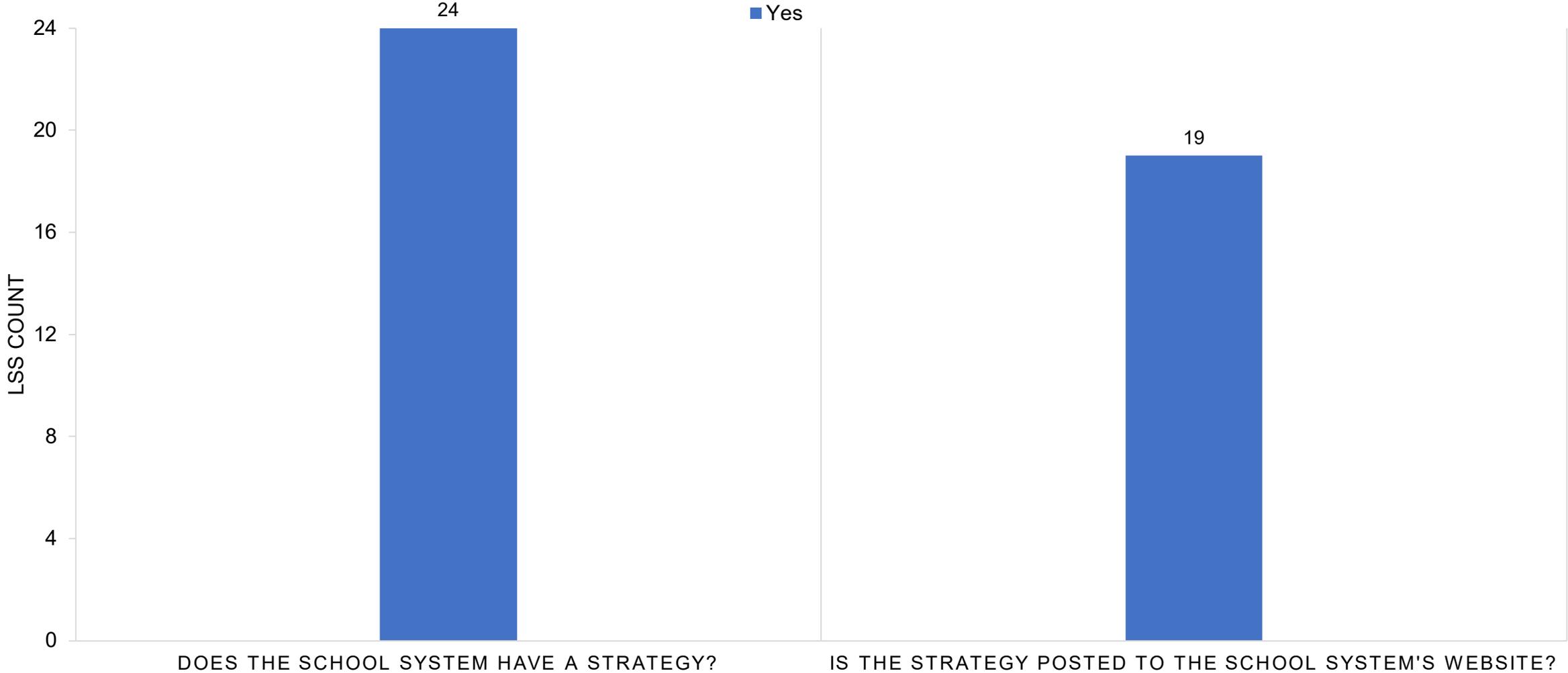
Scenario Preparation

Scenario Preparation

STRATEGIES IN THE EVENT THAT A STUDENT OR EDUCATOR, REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS, TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 OR HAS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19



STRATEGIES IN THE EVENT OF A COVID-19 OUTBREAK



Scenario Preparation / Staff Quarantine



The number of confirmed staff who have been required to quarantine due to close contact with a COVID-19 case since the start of the school year as of September 22, 2021

*Allegany County	17	*Charles County	20	*Prince George's County	470
*Anne Arundel County	9	*Dorchester County	16	*Queen Anne's County	5
*Baltimore City	42	*Frederick County	2	Somerset County	30
*Baltimore County	21	Garrett County	5	St. Mary's County	81
Calvert County	20	*Harford County	24	Talbot County	3
*Caroline County	7	*Howard County	16	Washington County	5
Carroll County	9	Kent County	0	Wicomico County	23
Cecil County	20	*Montgomery County	16	*Worcester County	14

Cumulative data as of September 22, 2021 since the start of the school year

***School Systems initiating the process of launching screening testing.**

Scenario Preparation / Student Quarantine



The number of confirmed students who have been required to quarantine due to close contact with a COVID-19 case since the start of the school year as of September 22, 2021

*Allegany County	814	*Charles County	386	*Prince George's County	3,008
*Anne Arundel County	1,512	*Dorchester County	564	*Queen Anne's County	101
*Baltimore City	220	*Frederick County	1,245	Somerset County	330
*Baltimore County	1,163	Garrett County	244	St. Mary's County	645
Calvert County	437	*Harford County	1,113	Talbot County	201
*Caroline County	287	*Howard County	1,341	Washington County	181
Carroll County	1,221	Kent County	1	Wicomico County	466
Cecil County	44	*Montgomery County	1,744	*Worcester County	222

Cumulative data as of September 22, 2021 since the start of the school year

***School Systems initiating the process of launching screening testing.**

Scenario Preparation / Staff Cases



The number of confirmed staff cases of COVID-19 since the start of the school year as of September 22, 2021

*Allegany County	29	*Charles County	51	*Prince George's County	185
*Anne Arundel County	24	*Dorchester County	10	*Queen Anne's County	5
*Baltimore City	30	*Frederick County	19	Somerset County	27
*Baltimore County	59	Garrett County	8	St. Mary's County	34
Calvert County	14	*Harford County	95	Talbot County	4
*Caroline County	10	*Howard County	30	Washington County	15
Carroll County	10	Kent County	1	Wicomico County	22
Cecil County	7	*Montgomery County	27	*Worcester County	8

Cumulative data as of September 22, 2021 since the start of the school year

***School Systems initiating the process of launching screening testing.**

Scenario Preparation / Student Cases



The number of confirmed student cases of COVID-19 since the start of the school year as of September 22, 2021

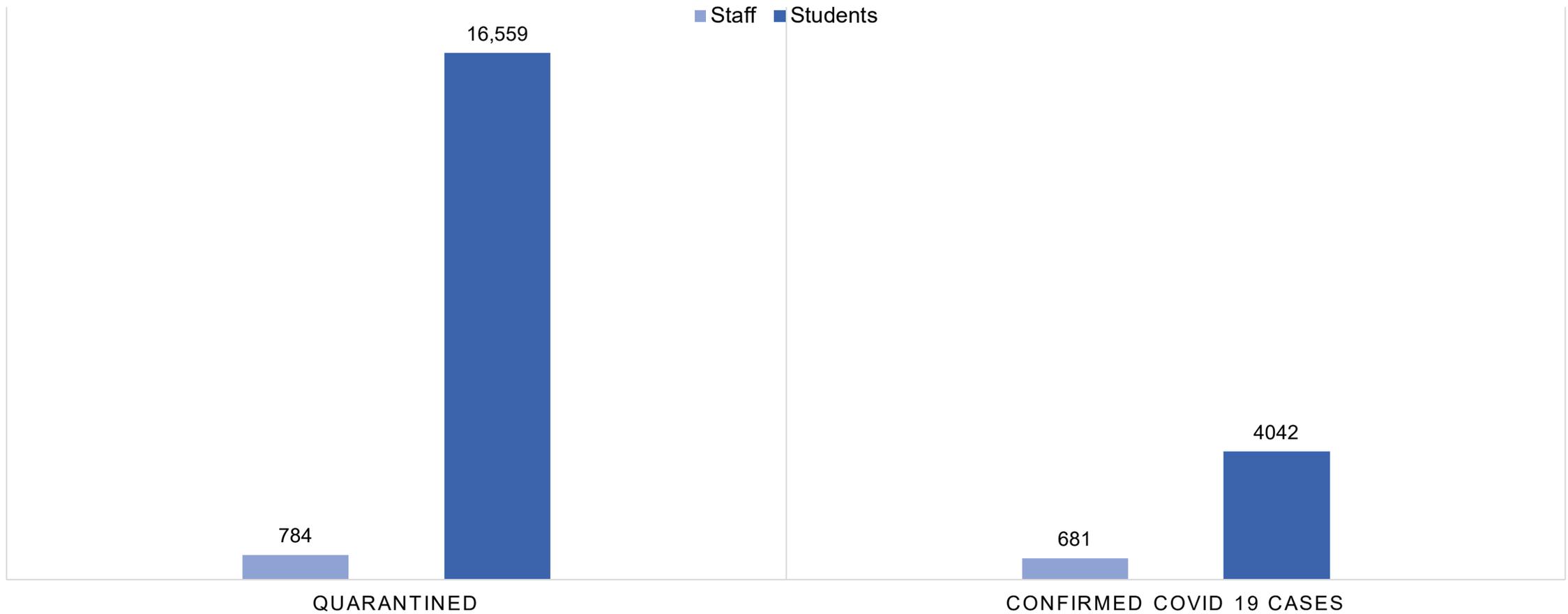
*Allegany County	203	*Charles County	330	*Prince George's County	188
*Anne Arundel County	278	*Dorchester County	68	*Queen Anne's County	31
*Baltimore City	76	*Frederick County	152	Somerset County	84
*Baltimore County	304	Garrett County	99	St. Mary's County	337
Calvert County	177	*Harford County	1,019	Talbot County	30
*Caroline County	74	*Howard County	172	Washington County	86
Carroll County	204	Kent County	0	Wicomico County	154
Cecil County	50	*Montgomery County	125	*Worcester County	41

Cumulative data as of September 22, 2021 since the start of the school year

***School Systems initiating the process of launching screening testing.**

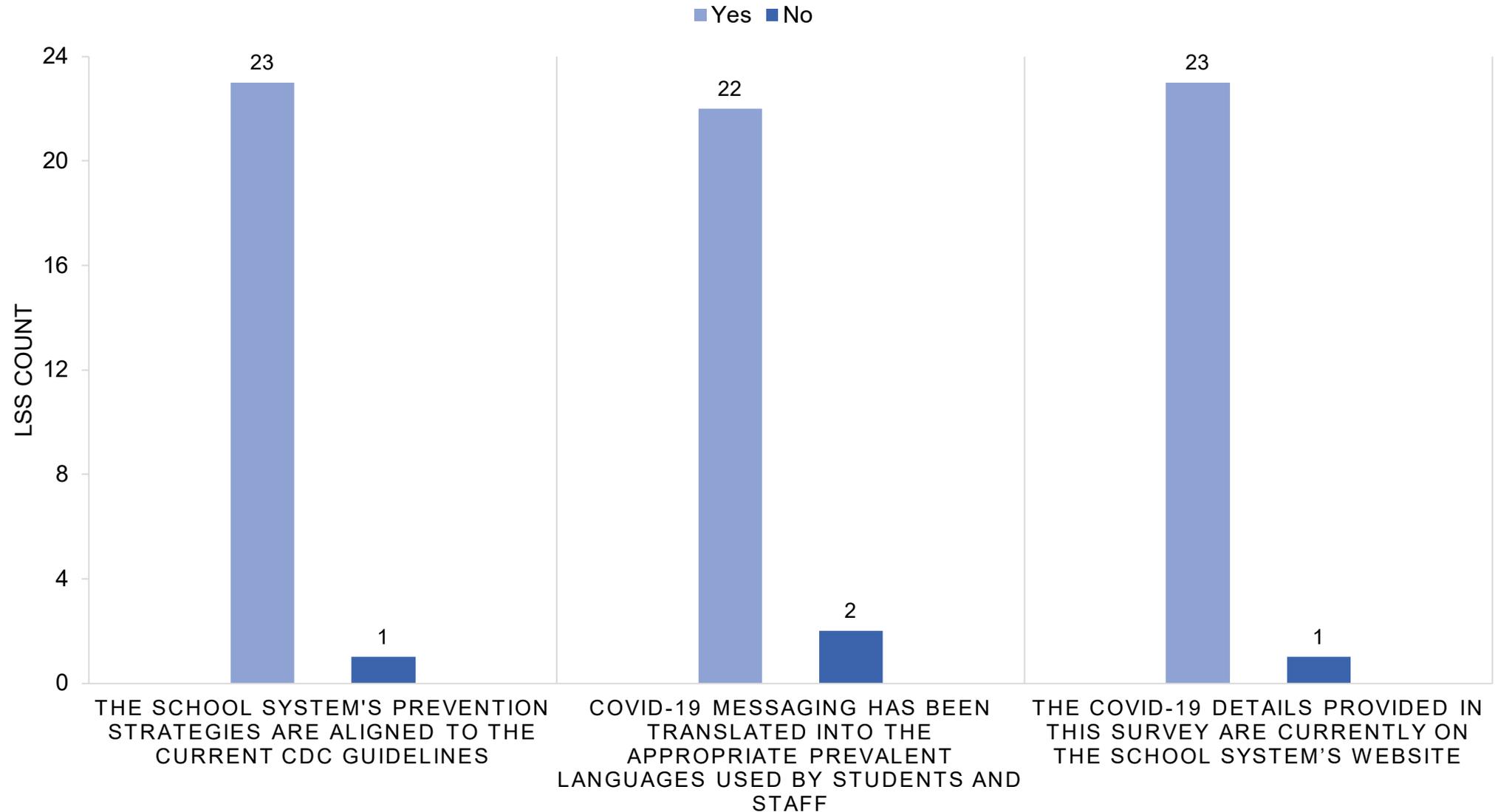
Scenario Preparation

STAFF VS. STUDENT COMPARISONS as of SEPTEMBER 22, 2021



Guidance and Messaging

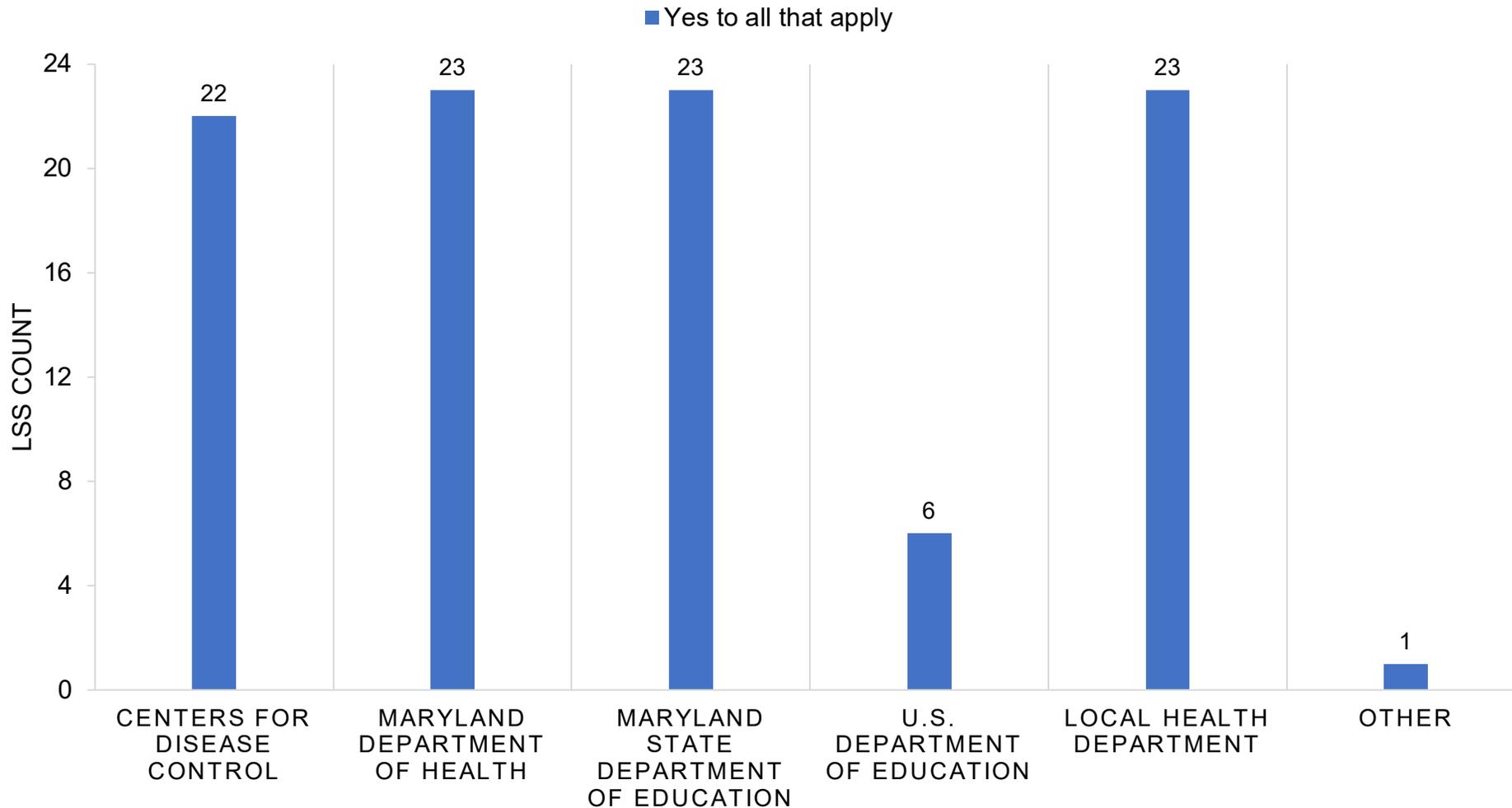
Guidance and Messaging



Guidance and Messaging



GUIDANCE THAT DETERMINES SCHOOL SYSTEM'S COVID-19 PREVENTION STRATEGIES



Other Guidance

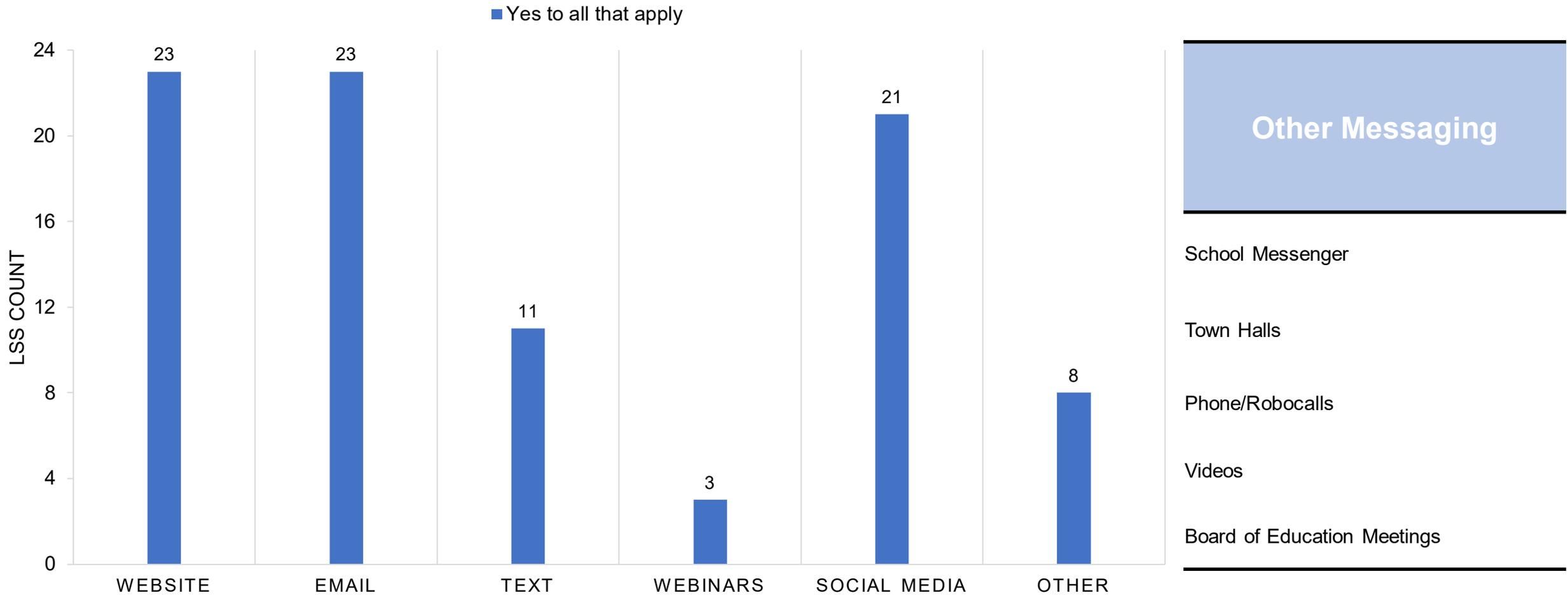
American Academy of Pediatrics

World Health Organization

American Society of Heating,
Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning
Engineers

Guidance and Messaging

MEDIUM USED BY THE SCHOOL SYSTEM TO PROVIDE COVID-19 RELATED UPDATES AND INFORMATION TO EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS



Positivity Rates,
7-Day Moving Average Case Rates per
100K by Jurisdiction, and
Active COVID-19 Outbreaks in LSSs

Daily Positivity Rate

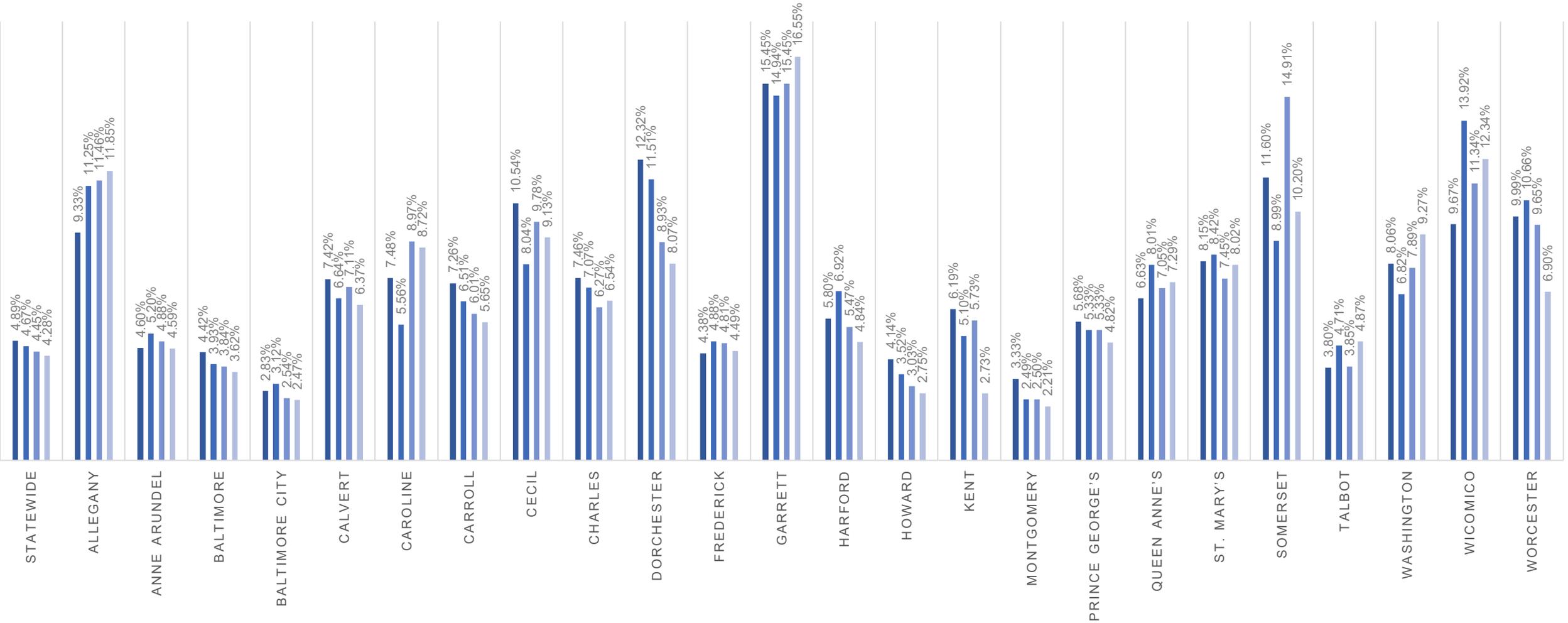


County	Sept 2	Sept 9	Sept 16	Sept 23
Statewide	4.89%	4.67%	4.45%	4.28%
Allegany	9.33%	11.25%	11.46%	11.85%
Anne Arundel	4.60%	5.20%	4.88%	4.59%
Baltimore	4.42%	3.93%	3.84%	3.62%
Baltimore City	2.83%	3.12%	2.54%	2.47%
Calvert	7.42%	6.64%	7.11%	6.37%
Caroline	7.48%	5.56%	8.97%	8.72%
Carroll	7.26%	6.51%	6.01%	5.65%
Cecil	10.54%	8.04%	9.78%	9.13%
Charles	7.46%	7.07%	6.27%	6.54%
Dorchester	12.32%	11.51%	8.93%	8.07%
Frederick	4.38%	4.88%	4.81%	4.49%
Garrett	15.45%	14.94%	15.45%	16.55%
Harford	5.80%	6.92%	5.47%	4.84%
Howard	4.14%	3.52%	3.03%	2.75%
Kent	6.19%	5.10%	5.73%	2.73%
Montgomery	3.33%	2.49%	2.50%	2.21%
Prince George's	5.68%	5.33%	5.33%	4.82%
Queen Anne's	6.63%	8.01%	7.05%	7.29%
St. Mary's	8.15%	8.42%	7.45%	8.02%
Somerset	11.60%	8.99%	14.91%	10.20%
Talbot	3.80%	4.71%	3.85%	4.87%
Washington	8.06%	6.82%	7.89%	9.27%
Wicomico	9.67%	13.92%	11.34%	12.34%
Worcester	9.99%	10.66%	9.65%	6.90%

Source: https://state-of-maryland.github.io/DailyPositivitybyJurisdiction/index_fullscreen.html

Daily Positivity Rate

■ as of Sept 2 ■ as of Sept 9 ■ as of Sept 16 ■ as of Sept 23



7-Day Moving Average Case Rate per 100K by Jurisdiction

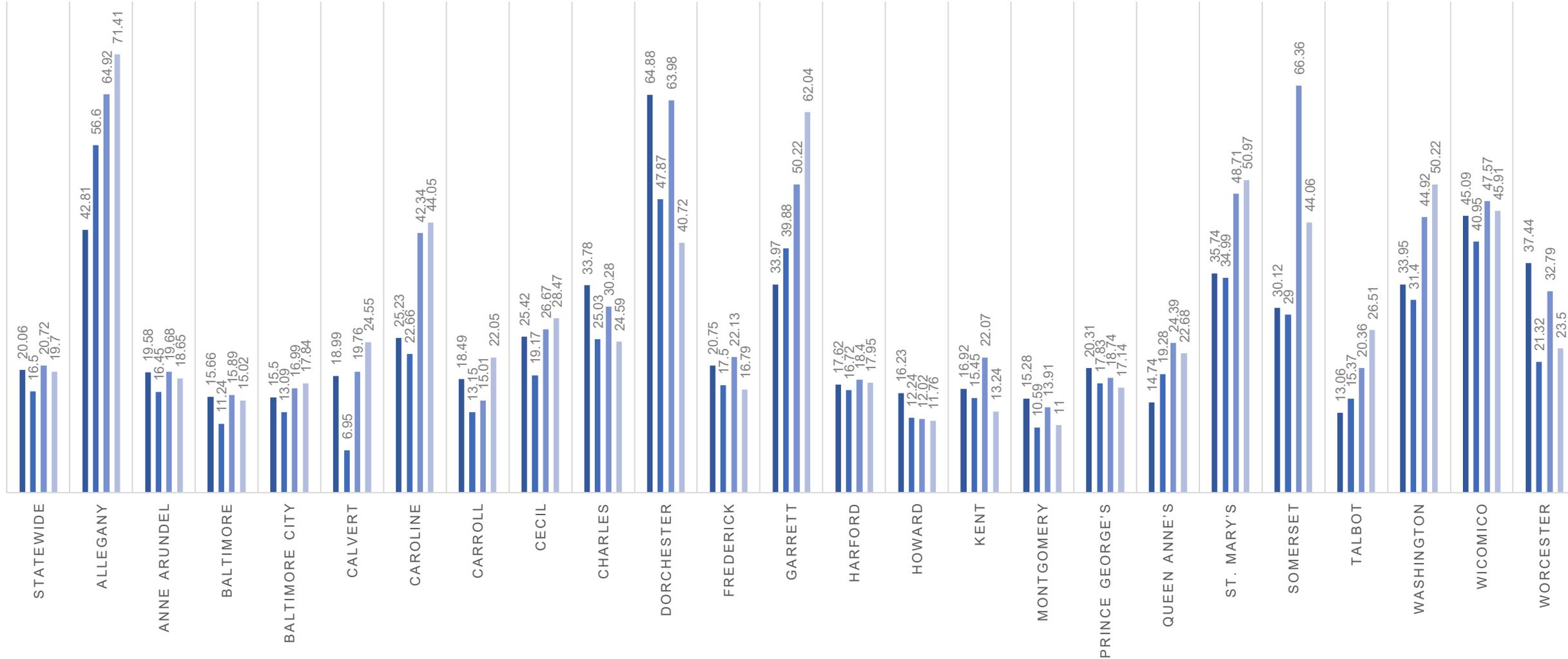


County	Sept 2	Sept 9	Sept 16	Sept 23
Statewide	20.06	16.50	20.72	19.70
Allegany	42.81	56.60	64.92	71.41
Anne Arundel	19.58	16.45	19.68	18.65
Baltimore	15.66	11.24	15.89	15.02
Baltimore City	15.50	13.09	16.99	17.84
Calvert	18.99	6.95	19.76	24.55
Caroline	25.23	22.66	42.34	44.05
Carroll	18.49	13.15	15.01	22.05
Cecil	25.42	19.17	26.67	28.47
Charles	33.78	25.03	30.28	24.59
Dorchester	64.88	47.87	63.98	40.72
Frederick	20.75	17.50	22.13	16.79
Garrett	33.97	39.88	50.22	62.04
Harford	17.62	16.72	18.40	17.95
Howard	16.23	12.24	12.02	11.76
Kent	16.92	15.45	22.07	13.24
Montgomery	15.28	10.59	13.91	11.00
Prince George's	20.31	17.83	18.74	17.14
Queen Anne's	14.74	19.28	24.39	22.68
St. Mary's	35.74	34.99	48.71	50.97
Somerset	30.12	29.00	66.36	44.06
Talbot	13.06	15.37	20.36	26.51
Washington	33.95	31.40	44.92	50.22
Wicomico	45.09	40.95	47.57	45.91
Worcester	37.44	21.32	32.79	23.50

Source: https://state-of-maryland.github.io/DailyCaseRatebyJurisdiction/index_fullscreen.html

7-Day Moving Average Case Rate per 100K by Jurisdiction

■ as of Sept 2 ■ as of Sept 9 ■ as of Sept 16 ■ as of Sept 23



Definition of an Outbreak



Classroom/cohort outbreak definition:

- At least two confirmed COVID-19 cases among students/teachers/staff within a 14-day period and who are epidemiologically linked, but not household contacts; or

School-wide outbreak definition:

- Three or more classrooms or cohorts with cases from separate households that meet the classroom/cohort outbreak definition that occurs within 14 days; or
- Five percent or more unrelated students/teachers/staff have confirmed COVID-19 within a 14 day period (minimum of 10 unrelated students/teachers/staff).

Source: Maryland Department of Health

Active COVID-19 Outbreaks by LSS – Cumulative Cases over Preceding 30 Days (as of 9/22/21)



Local School System	Students: Cumulative Cases	Staff: Cumulative Cases	Total: Cumulative Cases
Allegany	56	8	64
Anne Arundel	21	1	22
Baltimore	30	6	36
Baltimore City	15	1	16
Calvert	13	0	13
Caroline	7	1	8
Carroll	25	3	28
Cecil	8	1	9
Charles	9	3	12
Dorchester	33	1	34
Frederick	62	1	63
Garrett	5	0	5
Harford	8	2	10
Howard	18	3	21
Kent	2	0	2
Montgomery	2	0	2
Prince George's	17	3	20
Queen Anne's	6	0	6
Somerset	9	0	9
St. Mary's	31	9	40
Talbot	65	0	65
Washington	5	0	5
Wicomico	27	0	27
Worcester	15	3	18
Other Public Agencies	12	2	14
Totals	501	48	549

Source: Maryland Department of Health

Teaching and Learning during Quarantine



Instructional Models that will be provided to Quarantined Students

Allegany County	Assignments are posted through our Learning Management System (LMS), packets, online resources, and tutoring
Anne Arundel County	Virtual academic support by other than assigned teacher
Baltimore City	A combination of face to face live classroom instruction, virtual instruction, asynchronous assignments (posted on LMS or in packet format)
Baltimore County	Students will access their work in the LMS or packets will be provided. Students will be given extended deadlines and options for electronic submission of assignments. Students in need of additional support may access after school-based tutoring
Calvert County	Grades 3 – 12 students will be given an Required Quarantine (RQ) code for synchronous sessions. Teachers will provide Teams links to students with RQ codes and use existing technology to allow the student to log in for instruction. K-2 students will be provided packets.
Caroline County	Assignments are posted to Google Classroom. Phone calls and emails to assigned teachers.
Carroll County	Assignments are posted in LMS. Each school has a success coach who monitors student work and connects students and families with in-school support and wrap-around services
Cecil County	Asynchronous assignments posted on our LMS provided by their assigned teacher
Charles County	Each class has a website where all assignments are posted. Each class or subject has a teacher assigned for "office hours" during the day to provide virtual assistance to those in isolation or quarantine.

Teaching and Learning during Quarantine



Instructional Models that will be Provided to Quarantined Students (Cont.)

Dorchester County

Asynchronous assignments posted on Schoology

Frederick County

Schoology posted assignments, virtual tutoring, specialists, academic support staff and counselors are offering virtual office hours to assist with assignments.

Garrett County

Schools have the option of providing work through paper packets, books, online resources, Schoology, and other resources to help the student stay on track while absent from school. As a standard practice, synchronous virtual learning will not be available for students in quarantine or isolation unless the entire class, grade, school, or school system is moved to virtual only instruction. We are in discussions specific to providing support through tutoring and/or academic intervention

Harford County

Tutoring Assistance; Teacher created make-up work; Instructional materials in the LMS, itslearning

Howard County

Posting assignments on the LMS, providing packets, tutoring, and academic supports. Work packets

Kent County

Each class will post assignments through our LMS and provide tutoring

Montgomery County

Each class will post assignments through our CANVAS learning system and this may lead to virtual or asynchronous materials. Academic support/office hours will be available.

Prince George's County

Work packets and asynchronous learning activities, posted on the LMS, will occur for quarantined students

Queen Anne's County

Asynchronous assignments posted on Schoology and academic support office hours

Teaching and Learning during Quarantine



Instructional Models that will be provided to Quarantined Students (Cont.)

Somerset County	Student can log onto Google Classroom and see all assignments and resources needed or supplying packets as needed
St. Mary's County	Work is posted online with all assignments in Schoology. As with other absences, the school works directly with families to provide work and assignments to students. Teachers may offer Google Meet.
Talbot County	Information will be shared with students through our LMS
Washington County	Classroom assignments are provided in Google Classroom for students to complete asynchronously. Teachers are encouraged to allow students to enter the classroom virtually and to provide additional after hours or planning period tutoring
Wicomico County	Asynchronous assignments posted in Google Classroom and academic support office hours
Worcester County	Students will access the LMS Schoology

Summary of LSS Quarantine Models



- **Twenty-one LSSs post assignments on their learning management system.**
 - Aligned with classroom instruction
 - Completed asynchronously
- **Seven LSSs provide packets, online books, and/or resources.**
 - Each supports classroom instruction
 - Completed asynchronously
- **Eight LSSs provide synchronous after-school tutoring.**
 - Offered in individual or small group sessions by content area
 - Students will sign-up and/or be invited to tutoring sessions
 - Opportunities are based on teacher choice in one of the eight LSSs

Summary of LSS Quarantine Models (cont.)



- **Seven LSSs offer synchronous academic support/office hours.**
 - Established times provided for students to login for support or to ask questions
 - Opportunities are based on teacher choice in one of the seven LSSs
- **Three LSSs provide synchronous instruction.**
 - This occurs during the school day.
 - Students login to their actual classroom with their classmates
 - Opportunities are based on teacher choice in one of the three LSSs
- **One LSS assigns a virtual educator to take attendance and answer questions.**
 - Accomplished during established times
 - Not intended to be an instructional period
- **Two LSSs specifically stated that they provide opportunities for phone calls and/or emails with teachers as requested by student/family.**

Quarantined students will:

- (Individual Students) receive communication from their principal regarding technology and materials.
 - be provided asynchronous work on the LSS LMS (or packets)
 - have the opportunity to work synchronously with a BCPS teacher tutor during after-school hours
- (Full Class) receive a virtual school day schedule and attend synchronous instruction provided by their assigned teacher.

Quarantined students will be:

- (PreK-2) provided packets and learning activities to be completed at home.
- (Grades 3- 12) provided access to attend class virtually.
 - only students on quarantine will be permitted to log into their assigned class
 - access to instructional materials, resources, and learning activities on LSS's LMS
 - provided virtual simulations, software, or teacher-created materials for courses that meet outside or in lab areas

Quarantined students will be:

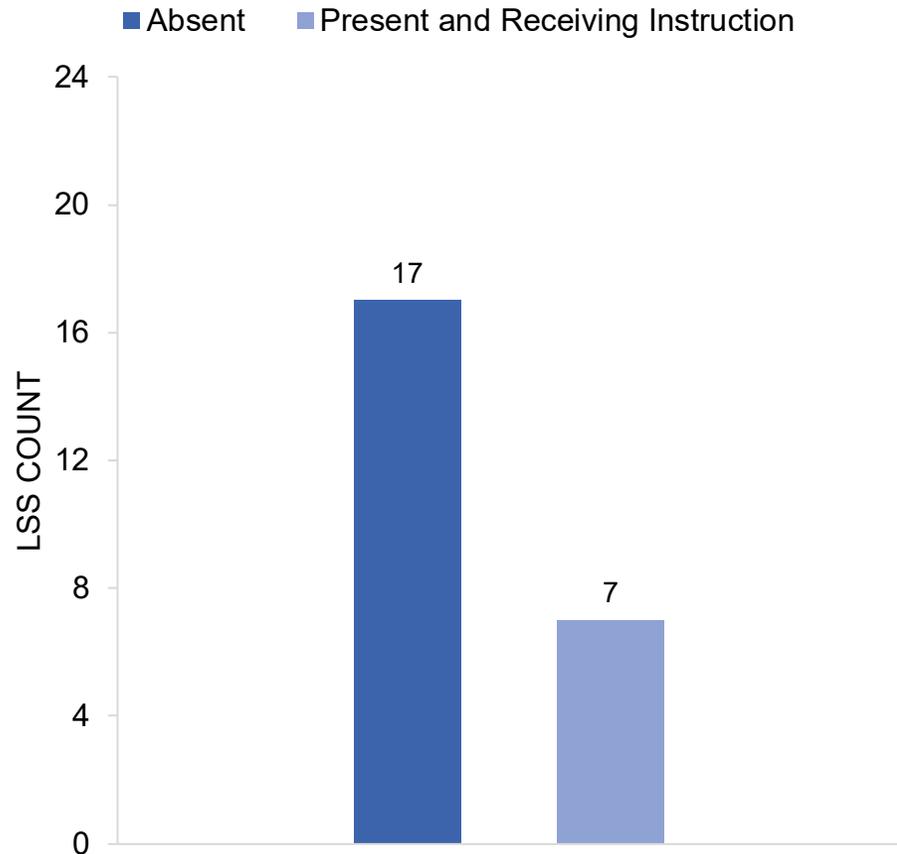
- (Individual Students) able to access assignments, videos, notes, etc. uploaded on LSS LMS by their teachers.
- (Individual Students) offered synchronous tutoring opportunities.
- (Individual Students) offered virtual office hours to support students with their assignments conducted by specialists, academic support staff, and counselors.
- (Full Class) provided synchronous virtual instruction.

Quarantined students will be:

- able to access assignments in LSS LMS.
- provided a tutor who will:
 - provide direct instruction for up to 6 hours each week.
 - provide weekly support and communicate with the family.
- coded as present if he/she completes assignments and meets with the tutor if needed or required.

Attendance Policy and Practices

HOW WILL ABSENCES FOR STUDENTS IN QUARANTINE BE CODED?



Absent Codes that will be Used

Code	LSS Count
13 Unspecified Illness	1
17 Health Exclusion	12
Note for some Health Exclusion entries: if a whole class, grade, school, etc. shifts to virtual learning students will be marked present or absence based on our virtual attendance policy	
A or if medical document is presented we will enter an M	1
DML, Documented Medical	1
QC, Quarantined certified absence or QP-Quarantined parent note	1
RQ, Required Quarantine	1
Students will be allowed to make up work. Absences are excused .	1

Examples of student requirements used by the LSSs recording students as present include:

- Attends synchronously delivered classes and/or teacher check-ins
- Completes assigned asynchronous work
- Meets with tutor as needed or required
- Participates in six hours of instruction for five days of absences

- Stakeholder group has met three times to:
 - Examine current quarantine attendance policies
 - Discuss various coding options for absences
 - Share resources
- Committee member LSSs include:
 - Frederick, Howard, and Washington County Public School Systems
- Recommendations will be shared with the State Superintendent