

On average, most U.S. universities kick off classes around the third week of August. It's a fantastic time of the year to enjoy the waning weeks of summer, the ever-so-slightly shortening days, and the cool evenings that gently remind us fall is in the very near future.

This year is quite different, though. As we noticed a few weeks ago, only a tiny percentage of schools had the courage and common sense to bring students back on campus this year, with the majority opting out for remote learning... AFTER, of course, collecting full tuition.

I've been anxiously awaiting data on students at campuses that did open. After all, with all of the fear and panic in the air, many school administrators are almost looking for an excuse to shut things down and send kids back home.

Thankfully, Dr. Andrew Bostom, a professor of medicine at Brown University and cardiovascular and epidemiology researcher, was kind enough to compile a list of COVID-19 cases across 17 university systems across the country. The data is current to September 4.

University	Reported COVID-19 rtPCR positives, "Cases" (N)	Reported Hospitalizations (N)
U of Alabama	1368	0
U of Georgia	798	0
U of Kentucky	786	0
Ohio State U	882	0
U of Dayton	1042	0
Illinois State U	1023	0
U of Iowa	922	0

University	Reported COVID-19 rtPCR positives, "Cases" (N)	Reported Hospitalizations (N)
Missouri State U	549	0
U of Kansas	479	0
Kansas State U	546	0
Louisiana St U	366	0
Penn State U	215	0
U of Oklahoma	135	0
U of Wisconsin	169	0
U of Minnesota	93	0
U of Miami	202	0
U of S Carolina	1443	0
Totals (N)	11,018	0

rtPCR = reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction

At face value, there have been a lot of cases... 11,018 COVID-19 cases found through extensive PCR testing at these 17 universities. But let's note the far-right column. There have been zero hospitalizations. Zero.

That shouldn't surprise us here at *The Bleeding Edge*. After all, we know well that the university population is at far greater risk of severe illness from influenza than they are from COVID-19.

But what did the Ohio health director do? He signed an order requiring that even students who test negative be quarantined for two weeks in isolation in a designated quarantine house. Oh, and only university officials can approve whether or not parents are allowed to visit their own children.

They've gone mad.

This draconian, almost detention-like treatment is even more absurd as we know that up to 90% of all PCR testing is producing false positives right now. Arizona is a case in point.

On September 3, the Arizona Athletics department experienced a single-day high for positive COVID-19 cases. Someone had the common sense to run the tests again to make sure they were correct. They were not.

Of the 13 original “positive” COVID-19 tests, only two came back positive the second time. The original tests that were run were 85% false positives.

The good news – zero hospitalizations and a large number of false positives – means that there is no reason to keep universities closed, muzzle kids with masks, or lock them into detention – I mean, quarantine – facilities.

The bad news? For some, COVID-19 has evolved into a psychological condition that results in completely irrational behavior that comes at a great cost to others.

I say this sincerely... There will be many who will experience long-term traumatic effects even after COVID-19 has long passed. It is heartbreaking knowing that the damage caused was all for nothing.

I don't know who first coined the term, but we are absolutely witnessing a “casedemic” right now. And if we don't call a spade a spade, we're going to be living with this nonsense well into 2021.

Here's wishing that we can all breathe freely together.