

# *The Public Health Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Cambridge*

COVID-19 WEEKLY REPORT

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 2, 2020



Cambridge  
Public Health  
Department



**CHA** Cambridge  
Health Alliance



# Current Cambridge Data

- 1,577 confirmed, probable, and suspect cases (as of Nov. 1)
  - 1,303 in the community
  - 274 in nursing homes and assisted living
  - 100 deaths
- 1,118 recoveries; 118 active cases (as of Nov. 1)
- Avg. daily incidence rate of confirmed cases over the last 14 days (*week ending Oct. 24*): **3.9** per 100,000 residents (GREEN/low-risk community)

# Massachusetts' Largest Cities 14-Day Data Comparison

Count and Rate of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Tests Performed in MA January 1, 2020 - October 29, 2020

City/Town	Total Case Count	Case Count (Last 14 days)	Average Daily Incidence Rate per 100,000 (Last 14 days)	Relative Change in Case Counts	Total Tests	Total Tests (Last 14 Days)	Total Positive Tests (Last 14 days)	Percent Positivity (Last 14 days)	Change in Percent Positivity
Boston	20457	1536	15.8	Higher	1032439	178525	1808	1.01%	Higher
Brockton	5266	287	20.9	Higher	67726	8491	346	4.07%	Higher
Cambridge*	1302	61	3.9	Lower	236296	44574	72	0.16%	No Change
Lawrence	5991	652	52.8	Higher	70453	9465	876	9.26%	Higher
Lowell	4034	288	17.6	Higher	78583	9085	359	3.95%	Higher
Lynn	5444	363	25.7	Higher	69931	7999	456	5.70%	Higher
Newton*	1109	72	5.6	No Change	121847	24292	87	0.36%	No Change
Quincy	1672	99	7	Higher	59263	7814	114	1.46%	No Change
Somerville	1429	80	7.5	Lower	131472	23943	90	0.38%	No Change
Springfield	4259	352	15.9	Higher	99840	14523	496	3.42%	Higher
Worcester	7088	386	14.4	Higher	247624	38437	452	1.18%	Higher
State	150498	11557	11.8	Higher	5865571	899970	13974	1.55%	Higher

Grey	<5 reported cases
Green	<4 per 100K
Yellow	4-8 per 100K
Red	>8 per 100K

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting# covid-19-weekly-public-health-report->

Note: Data reflect the 14-day period from Oct. 11-Oct. 24, 2020

Source: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/weekly-covid-19-public-health-report-october-29-2020/download>

# Potential Drivers in Case Increase

- Increase in cases regionally and nationally
- Cooler weather and more time indoors
- Recent increase in cases at area long-term care facilities
- Reopening of workplaces, restaurants, and universities

# COVID Testing Update

- **Expanded COVID-19 Testing:** 7 days a week (56 hours) at four sites starting Nov. 9: East Cambridge, Harvard Square, and The Port
- **Cambridge Pandemic Collaborative** formed to coordinate COVID-19 testing & vaccination
- **236,296 total tests** among Cambridge residents since start of pandemic; **0.16%** positive in past 14 days.\*
- **16,478 total tests** through Cambridge mobile testing sites since April; **0.1%** positive in October (*out of 4,811 tests*).

\*14-day period ending Oct. 24, 2020

# COVID-19 Testing in K-12 Schools

- CPS staff are being tested twice a week, on a voluntary basis, as part of a surveillance program
- Since Oct. 15, **1,913 COVID-19 tests** have been provided to asymptomatic staff; an additional 32 tests have been provided to symptomatic staff/students.
- CPHD is partnering with the Cambridge charter schools to provide technical assistance and test kits

# Wastewater Data

- Cambridge-based BioBot Analytics - Wastewater epidemiology to track COVID-19
- Value of early sentinel data could be substantial:
  - *Doesn't rely on COVID-19 testing results*
  - *Potentially offers full week head start on local response*
- City/CPHD local wastewater data expected later this month
- ***Caveats:*** *New surveillance technology; more discussion needed to consider how wastewater data will factor into local decision-making*

# Cambridge Community Corps

CCC will remain active in November in city parks and Harvard Square.

## *Harvard Square Initiative:*

- Starting Nov. 3, **courtesy cards** to remind people to wear their masks/coverings and may be subject to fines.
- Members will speak with people in the square, on university-owned property, and in parks/green spaces.
- Pilot initiative will continue at least through mid-November.



# Flu Vaccination Updates

- 1,912 flu vaccines given (as of Oct. 29)
- CPHD has staffed 5 flu clinics so far:
  - Oct. 15, King Open
  - Oct. 21, King Open (*2 sessions*)
  - Oct. 22, King Open
  - Oct. 28, Starlight
  - Oct. 29, Starlight
- CPHD has 1 remaining flu clinic scheduled:
  - Nov. 14, CambridgeSide - Parking Garage

# CambridgeSide COVID Testing

## Cambridge Pandemic Collaborative

- City Manager's Office
- Public Safety
- Public Health / Public Works / Traffic & Park
- Healthcare Partnerships
- Private Sector Partnerships
- COVID Testing / Flu Vaccinations / COVID Vx

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HjVp6l0Jpk&authuser=0>