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

COVID-19 Weekly Report

Cambridge City Council

November 30, 2020
# Massachusetts Cities Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City/Town</th>
<th>Average Daily Incident Rate per 100,000 (14 days*)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November 19 Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>31.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowell</td>
<td>64.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerville</td>
<td>26.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Springfield</td>
<td>51.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worcester</td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>29.4</td>
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</tbody>
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*14-day period reflects 11/1/20-11/14/20 (Nov. 19 Report) and 11/8/20-11/21/20 (Nov. 27 Report)
Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health Weekly COVID-19 Data Reports
Current Data

- **2,166** confirmed, probable, and suspect cases
  - 1,892 in the community
  - 274 in nursing homes and assisted living
  - 100 deaths

*(NOTE: Nursing home/assisted living cases and deaths have not increased for many weeks)*

- **1,264** recoveries; **524** active cases

- Average daily incidence rate of confirmed cases in last 7 days: **10.7 per 100,000 residents**

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1 Data current as of Nov. 30, 2020, 10 a.m.
2 7-day period reflects 11/22/20 - 11/28/20.
New Cambridge Cases: Mar–Nov

Dark orange line = 7-day Moving Average (case count)
Vertical orange lines/bars = New Positive Cases
COVID-19 Community Testing

ALL TESTING SITES

341,107 Tests since March 2¹ | 55,498 Tests in past 14 days²
Tests administered to Cambridge residents at any health care or city site.

CITY-FUNDED TESTING PROGRAM

• Testing offered 7 days a week, starting Nov. 9.
• Sites in East Cambridge, Harvard Square, North Cambridge, and The Port.
• 33,560 tests administered since April.
  ○ 15,400 from Nov. 1–28 (additional data pending)
  ○ Additional site added Nov. 23 and Nov. 30 to accommodate increased demand.

COVID-19 Community Testing

Community Testing - Total Tests per Month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Total Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Testing July 1 to 31</td>
<td>2040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Testing Aug 1 to Aug 31</td>
<td>4144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Testing Sep 1 to Sep 25</td>
<td>2811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Testing Oct 1 to Oct 31</td>
<td>4811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Testing Nov 1 to Nov 28</td>
<td>15400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Long-Term Care Testing

New State Requirements for Staff Testing, effective 11/26

- All skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) now required to conduct weekly testing of all staff.
  - Prior requirement for Cambridge SNFs: biweekly testing of 50% of staff.
- State recommends that assisted living facilities also adhere to this guidance.

Residents and Visitors

- State does not require asymptomatic testing of LTC residents.
- All visitors (e.g., non-staff workers, friends/family) should be screened for symptoms on daily basis.
  - Visitor rapid testing not required at this time.
Additional Cambridge Measures to Curb COVID-19 Spread

- **Promoting Testing: Neighborhood Outreach**
  - Cambridge Community Corps (C3) members will go door-to-door, speaking with residents about how and where to get tested (first week of Dec) in N. Cambridge, E. Cambridge, The Port, and Cambridgeport neighborhoods.
  - Leave behind testing information in multiple languages

- **Promoting Safe Social Activities**
  - City/CPHD communications team will continue to develop and share messaging and guidance on minimizing risk in social settings.

- **Wastewater Surveillance**
  - Using Cambridge wastewater data to detect increase in COVID-19 infections.
COVID-19 Testing in K-12 Schools

CPS staff are being tested twice a week, on a voluntary basis, as part of a CPHD surveillance program. Testing is also offered to symptomatic students who become ill at school.

**5,628 Tests**
Tests administered to CPS staff through the voluntary testing program since Oct. 15 (as of Nov. 29)

**1,004 Staff Tested**
Total # of CPS staff who have been tested through the voluntary testing program since Oct. 15

**5.6X**
Average number of times a CPS staff member has gotten tested through the program since Oct. 15

**59 students**
Symptomatic CPS students who have been tested through the program since Oct. 15

*Data reflect Oct. 15-Nov. 29*
COVID-19 Testing in K-12 Schools Per Week

CPS Staff Surveillance Testing Participation

- % Tested At Least Once
- Tested Twice
- Tested Once

Week 1: 51.9%
Week 2: 60.6%
Week 3: 66.7%
Week 4: 69.5%
Week 5: 74.7%
Week 6: 80.1%
Week 7: 68.9%

Percent of Eligible Staff

Week
Cambridge Public Schools Metrics
November 30, 2020

Metrics that exceed recommended thresholds are displayed as orange

**Metric 1**
Daily New Cases

10.7
7-day average of new confirmed cases per day, per 100,000 people in Cambridge, ending Nov. 28.

**Threshold:** < 25 new confirmed cases per day, per 100,000 people (7-day average)

Lower than Threshold

**Metric 2**
Test Positivity Rate

0.72%
Percentage of positive COVID-19 tests among Cambridge residents in last 14 days ending Nov. 21.

**Threshold:** < 5% of COVID-19 tests among residents are positive.

Lower than Threshold

**Metric 3**
Wastewater Monitoring

359.5
Level of COVID-19 found in sewage wastewater in MWRA, as of 11/23/20.

**Threshold:** COVID-19 in wastewater detected at less than 100 copies viral genomes/mL

Greater than Threshold
COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Vaccinations for Health Care Workers: Massachusetts expects to receive first doses of Pfizer vaccine by mid/late December. Supplies will be very limited and health care personnel with potential for direct or indirect hospital exposure will be prioritized.

Vaccine Priority Groups: MDPH will prioritize other high risk groups based on state and CDC/ACIP recommendations.

The Nov. 14 flu clinic at CambridgeSide doubled as a “practice run” for the mass dispensing of COVID-19 vaccine next year.