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

COVID-19 Weekly Report

Cambridge City Council

November 23, 2020
The graph helps illustrate how the pandemic is progressing here in Cambridge compared to other geographies. Data for the county, state, and United States in this graph are procured daily from Johns Hopkins University. Data current as of 11/22/20.
## Massachusetts Cities Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City/Town</th>
<th>Average Daily Incident Rate per 100,000 (14 days*)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November 12 Report</td>
<td>November 19 Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>31.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowell</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>64.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerville</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>26.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>51.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worcester</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>29.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*14-day period reflects 10/25/20-11/7/20 (Nov. 12 Report) and 11/1/20-11/14/20 (Nov. 19 Report)

Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health Weekly COVID-19 Data Reports
## Risk Level Guidance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Under 10K</th>
<th>10K-50K</th>
<th>Over 50K</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grey</td>
<td>Less than or equal to 10 total cases</td>
<td>Less than or equal to 10 total cases</td>
<td>Less than or equal to 15 total cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Less than or equal to 15 total cases</td>
<td>&lt;10 avg cases/100k AND &gt;10 total cases</td>
<td>&lt;10 avg cases/100k AND &gt;15 total cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Less than or equal to 25 total cases</td>
<td>≥10 avg cases/100k OR ≥5% pos rate</td>
<td>≥10 avg cases/100k OR ≥4% pos rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>More than 25 total cases</td>
<td>≥10 avg cases/100k AND ≥5% pos rate</td>
<td>≥10 avg cases/100k AND ≥4% pos rate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Testing Positivity Rates in CHA Communities (August to Present)

Note: Each bar represents the number of positive PCR tests among residents in a community divided by the number of tests administered to residents in that community during a 14-day period.

Source: Graphic created by Cambridge Health Alliance based on data in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s weekly COVID-19 data reports.
Current Data

- **2,041** confirmed, probable, and suspect cases
  - 1,767 in the community
  - 274 in nursing homes and assisted living
  - 100 deaths

*(NOTE: Nursing home/assisted living and death counts holding steady for many weeks)*

- **1,225** recoveries; **440** active cases

- Average daily incidence rate of confirmed cases in last 7 days: **17.3 per 100,000 residents**

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1 Data current as of Nov. 23, 2020, 10 a.m.

2 7-day period reflects 11/16/20 - 11/22/20.
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

312,540 Tests since March 2\textsuperscript{1} \mid 50,947 Tests in past 14 days\textsuperscript{2}

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.
- 30,276 tests administered since April.
  - 12,116 from Nov. 1–22 (additional data pending)
  - Additional site added Nov. 23 to accommodate increased demand.

\textsuperscript{1}Testing period March 2-Nov. 14, 2020; \textsuperscript{2}Testing period Nov 1-14, 2020.
COVID-19 Community Testing

- More than 2,000 COVID-19 tests conducted over two days:
  - Pisani Center, Sat. 11/21: 850 tests
  - CambridgeSide drive thru, Sun., 11/22: 1,152 tests
  - Wait time for test: < 1 hour
  - Cambridge Pandemic Collaborative: Established to increase testing capacity & throughput; CPHD staff deployed to assist Fire, Police and ProEMS

- Result turnaround time increased:
  - Broad Institute analyzes 50% of COVID-19 tests conducted in MA (and 15% conducted nationwide)
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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1 to 31</td>
<td>2040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 1 to Aug 31</td>
<td>4144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 1 to Sep 25</td>
<td>2811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 1 to Oct 31</td>
<td>4811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 1 to Nov 20</td>
<td>10114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COVID-19 Community Testing

Community Testing - Percent Positivity

- Mobile Testing - July 1 to 31: 0.3%
- Mobile Testing - Aug 1 to Aug 31: 0.2%
- Mobile Testing - Sep 1 to Sep 25: 0.2%
- Mobile Testing - Oct 1 to Oct 31: 0.1%
- Mobile Testing - Nov 1 to Nov 20: 1.2%
Additional Cambridge Measures to Curb COVID-19 Spread

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

- **Holiday Gathering Guidance**
  - Press release, social media and Code Red announcement reminding residents to celebrate with household members only and important steps to take if celebrating with others.
Additional Cambridge Measures to Curb COVID-19 Spread

● **Wastewater Surveillance**: Partnership with Biobot Analytics, Inc. to track COVID-19 outbreaks by analyzing wastewater.
  ○ Wastewater data will serve as early warning sign of increased COVID-19 infections.
  ○ Four collection points cover the majority of the city.
  ○ Data posted on City Dashboard in the next 2 weeks (waiting on analysis).

● **Flu Clinics**: @2,700 flu vaccines to date (>2.5 x of past)
  ○ First ever drive-thru clinic (11/14); 717 flu shots
  ○ School-based mandate (by 12/31)
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.

5,038 Tests
Tests administered to CPS staff through the voluntary testing program since Oct. 15 (as of Nov. 23)

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

5X
Average number of times a CPS staff member has gotten tested through the program since Oct. 15

52 students
Symptomatic CPS students who have been tested through the program since Oct. 15
COVID-19 Testing in K-12 Schools Per Week

CPS Staff Surveillance Testing Participation

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

Week 1 (October 12): 51.9%
Week 2 (October 19): 60.6%
Week 3 (October 26): 66.7%
Week 4 (November 1): 69.5%
Week 5 (November 9): 74.7%
Week 6 (November 16): 80.1%