

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

COVID-19 UPDATE

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021



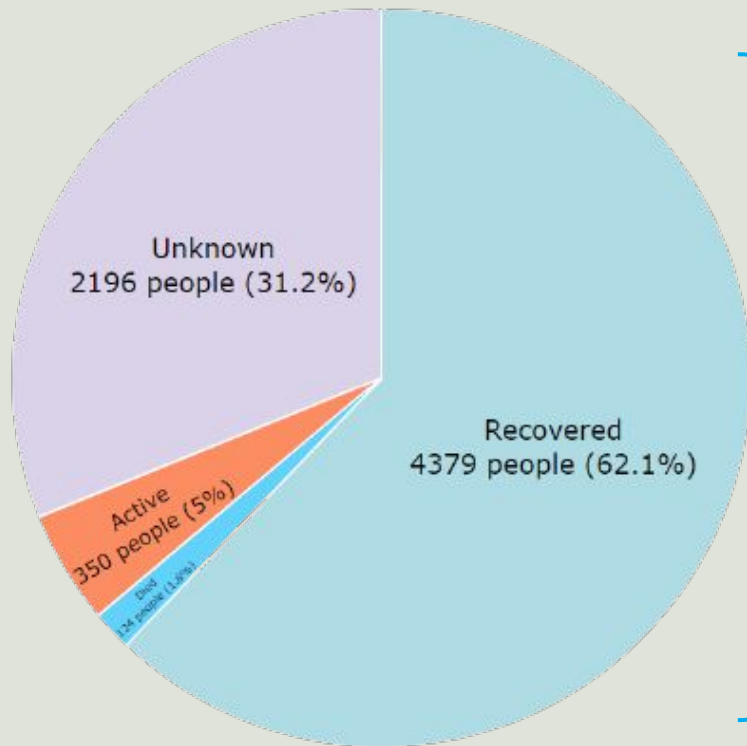
Cambridge  
Public Health  
Department



**CHA** Cambridge  
Health Alliance



# Case Snapshot (as of September 12, 2021)



## 7,049 Total Cases<sup>1</sup>

(confirmed, probable and suspect)

- 6,760 in the community
- 304 cases in long-term care

## 124 Deaths<sup>1</sup>

- 61% of deaths were among LTC residents

## Active Cases<sup>1</sup>

- 332 cases are active

## 12.1 Confirmed Cases per 100,000<sup>1</sup>

(7-day average for Sept. 6–12)

## Test Positivity<sup>2</sup>

- 0.53% (2-week period ending Sept. 4)

Sources: <sup>1</sup>Cambridge Public Health Department data, accessed on Sept. 12, 2021 @ 5 pm;

<sup>2</sup>Massachusetts Department of Public Health Weekly COVID-19 Interactive Dashboard, Sept. 10, 2021.

# Community Testing in Cambridge

- As of Sept. 8, the city is offering COVID-19 testing 4 days a week in 4-hour sessions.
- As Cambridge infection rates rose in mid-July, demand for testing sharply increased at city-run sites.
- Over **12,400 tests** were administered in August at city-run sites, the highest monthly total since April.
- City-run testing sites are currently administering about 1,000 tests a session.
- Residents can also get tested at local pharmacies and other sites. More info: [www.cambridgema.gov/covid19/Testing](http://www.cambridgema.gov/covid19/Testing)



# CPS School-Based Testing

The CPS school-based testing program is designed to detect infections early and minimize transmission:

- **Routine COVID safety checks** (formerly known as pooled testing) available for students, employees, and programs operating in CPS buildings.
- **Symptomatic testing** offered on-site for students and adults who develop symptoms while at school.
- **“Test and Stay”** is offered to **unvaccinated** close contacts from an in school exposure (daily rapid testing for 5 days for unvaccinated people who may have been exposed to the virus to avoid unnecessary quarantines)

# Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics



- CPHD will offer free flu shots at homeless shelters, meals programs, and senior housing in October.
- Public flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics will be held at sites throughout the city:

Oct. 15	Citywide Senior Center	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Oct. 16	King Open School	11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Oct. 22	Reservoir Church	2 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Oct. 23	Pisani Center/Washington Elms	12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

# Vaccine Update

**Booster shots:** CPHD has notified the state of its interest in administering Pfizer and Moderna booster vaccines once they are recommended by the CDC. available.

**68%**

Fully vaccinated Cambridge residents

**75%**

Cambridge residents who have received at least one dose of vaccine.

**76,194 Residents**

Are fully vaccinated

**↑9%**

over past 3 months

# City Vaccine Update (as of September 7)

## Vaccination Race/Ethnicity Data

The proportion of residents by race and ethnicity who have received **at least one dose of vaccine** in Cambridge and the state:

Race/Ethnicity	Cambridge <sup>1</sup>	MA <sup>2</sup>
Asian	69%	71%
<b>Black</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Hispanic/Latinx</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>56%</b>
Multiracial	68%	93%
White	67%	68%
Other/Unknown	<i>+8% of population</i>	<i>+6% of population</i>
<b>Total % of all residents who have received at least one dose</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>72%</b>

<sup>1</sup>MA Department of Public Health Weekly COVID-19 Municipality Vaccination Report, September 9, 2021.<sup>2</sup> MA Department of Public Health Weekly Vaccine Report, September 9, 2021. Data for Cambridge and Massachusetts are current as of September 7, 2021.

# City Vaccine Update (as of September 7)

## Vaccination Age and Gender Data

Proportion of residents who have received **at least one dose of vaccine**:

	Cambridge <sup>1</sup>	MA <sup>2</sup>
12-15 Years	92%	70%
16-19 Years	55%	70%
20-29 Years	72%	71%
30-49 Years	85%	83%
50-64 Years	>95%	88%
65-74 Years	>95%	95%
75+ Years	>95%	93%
<b>Female</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>N/A</b>

MA Department of Public Health Weekly COVID-19 Municipality Vaccination Report, September 9, 2021.<sup>2</sup> MA Department of Public Health Weekly Vaccine Report, September 9, 2021. Data for Cambridge and Massachusetts are current as of September 7, 2021.



# Wastewater Surveillance

- Four additional wastewater sampling locations will come online in September.
  - Sites include multiple residential buildings disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, and a representative long-term care facility.
- By monitoring these targeted locations, CPHD and City partners:
  - Can respond quickly when higher levels of virus are detected in the wastewater from these sites, and reach out to those impacted to prevent further transmission.
  - Assess if spikes at these sites are early indicators of increased risk citywide.