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

COVID-19 UPDATE

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 10, 2022
Middlesex County and Cambridge Cases by Risk Category
Cambridge Case Rates by Age
Omicron Update

- Omicron variant is driving the January surge.
  - MDPH/Broad Institute estimate: Omicron accounts for over 95% of MA cases.
- A growing body of evidence suggests Omicron is more transmissible but causes less severe illness than Delta.
- Vaccination, especially boosters, is helping prevent severe illness and death.
- The high volume of new infections are challenging hospitals in MA and U.S.
MA COVID-19 Hospitalizations

On Jan. 6, there were 2,637 patients hospitalized for COVID-19 in Massachusetts.

Of those people, 1,106 (42%) were reported to be fully vaccinated.
Community Impacts

- Hospitals in Boston/Metro West:
  - Non-ICU beds: ~94% occupied
  - ICU beds: 80%-90% occupied.
- Child Care Programs/ Schools
- Airline Travel
- Retail/Other industries
Government Response

National
- CDC shortened isolation and quarantine periods, in part to address continuity of operations in U.S.
- CDC approved booster vaccine for 12-15 year olds.

State
- The state activated the Massachusetts National Guard to support hospitals and transport systems.

Local
- Vaccine and booster clinics
- Increased PRC testing
- Expanded indoor mask mandate
- Cancellation of in-person City public events
- Public health recommendations
CPHD Recommendations

**Employers**
- Encourage remote work where possible to protect your workforce.

**Individuals**
- Get vaccinated and boosted.
- Wear high quality masks (KF94, KN95, N95) when indoors
- Reconsider hosting or attending indoor social gatherings
- Get tested as needed.
- Follow isolation and quarantine guidance
  - CPHD strongly recommends negative rapid test before ending isolation after 5 days.
COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

City Public Vaccine Clinics (Jan. 3 & 6)  
Moderna vaccines & boosters administered

CPHD Public Clinic @ CRLS (Jan. 5)  
292 Pfizer vaccines & boosters administered

Senior Housing (Jan. 7-8)  
~170 vaccines & boosters administered

UPCOMING

City Employees (Jan. 12-13)
City Moderna Clinics (Jan. 10 & 13)
Shelter Vaccination Clinics (Jan. 13 & 14)