

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

COVID-19 WEEKLY REPORT

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 7, 2020



Cambridge
Public Health
Department



CHA Cambridge
Health Alliance



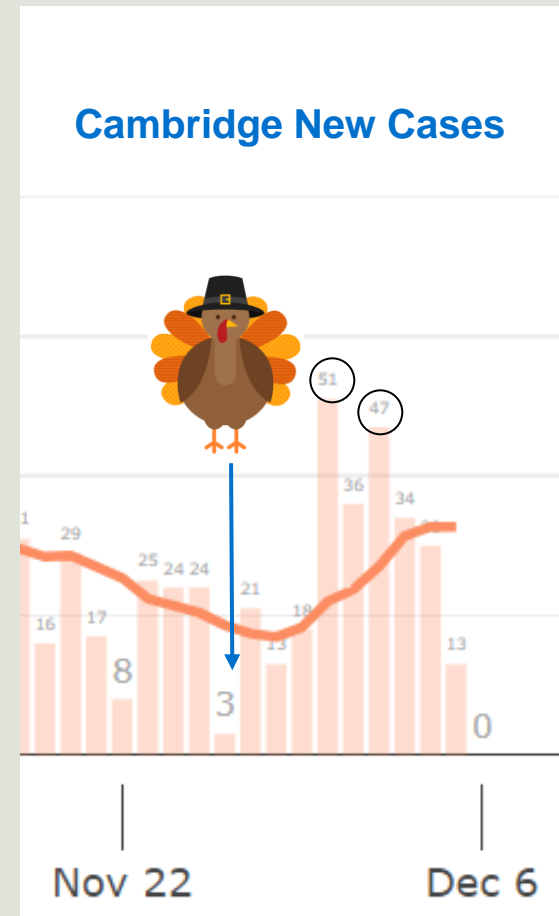
Massachusetts Cities Comparison

City/Town	Average Daily Incident Rate per 100,000 (14 days*)	
	November 27 Report	December 3 Report
Boston	33.9	31.7
Cambridge	22.6	18.9
Lowell	80.7	78.3
Newton	15.3	20.2
Somerville	35.2	35.4
Springfield	63.4	64.9
Worcester	47.7	47.4
State	34.9	35.7

*14-day period reflects 11/8/20-11/21/20 (Nov. 27 Report) and 11/15/20-11/28/20 (Dec. 3 Report)
 Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health Weekly COVID-19 Data Reports

Thanksgiving Surge?

- Throughout November, Cambridge experienced a sharp uptick in cases.
 - Positive cases increased from 165 in October to 672 in November, a 320% increase and the city's highest monthly case total since the pandemic began.
- Reflecting statewide trends, Cambridge experienced a dip in cases the week prior to Thanksgiving, but since Nov. 30, cases are back on an upward trajectory.



Current Snapshot

- **2,434** confirmed, probable, and suspect cases¹
 - 2,138 in the community
 - 275 in nursing homes and assisted living
 - 100 deaths
- **1,366** recoveries; 585 active cases¹
- Average daily incidence rate of confirmed cases in last 7 days²: **26.9 per 100,000 residents**

¹ Data current as of Dec. 7, 2020, 11:30 a.m.

² 7-day period reflects 11/30/20 - 12/6/20.

Case Investigation

585 actives cases:

- 20% assigned to CPHD
- 25% → Harvard & MIT
- 55% → MA Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC)

Due to the late fall surge, ~**25%** of all Cambridge cases are active

The Process:

- Typical interview with case/contact: **45 minutes to 3 hours**
- Number of questions asked: ~ **75-80 questions**
- Goal: As volume of cases increases, **it remains critical to try to identify source/place of exposure.**

COVID-19 Community Testing

ALL TESTING SITES

358,330 Tests since March 2¹ | **47,036 Tests** in past 14 days²

Tests administered to Cambridge residents at any health care or city site.

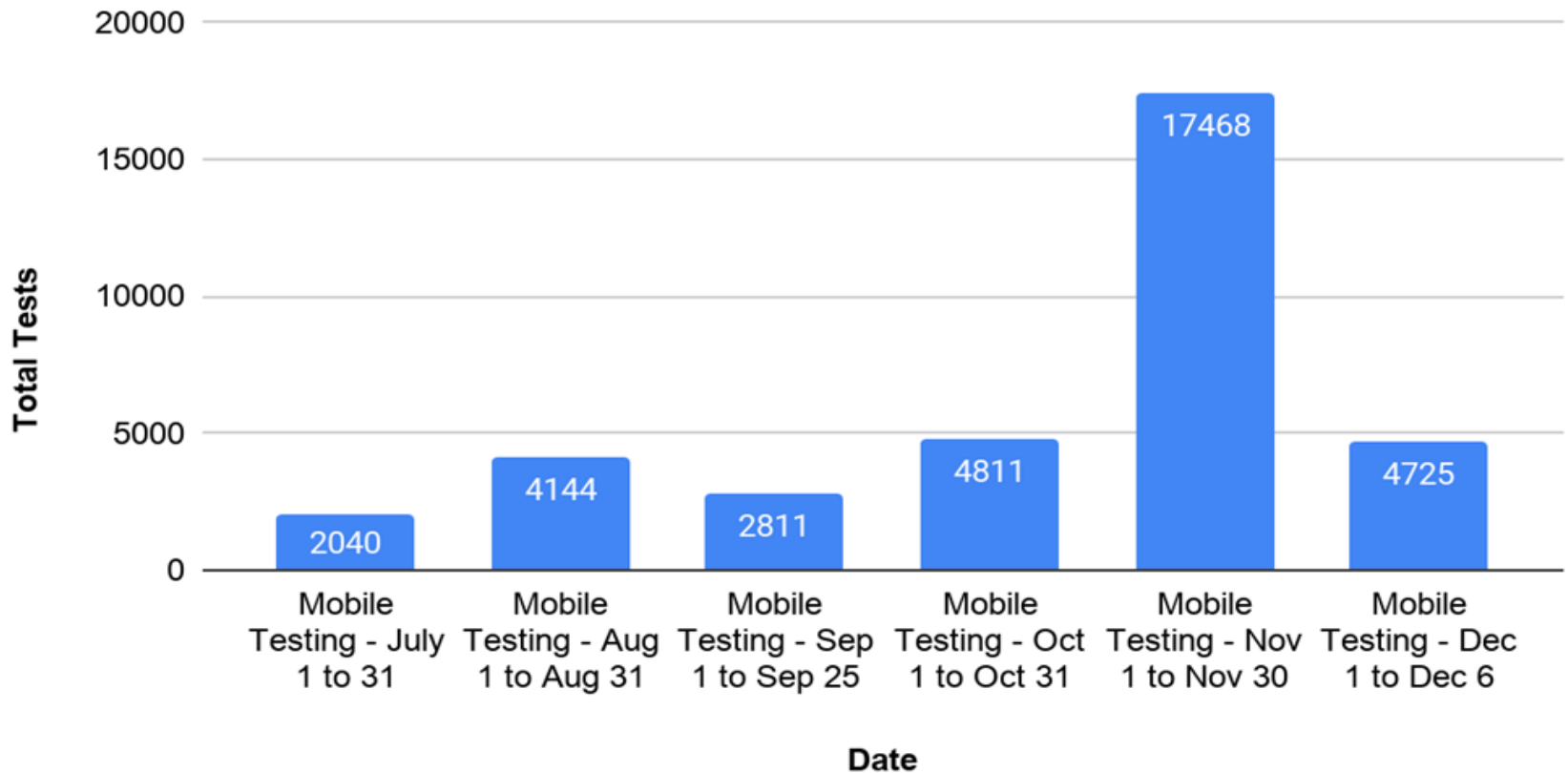
CITY-FUNDED TESTING PROGRAM

- Testing offered **7 days a week**, starting Nov. 9.
- Sites in East Cambridge, Harvard Square, North Cambridge, and The Port.
- **40,353** tests administered since April.
 - 4,725 from Dec 1 - Dec 6
 - Additional site added Nov. 23 and Nov. 30 to accommodate increased demand.

¹Testing period March 2-Nov. 28, 2020; ²Testing period Nov 15-28, 2020.

COVID-19 Community Testing

Community Testing - Total Tests per Month



Additional “Hot Spot” Testing

CPHD will provide on-site testing at Fresh Pond Apartments (Rindge Towers):

- Working with ProEMS and Cambridge Fire Department on dates and times (likely to begin next week).
- Cambridge Community Corps will go door-to-door in advance to let residents know and encourage testing (as they did in the Port neighborhood last week and over the weekend).
- No appointments necessary; testing will be for Towers residents only.

University Update: Spring 2021

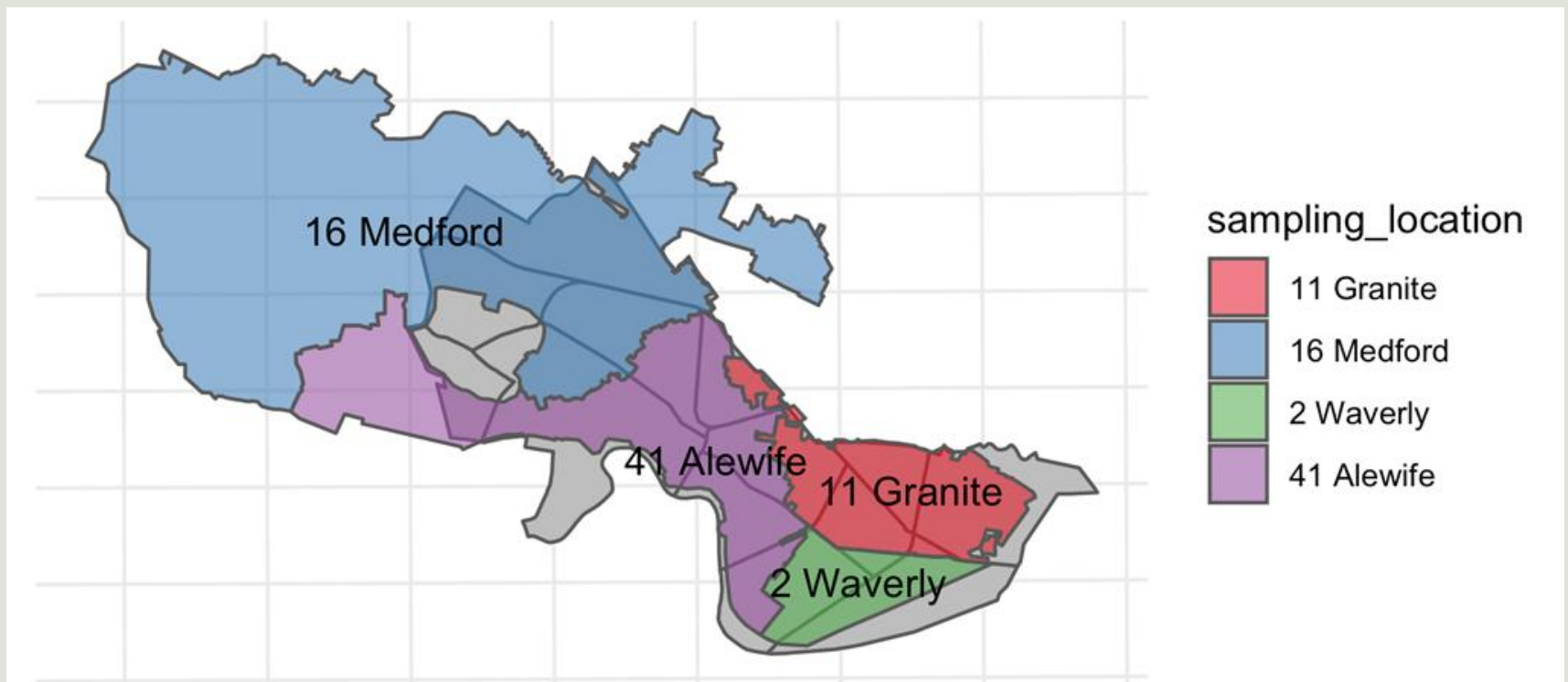
Harvard University:

- Classes will be taught remotely; < 50% of undergraduates invited to live on campus (approx. 3,000 students)
- No more than 1 student/dorm room
- Specific housing set for isolation and quarantine
- Resident staff and students tested every 3 days
- No spring break

MIT:

- Freshman, sophomores, and juniors invited to return
- Graduate students and research continue as in the fall
- No spring break
- No winter athletic activities

Cambridge Wastewater Sampling Sites



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.

6,833 Tests

Tests administered to CPS staff through the voluntary testing program since Oct. 15 (as of Dec. 7)

6X

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

1,050 Staff Tested

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

73 students

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

Data reflect Oct. 15- Dec. 7

Cambridge Public Schools Metrics

December 6, 2020

Metric 1

Daily New Cases

26.9

7-day average of new confirmed cases per day, per 100,000 people in Cambridge, ending Dec. 5.

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

Above Threshold

Metric 2

Test Positivity Rate

0.77%

Percentage of positive COVID-19 tests among Cambridge residents in last 14 days ending Nov. 28.

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

Below Threshold

Metric 3

Wastewater Monitoring

658.5

Level of COVID-19 found in sewage wastewater in MWRA, as of 12/3/20.

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

Above Threshold

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

The CDC [COVID-19 Vaccination Playbook](#) outlines three phases for vaccine distribution:

Phase 1: Potentially limited supply of vaccine doses

- **Dec. 1:** CDC officially adopts ACIP recommendations for vaccination distribution to "highest priority" populations: 21 million health-care workers and 3 million residents/staff of LTCs.
- **Dec 7:** Commonwealth's COVID-19 vaccine order submitted to CDC:
 - CDC expected to send 300,000 doses by end of December (first dose of a two-dose regimen)
 - Includes 59,475 doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for first shipment

Phase 2: Large number of vaccine doses available

Phase 3: Sufficient/surplus supply of vaccine doses for entire population