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

COVID-19 Weekly Report

Cambridge City Council

January 4, 2021
# 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>December 24 Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>59.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>26.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowell</td>
<td>120.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerville</td>
<td>48.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield</td>
<td>84.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worcester</td>
<td>85.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>63.2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*14-day period reflects 12/6/20-12/19/20 (Dec. 24 Report) and 12/13-20-12/26/20 (Dec. 31 Report)
Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health Weekly COVID-19 Data Reports
Case Snapshot

New infections statewide and in Cambridge continue to remain high and above pre-Thanksgiving levels.

3,296 Total Cases
(confirmed, probable and suspect)
- 3,009 in the community
- 287 cases in long-term cares

110 Deaths
- 66% of deaths were among LTC residents

Active Cases
- 19.7% of all cases are active

25.7 Confirmed Cases per 100,000
(7-day average for Dec. 27-Jan 2)

Source: City of Cambridge COVID-19 Data Center, downloaded on 1/3/20 at 4pm. Please note that the death data were updated on 1/4/21.
Situational Update

- **New infections** statewide and in Cambridge continue to remain high and above pre-Thanksgiving levels.

- **Hospitalizations**¹
  - Available non-ICU hospital beds in Metro West (incl. Cambridge) communities: **18%**
  - Available ICU hospital beds in Metro West communities: **30%**

- **Deaths**² — Nine Cambridge residents died from COVID-19 in December:
  - **Age:** 60s (4 residents); 70s (1 resident); 80s (3 residents); and 90s (1 resident)
  - **Place of Residence:** Private residence (5 residents); senior public housing (3 residents) and long-term care facilities (1 resident)

¹Massachusetts Department of Public Health Daily COVID-19 Data Report: January 3, 2021
²Cambridge Public Health Department data, as of January 4, 2021
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 30</td>
<td>17468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Testing - Dec 1 to Dec 30</td>
<td>26327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Testing - Jan 2 to Jan 3</td>
<td>2741</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cambridge Community Corps

- Cambridge Community Corps (C3) members conducted door-to-door outreach in the Wellington-Harrington neighborhood on Saturday, Dec. 26 to encourage residents to get tested that day at the Pisani Center in The Port.
- Over 300 door knockers (flyers) about COVID-19 testing were distributed at Wellington-Harrington residences.
- Plans also include redeploying C3 to support the COVID testing sites.
COVID-19 Vaccine Update

When can I get a COVID-19 vaccine in MA?

PHASE ONE
In order of priority
- Clinical and non-clinical healthcare workers doing direct and COVID-facing care
- Long term care facilities, rest homes and assisted living facilities
- Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- Congregate care settings (including corrections and shelters)
- Home-based healthcare workers
- Healthcare workers doing non-COVID-facing care

December - February
Estimated timeframes

PHASE TWO
In order of priority
- Individuals with 2+ comorbidities (high risk for COVID-19 complications)
- Early education, K-12, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works and public health workers
- Adults 65+
- Individuals with one comorbidity

February - April

PHASE THREE
Vaccine available to general public

April - June

For more information on vaccine distribution visit Mass.gov/COVIDvaccine
COVID-19 Vaccine Update

- Cambridge Health Alliance and Mount Auburn Hospital began vaccinating health care workers last week.
- Residents and staff of all long-term cares started to receive the vaccine last week.
- CPHD will work with ProEMS to vaccinate first responders.
  - Operation Nightingale *(week of January 11)*
  - @1,000 personnel including campus safety from HU & MIT

*Lisa Dobberteen, MD, receives her COVID-19 vaccine at Cambridge Health Alliance.*
COVID Vaccine Communications

• **Goal**: Increase trust in a COVID vaccine resulting in a high percentage of vaccine participation by residents.

• **Approach**: Multi-phase communication strategy beginning in January 2021 (through Fall 2021):
  
  ○ **Audience Segmentation** (communities of color; older adults; etc)
  
  ○ **Multiple Messages** (trust, safety, importance of continued vigilance after vaccine)
  
  ○ **Multiple Channels** (based upon demographics): social media; door-to-door/grassroots campaign; community forums/town hall; City website
  
  ○ **All Hands-on Deck**: (trusted community leaders, residents and key influencers)
COVID Vaccine Communications

• **Winter 2021**
  ○ **Vaccine Task Force** members identified and Task Force launched
  ○ **Message development** and communications dissemination strategy:
    • Community engagement (direct and through key community leaders)
    • Informal focus groups; interviews
    • Translation and appropriate literacy levels
  ○ **Campaign Launch**:
    • Use of physicians, nurses, leaders in faith communities (pictures of them getting vaccinated) = trusted messengers
    • PSAs; town halls/forums; print and electronic media
    • “Vax Up Cambridge”: develop a tagline for stickers, posters, etc (much like “I Voted”)
Cambridge Public Schools Metrics - January 2021

**Metric 1**  
Daily New Cases

**Metric 2**  
Test Positivity Rate

**Metric 3**  
Wastewater Monitoring

**Metrics that exceed recommended thresholds are displayed as orange**

- **25.7**
  - 7-day average of new confirmed cases per day, per 100,000 people in Cambridge, ending January 2.
  - **Threshold**: < 25 new confirmed cases per day, per 100,000 people (7-day average)

- **1.32%**
  - Percentage of positive COVID-19 tests among Cambridge residents in last 14 days ending Dec. 26.
  - **Threshold**: <5% of COVID-19 tests among residents are positive.

- **851.5**
  - Level of COVID-19 found in sewage wastewater in MWRA, as of Dec. 30.
  - **Threshold**: COVID-19 in wastewater detected at less than 100 copies viral genomes/mL