

Lessons from Summer Camps

*Brookline Remote Learning Expert Advisory Panel on
Public Health, Safety, and Logistics*

Prepared July 31, 2020

**** DRAFT DOCUMENT – SUBJECT TO REVISION ****

Recent News

Sections ☰

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Gift Subscriptions 🎁

Health

Report: Coronavirus infected scores of children and staff at Georgia sleep-away camp

The finding that 'children might play an important role in transmissions' is likely to fuel debates about whether to reopen schools.



260 campers and staff tested positive.

Recent News

Health

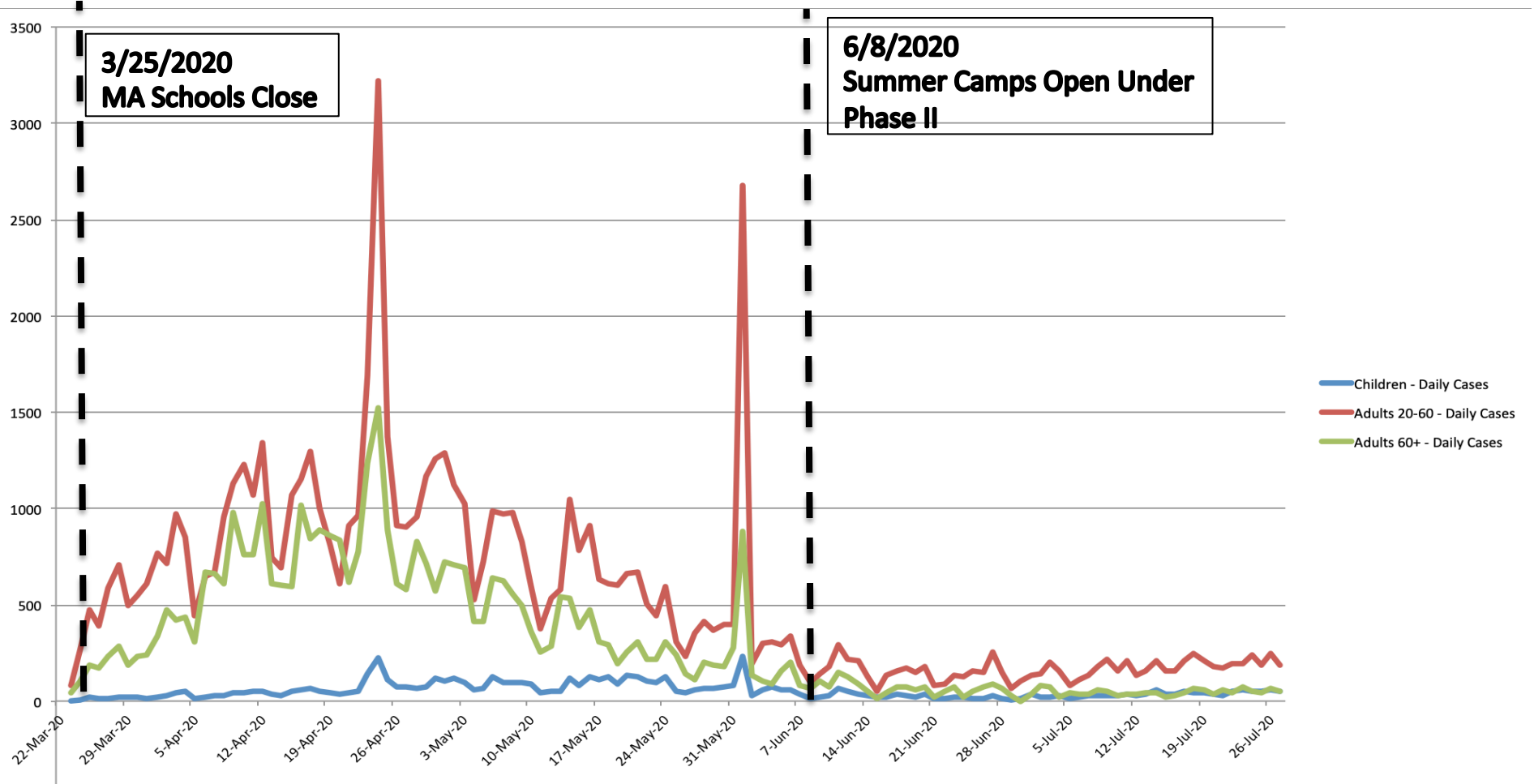
Report: Coronavirus infected scores of children and staff at Georgia sleep-away camp

The finding that ‘children might play an important role in transmissions’ is likely to fuel debates about whether to reopen schools.



The CDC released a separate statement with a headline about “the importance of CDC mitigation strategies,” rather than about the incident’s implications for viral transmission in children. The statement noted that by not requiring campers to wear masks, or airing out cabins, the camp had not followed CDC reopening guidance, and also pointed to “daily vigorous singing and shouting” as potential contributing factors.

MA COVID Rates – All Ages: Schools and Camps



MA Population 0-19 years: 1.57 million. Current daily case rate ~ 1 in 31,000.

MA Total population: 6.9 million. Current daily case rate ~ 1 in 22,000.

Brookline-Area Summer Camps

- Data solicited from Brookline Area Summer Camps open for in-person experiences
- Awaiting list of additional camps from DPH
- 6 out of 7 camps responded
- Enrollment ranged from 10 children per week to over 400 children per week, 3 staff to 130 staff
- Mixture of indoor and outdoor camps
- Age range of children 15 months to 16 years old; most are K-8 (5-14).
- All subject to MA guidelines: group sizes \leq 10 kids and 2 staff

Brookline-Area Summer Camps

- Total Enrollment: 772 children per week, with a total of 3515 weeks of camp attended
- Staff: 213 staff per week, with a total of 1034 staff-weeks of camp worked
- 1 known student exposure to COVID + person outside of camp
- Total confirmed COVID cases in children: 0
- Total confirmed COVID cases in staff: 0

Sample Feedback From Camp Leaders

- *General experience with kids handling masks, social distancing requirements, etc.?*
 - “No major issues. It was like teaching a new habit with constant reminders.”
 - “The children (and families) are SO happy to be back. The teachers and staff all wear masks all of the time. Many children (over the age of 2) wear a mask to school. It seems that it has been challenging for children to wear a mask safely and properly during the day (they are constantly playing with it, sucking on it etc.). As to distancing - our teachers remind the children to ‘give each other space’ and have designed the classrooms and learning environments to facilitate distancing. This is working well. Most of the staff agree that the transition has been easier than they expected.”
- *More to come next week*