PUBLIC SCHOOLS of BROOKLINE

Advisory Panel 4:
Public Health, Safety, & Logistics

Metrics Review

Isolation/Quarantine Guidance Updates

December 18, 2020

Community Benchmarks - Status

Benchmark (each measured over prior 14 days)	Status 11/25/20	Status 12/2/20	**Status 12/9/20**	**Status 12/16/20**
Avg. daily new case count in Brookline = <10 per 100k people	10.8	9.7	13.2	**19.8**
Avg. daily new case count in Mass. = <10 per 100k people	34.9	35.7	50.0	**65.1**
Avg. test positivity rate in Brookline = <5.0%	0.84%	0.78%	1.12%	**1.46%**
Avg. test positivity rate in Massachusetts = <5.0%	3.32%	3.73%	5.25%	**6.01%**

Because at least two of these four thresholds have been exceeded, Panel 4 has discussed how we advise PSB to respond. To date, our guidance has focused on enhancements to anti-transmission measures in school.

Updated MA DPH Color Scale

Incidence Rate Color Table

Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Thursday, November 12, 2020

Average Daily Incidence Rate per 100,000 Color Calculations

	Population		
Group	**Under 10K**	**10K-50K**	**Over 50K**
Grey	Less than or equal to 10 total cases	Less than or equal to 10 total cases	Less than or equal to 15 total cases
Green	Less than or equal to 15 total cases	<10 avg cases/100k AND >10 total cases	<10 avg cases/100k AND >15 total cases
Yellow	Less than or equal to 25 total cases	≥10 avg cases/100k OR ≥5% pos rate	≥10 avg cases/100k OR ≥ 4% pos rate
Red	More than 25 total cases	≥10 avg cases/100k AND ≥5% pos rate	≥10 avg cases/100k AND ≥4% pos rate

Brookline's population is ~60,000

Brookline is here as of 12/16/2020 (yellow zone)

As of 11/5, DPH is using 2019 population estimates derived from a method developed by the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute. The 2019 estimates are the most currently available data.

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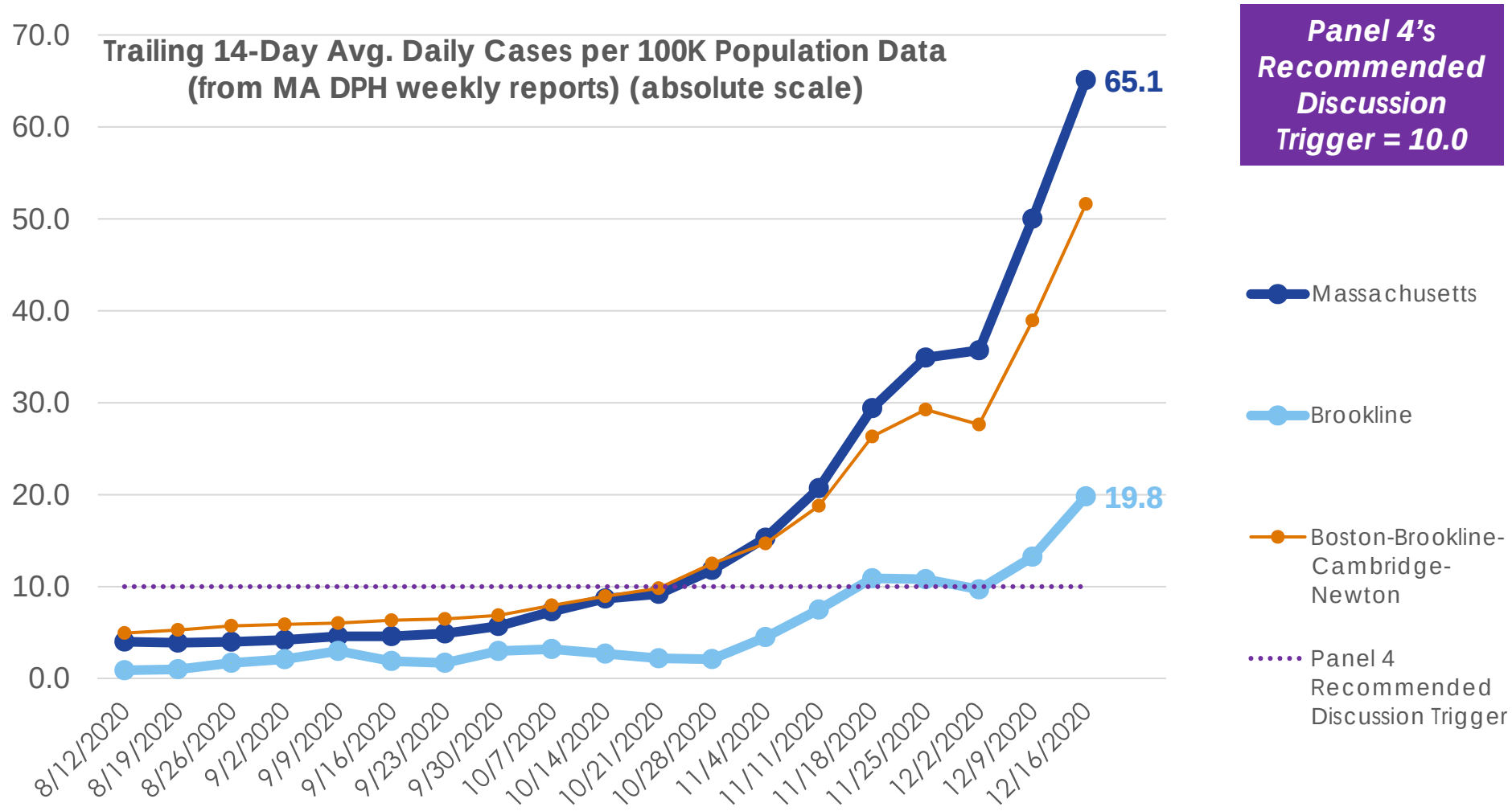
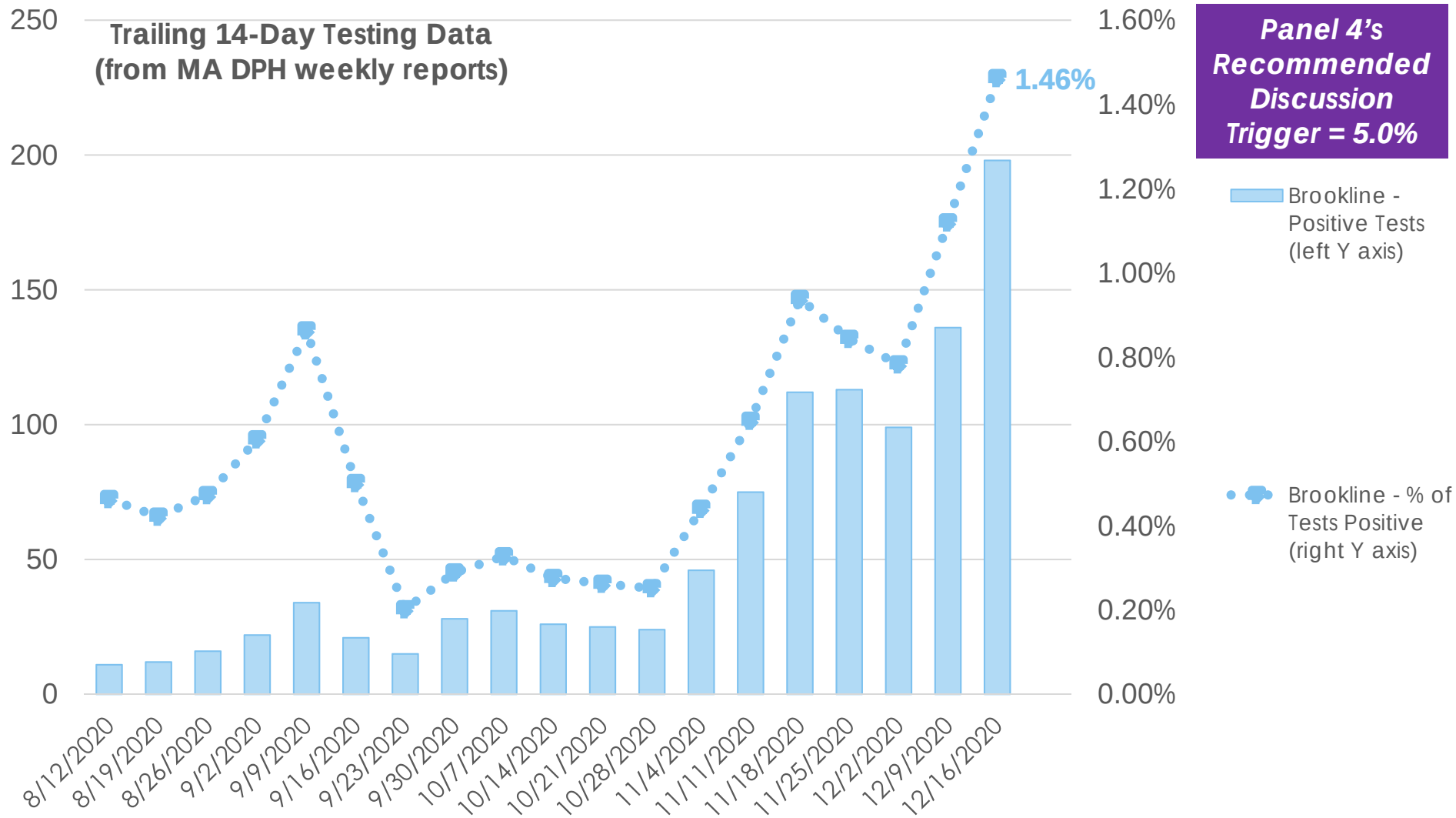
Community Benchmarks - Status



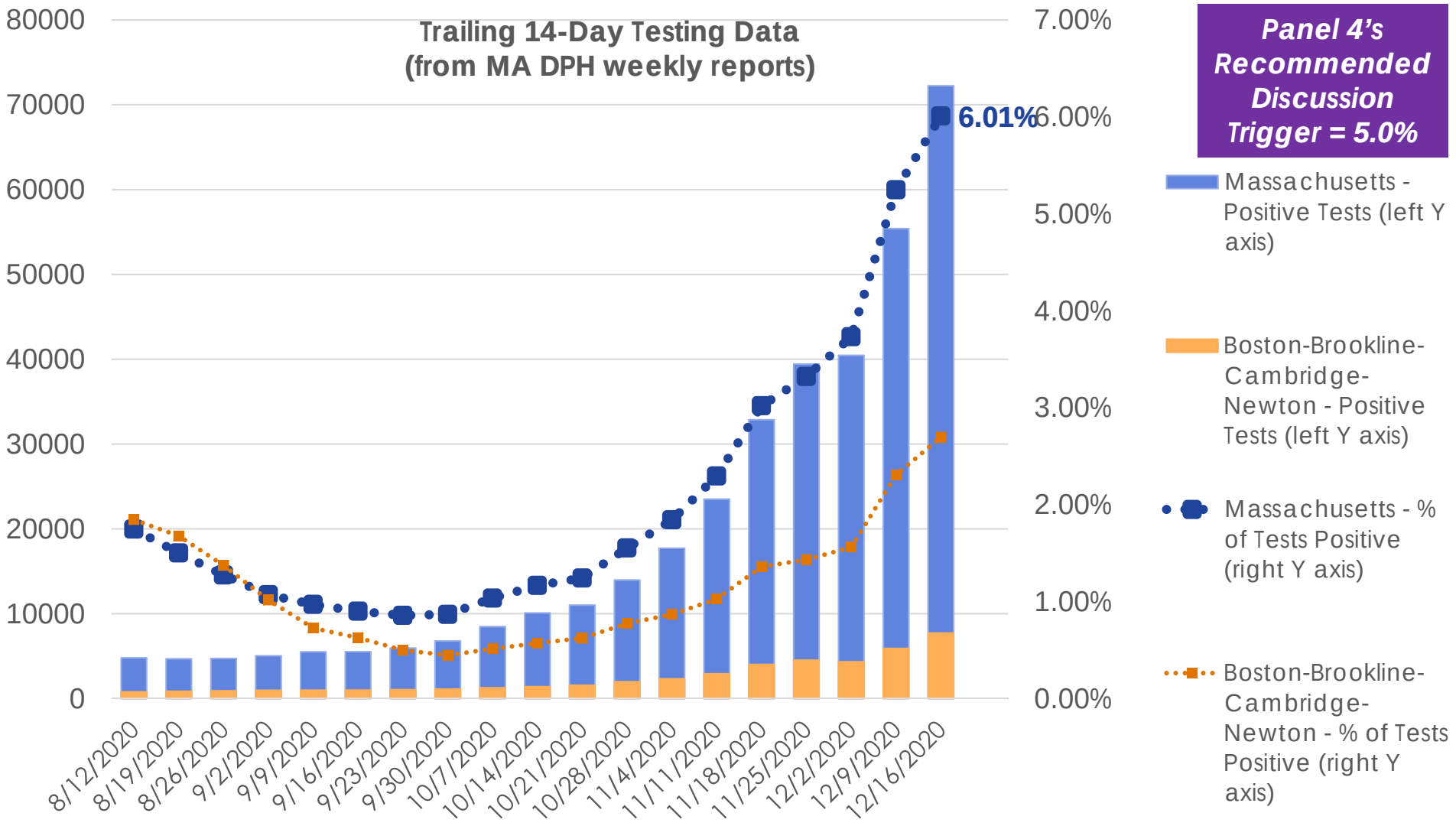
Sources: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting#covid-19-weekly-public-health-report-

Community Benchmarks - Status



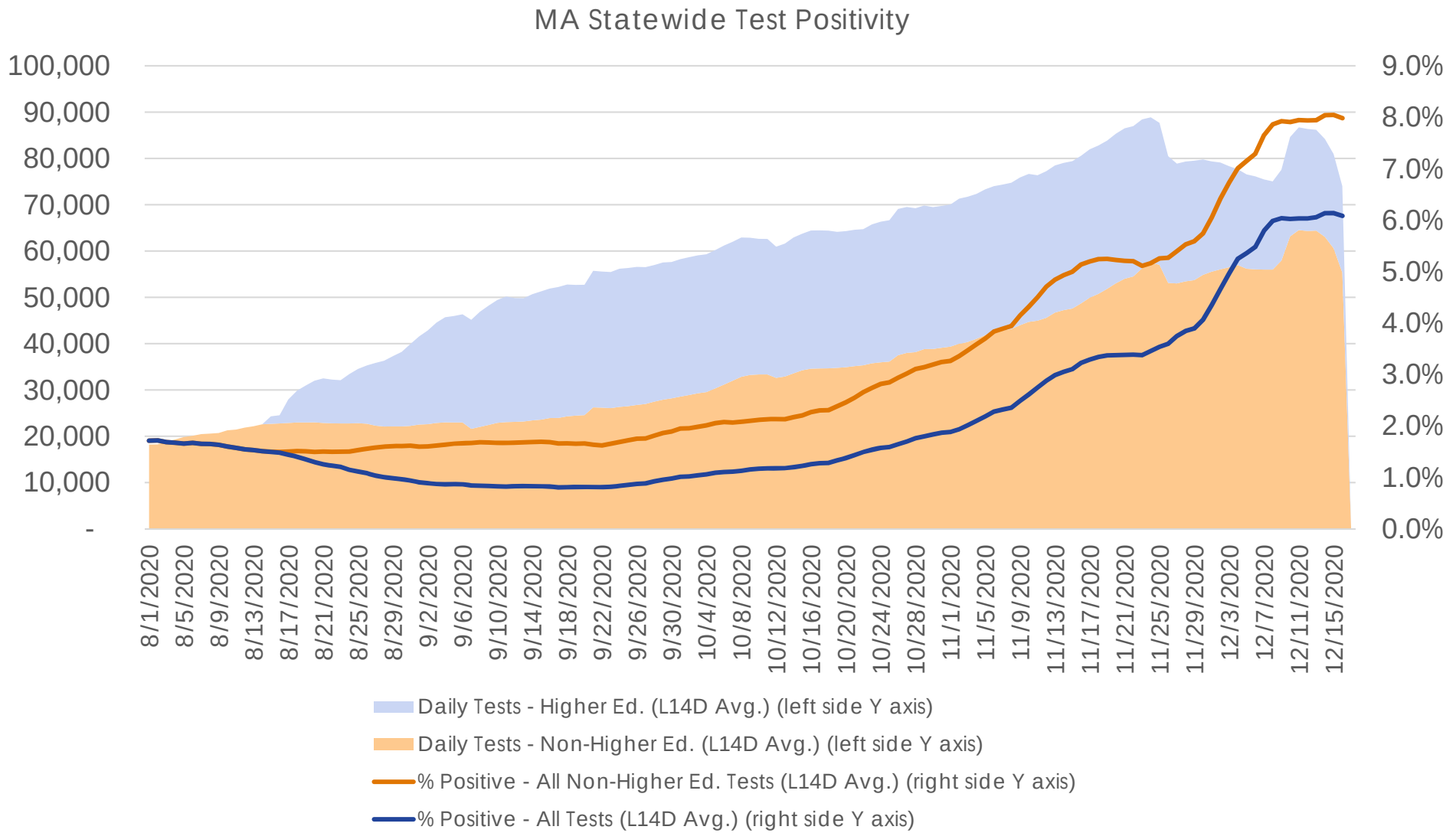
Source: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting#covid-19-weekly-public-health-report-

Community Benchmarks - Status



Source: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting#covid-19-weekly-public-health-report-

Statewide Test Positivity



Source: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting

Brookline in Regional Context

Municipality	Avg. Daily Cases/100k L14D	% of Tests Positive L14D	Total Tests L14D / Muni. Population
Boston	**61.9**	3.3%	**29%**
Milton	**54.9**	**4.9%**	18%
Watertown	**52.1**	**4.4%**	20%
Somerville	**46.1**	1.7%	**43%**
Dedham	**45.9**	**4.7%**	**15%**
Arlington	30.7	3.0%	**16%**
Needham	29.6	2.5%	19%
Belmont	28.9	3.0%	**15%**
Cambridge	28.2	**1.2%**	**40%**
Newton	24.9	**1.3%**	**31%**
Wellesley	20.9	**1.1%**	**31%**
Brookline	**19.8**	**1.5%**	**21%**

Source: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting

Public Schools of Brookline Case Count

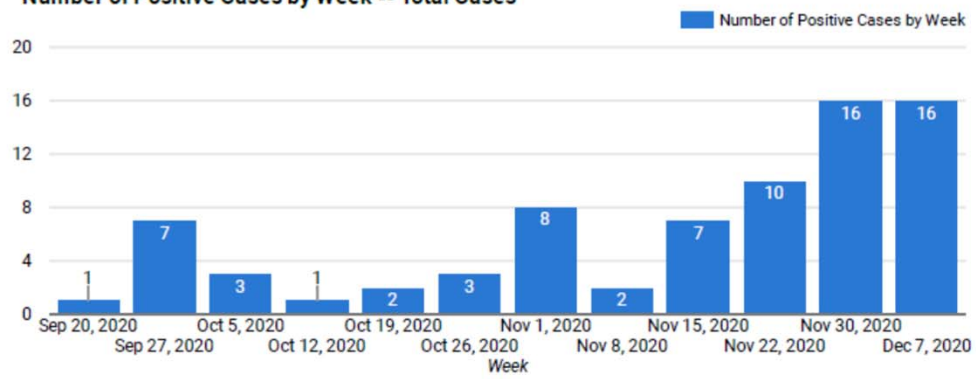
PUBLIC SCHOOLS of BROOKLINE

Data Last Updated: 12/16/20

COVID-19 CASES: DISTRICT DASHBOARD

Dashboard outlines number of positive COVID-19 cases in the PSB school community by week and learning model. For the purpose of this dataset, weeks run Monday - Sunday.
Source: Public Schools of Brookline School Health Services Department

Number of Positive Cases by Week -- Total Cases



TOTAL PSB CASES TO DATE:

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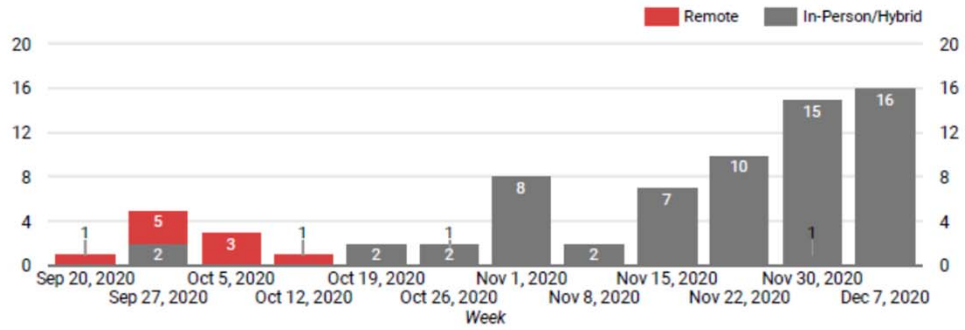
Number of Positive Cases by Week and Learning Model



TOTAL PSB CASES TO DATE:

Remote: 12
In-Person/Hybrid: 64

Source: https://sites.google.com/psbma.org/psb-reopening-hub/dashboard?authuser=0

Public Schools of Brookline Case Count

Data Last Updated: 12/16/20

PUBLIC SCHOOLS of BROOKLINE

COVID-19 CASES: SCHOOL BY SCHOOL DASHBOARD

The table outlines the number of positive COVID-19 cases by week (beginning the week of 11/30) and the number of cumulative cases for the year at each school. For the purpose of this dataset, weeks run Monday - Sunday.
Source: Public Schools of Brookline School Health Services Department

Number of Positive Cases by School & District Offices -- # by Week and Total Cumulative Cases

School	Weekly Positive Cases (12/7)	Cumulative Positive Cases
BEEP @ Beacon	0	1
BEEP @ Clark	0	0
BEEP @ Lynch	0	0
BEEP @ Putterham	0	0
Baker	4	15
Driscoll	1	5
Florida Ruffin Ridley	0	6
Heath	2	4
Lawrence	1	7
Lincoln	3	6
Pierce	3	13
Runkle	0	5
Remote Learning Academy K-8	0	3
Brooklline High School	2	8
Total	0	73

	Weekly Positive Cases (12/7)	Cumulative Positive Cases
District Office	1	3

Source: https://sites.google.com/psbma.org/psb-reopening-hub/dashboard?authuser=0

MA DESE Isolation/Quarantine Guidance

Self-isolation for COVID-19 positive cases is a minimum of 10 days

Most people who test positive and have a relatively mild illness will need to stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days. People who test positive can resume public activities after 10 days and once they have:

a. gone for 24 hours without a fever (and without taking fever-reducing medications like Tylenol); and
b. experienced improvement in other symptoms (for example, their cough has gotten much better); and
c. received clearance from public health authority contact tracers (the local board of health or Community Tracing Collaborative).

Repeat testing prior to return is not recommended. Return to school should be based on time and symptom resolution.

Source: https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/

MA DESE Isolation/Quarantine Guidance

Close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case should be tested. For general guidance, DPH defines close contact as:[5]

- Being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 case (someone who has tested positive) for a total of 15 minutes during a day. Multiple brief or transitory interactions (less than a minute) throughout the day are unlikely to result in 15 minutes of cumulative contact and do not meet the definition of close contact. Being in the same room as an individual if you are consistently separated by 6 feet of distance does not meet the definition of a close contact.
- Close contact can occur while being with, caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case while the case was symptomatic or within 2 days before symptom onset, OR
- Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

If someone tests positive

- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, their close contacts will be defined as only those who have been within 6 feet of distance of the individual for at least fifteen minutes during a day while the person was infectious. The infectious period begins 2 days prior to symptom onset. If someone is asymptomatic, the infectious period is considered to begin 2 days prior to the collection of their positive test. While previous guidance stated that all students in an elementary classroom would be defined as close contacts, this new guidance provides a more specific definition of a close contact which mirrors DPH guidance.

Source: https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/

MA DESE Isolation/Quarantine Guidance

- **Policy of when a close contact may return to school:** All close contacts should be tested but must self-quarantine, consistent with the guidance outlined below. The local board of health, in consultation with the school's COVID-19 response person, are best suited to advise on which quarantine option applies to a specific case. In accordance with the federal Center for Disease Control, close contacts must quarantine for the time period listed below:
  - At least 7 days, provided that all of the following are satisfied:
    - They are tested (either polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or antigen test) on day 5 or later from their last exposure to the positive individual and receive a negative test result
    - They have not experienced any symptoms up to this point
    - They conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 14, and self-isolate if new symptoms develop

While most exposed close contacts do not contract COVID-19, this quarantine option may not identify 5% of those who still have the potential to transmit infection after quarantine ends. In other words, 95% of individuals who could still transmit infection after quarantine ends would be identified with this strategy.

Source: https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/

MA DESE Isolation/Quarantine Guidance

- At least 10 days, provided that all of the following are satisfied:
  - They have not experienced any symptoms up to this point
  - They conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 14 and self-isolate if new symptoms develop
  - No test is necessary under this option for the purposes of exiting quarantine

While most exposed close contacts do not contract COVID-19, this quarantine option may not identify 1% of those who still have the potential to transmit infection after quarantine ends. In other words, 99% of individuals who could still transmit infection after quarantine ends would be identified with this strategy.

Source: https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/

MA DESE Isolation/Quarantine Guidance

- At least 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, if:
  - They have experienced any symptoms during the quarantine period, even if they have a negative COVID-19 test; or
  - They are unable to conduct active monitoring of symptoms

This option provides the maximal risk reduction.

When individuals exit quarantine, masking and other safety measures remain critical. It may be best for individuals who are not be able to adhere to masking and distancing to exit quarantine after 10 or 14 days. Active monitoring requires individuals to actively monitor their symptoms and take temperature once daily. If even mild symptoms develop or the individual has a temperature of 100.0 F, they must immediately self-isolate, and contact the public health authority overseeing their quarantine, and be tested.

Source: https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/

CDC/MA DPH Isolation/Quarantine Guidance

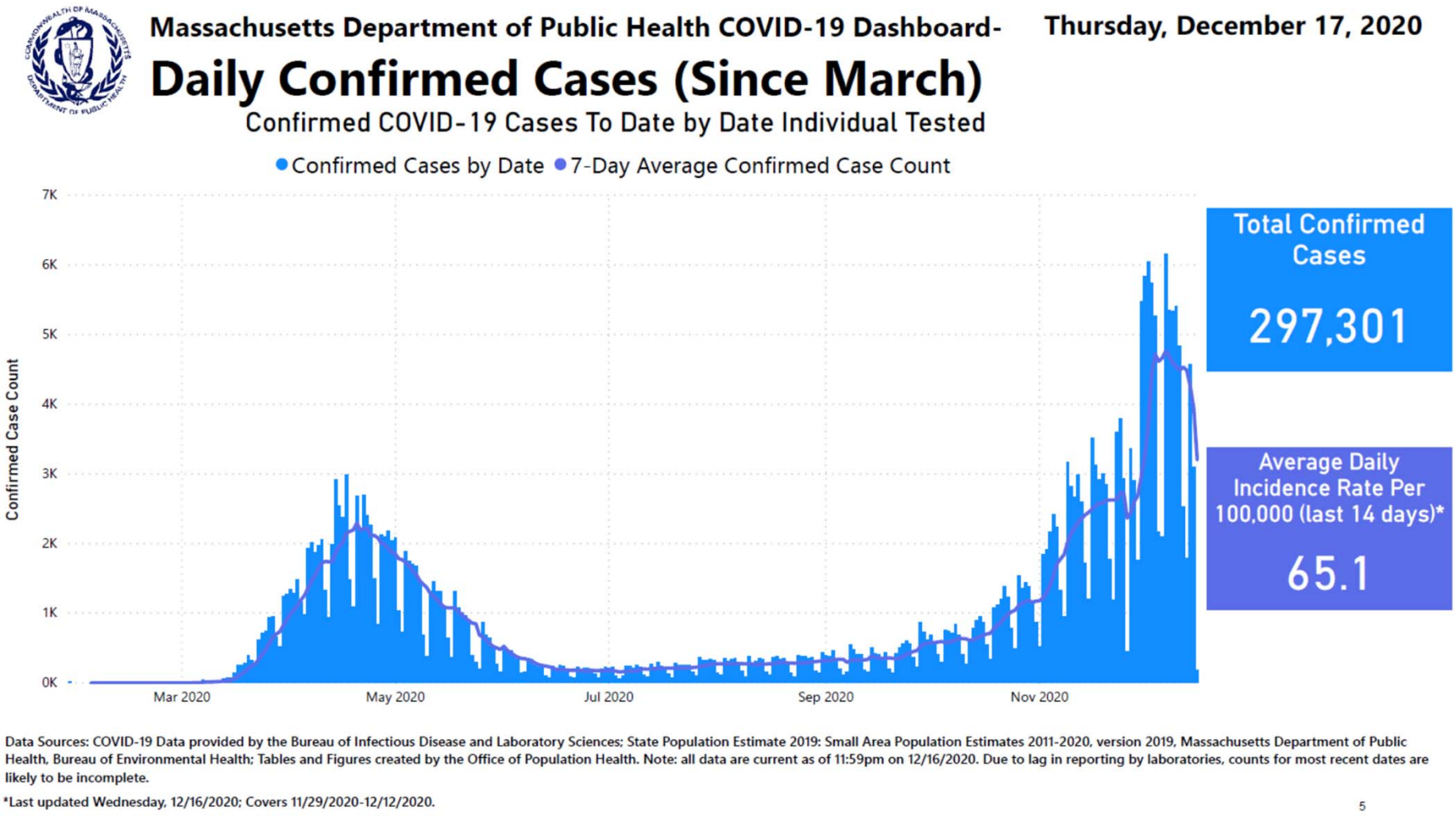
- For current MA DPH guidance, see here: https://www.mass.gov/guidance/information-and-guidance-for-persons-in-quarantine-due-to-covid-19#how-long-must-you-quarantine-

- For current CDC guidance, see here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html

Source: https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/

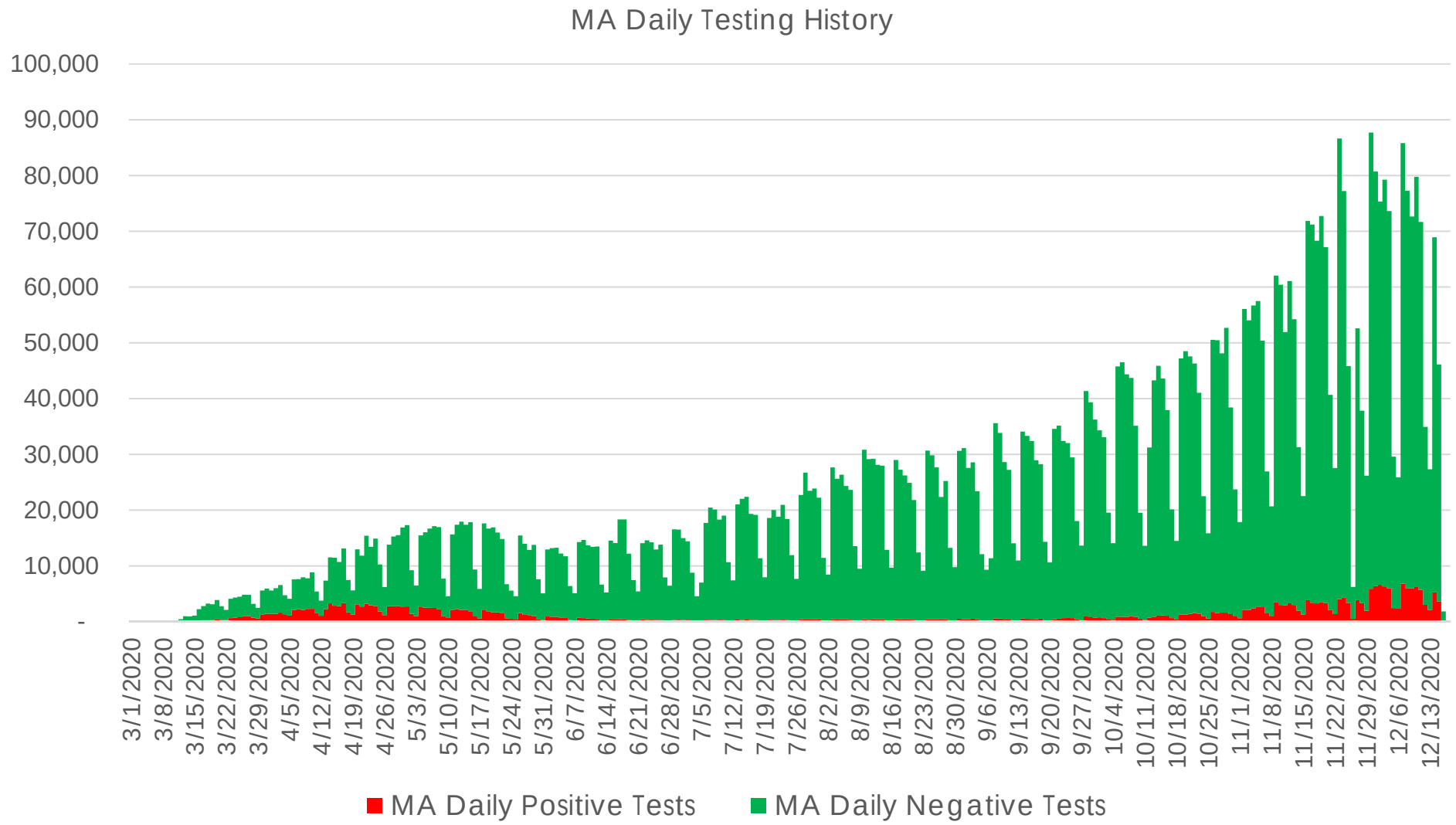
Appendix – For Reference As Needed

Statewide Case Count



Source: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting

Statewide Case Count



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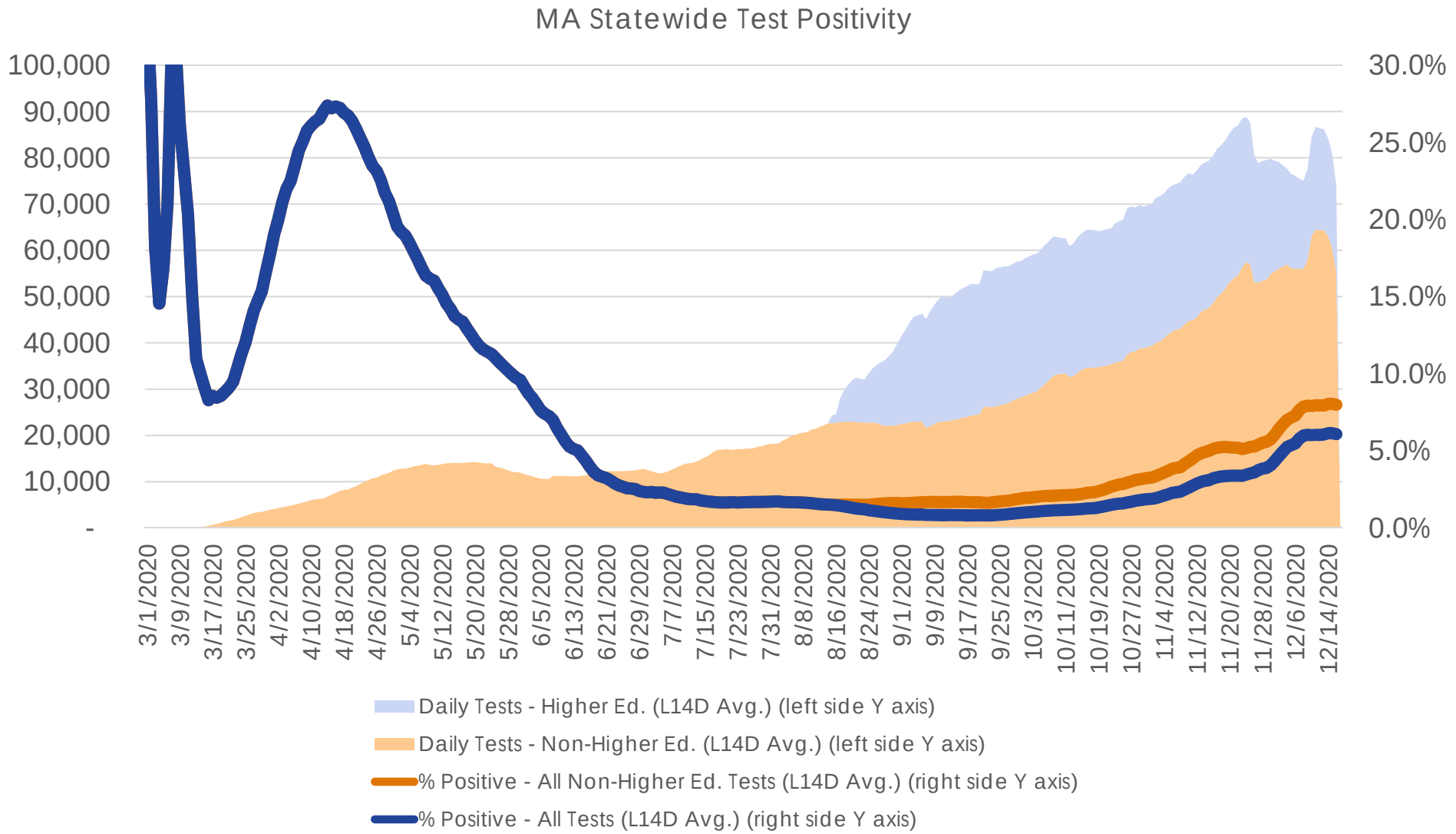
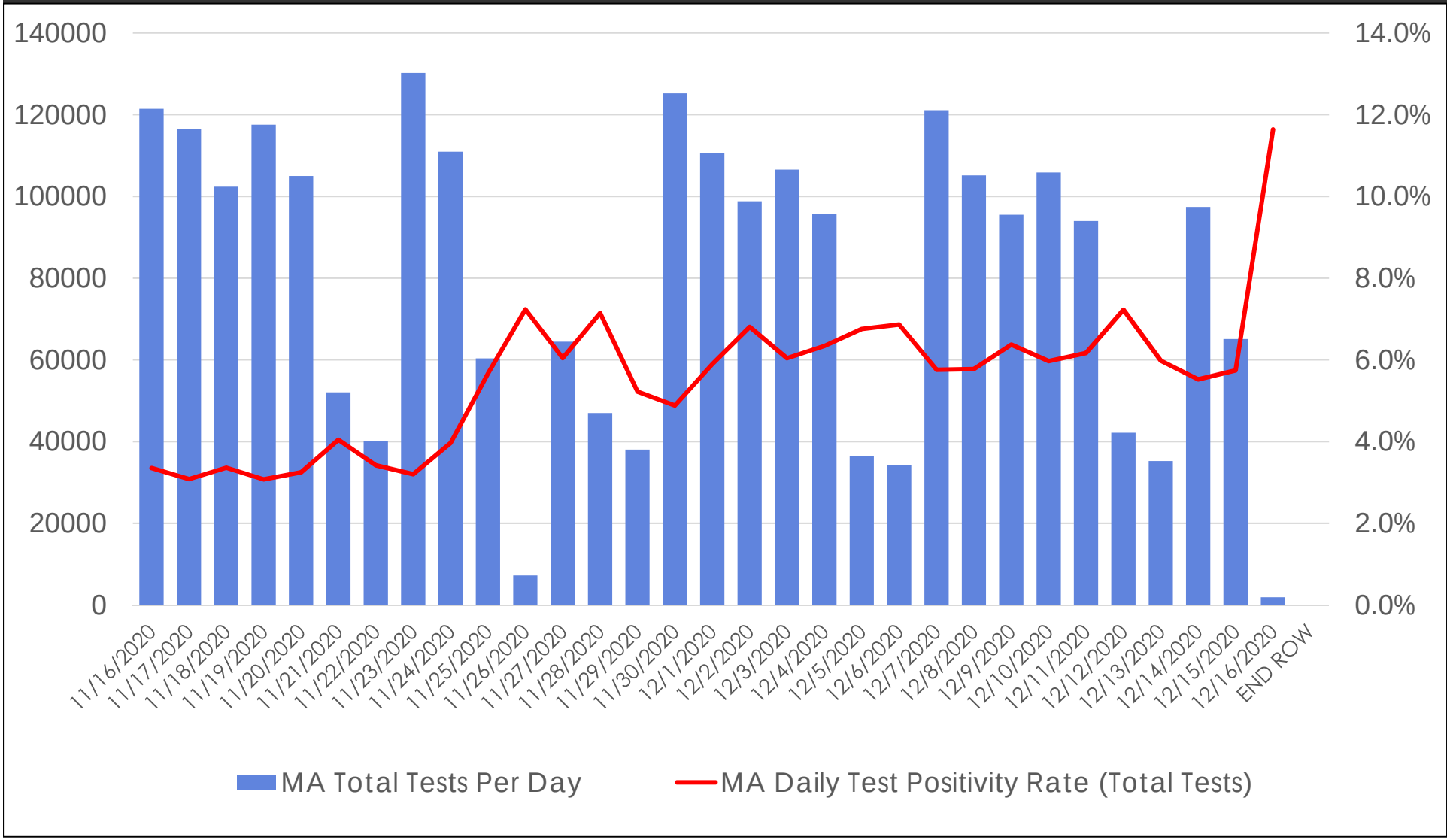
Statewide Test Positivity



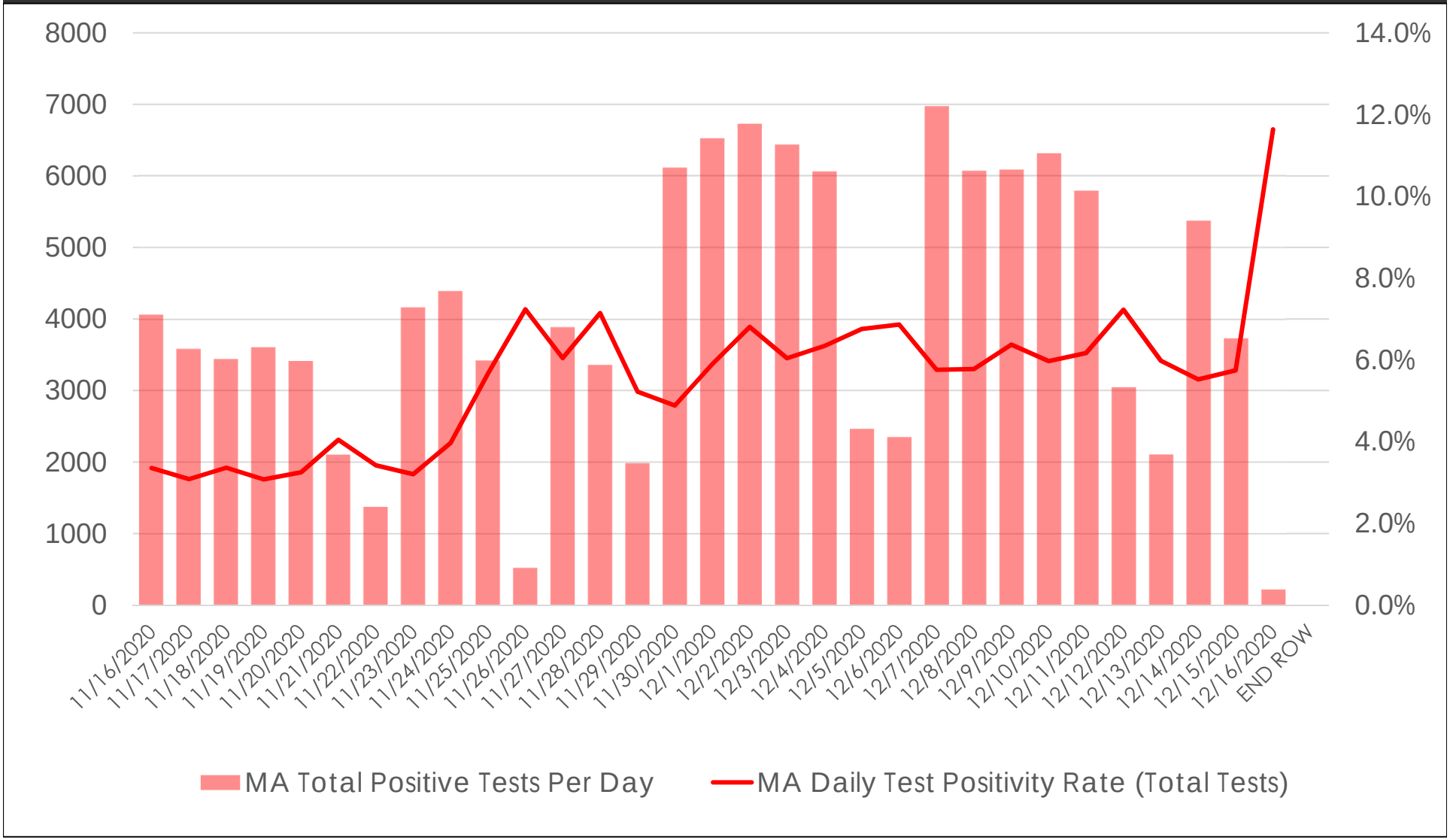
Source: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting

Statewide Daily Test Data



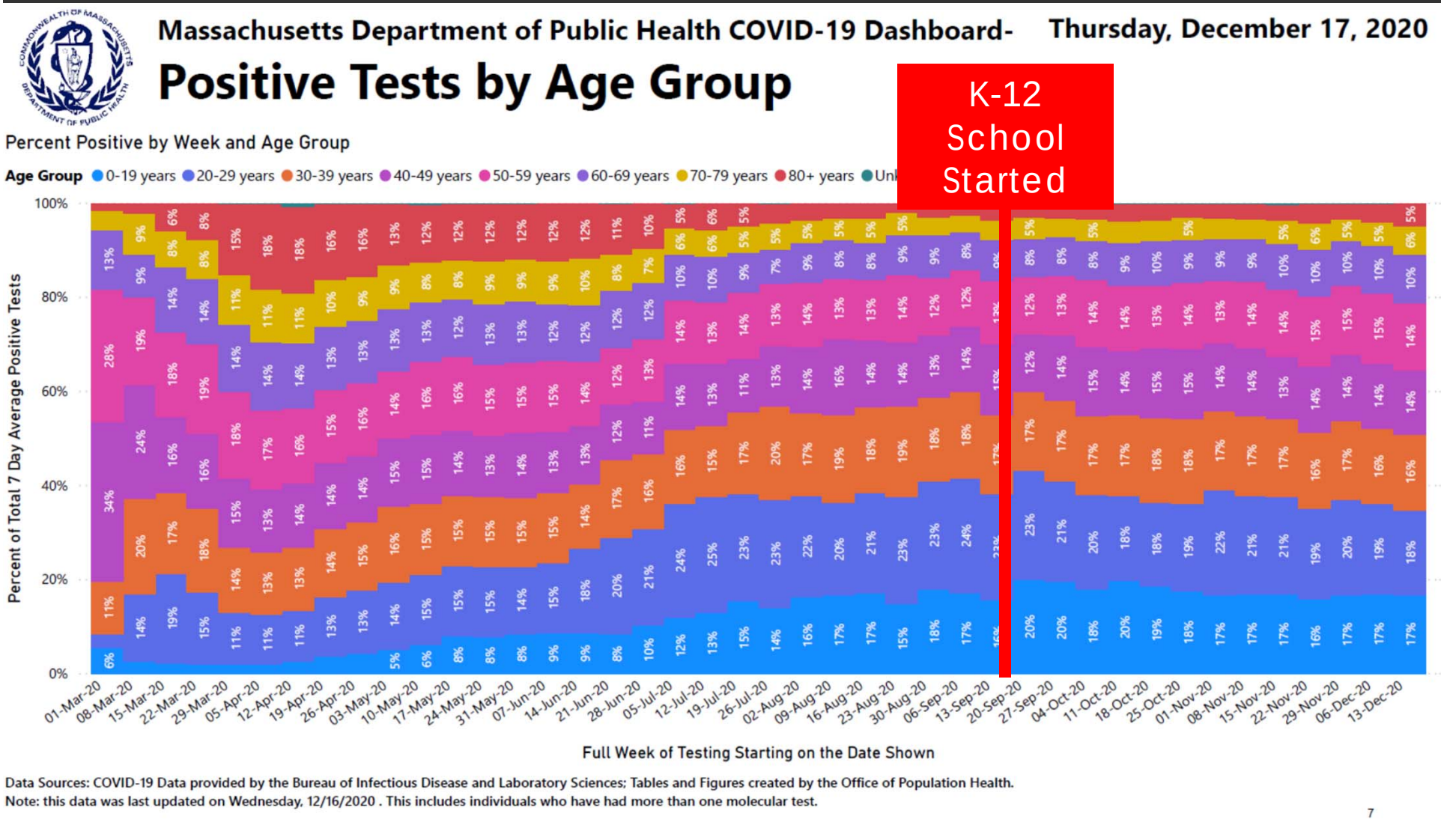
Source: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting

Statewide Daily Test Data



Source: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting

Statewide Daily Positive Tests By Age Group



Data Sources: COVID-19 Data provided by the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences; Tables and Figures created by the Office of Population Health.
Note: this data was last updated on Wednesday, 12/16/2020 . This includes individuals who have had more than one molecular test.

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Source: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting

MA DESE Guidance – In-Person/Remote

https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/interpreting-dph-metrics.html

- ***Districts are expected to prioritize in-person learning across all color-coded categories, unless there is suspected in-school transmission, in accordance with DESE's Guidance on Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios.*** *Transmission in schools is defined as spread of the virus between people during interactions in the school setting. While there have been positive COVID-19 cases of staff and students in schools, most of these infections have occurred outside of the school setting. If there is suspected in-school transmission, then the affected classrooms or schools should temporarily shift to remote learning, in accordance with DESE's Guidance on Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios. Classrooms and schools should reopen after appropriate mitigation strategies have been implemented, as determined in consultation with the local board of health, DPH, and DESE.*

MA DESE Guidance – In-Person/Remote

https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/interpreting-dph-metrics.html

- ***Districts and schools in communities designated gray, green, or yellow are expected to have students learning fully in-person, if feasible.*** *A hybrid model should be used only if there is no other way to meet health and safety requirements. Parents and caregivers will continue to have the option to choose a district's remote learning program for their children.*

- ***Schools in red communities should implement hybrid models, while maximizing in-person learning time for high-needs students.***

...

- ***Fully remote instructional models should be implemented only as a last resort*** *in classrooms, schools, or districts when there is suspected in-school transmission or a significant municipal outbreak, in accordance with DESE's Guidance on Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios. Classrooms and schools should reopen after appropriate mitigation strategies have been implemented, as determined in consultation with the local board of health, DPH, and DESE.*