
PUBLIC SCHOOLS of
BROOKLINE

Advisory Panel 4:
Public Health, Safety, & Logistics

Meeting Slides

September 24, 2021

Community Benchmarks - Status

Benchmark (each measured over prior 14 days)	Status 8/7/21	Status 8/21/21	Status 9/4/21	Status 9/18/21
Avg. daily new case count in Brookline = <10 per 100k people	7.3	9.4	11.8	10.8
Avg. daily new case count in Mass. = <10 per 100k people	12.2	17.4	21.1	23.8
Avg. test positivity rate in Brookline = <5.0%	1.11%	1.23%	1.04%	0.78%
Avg. test positivity rate in Massachusetts = <5.0%	2.69%	2.83%	2.51%	2.24%

Panel 4 selected these four community transmission benchmarks in August 2020 as triggers for focused evaluation and discussion of whether changes in operations are warranted, not as definitive indicators of in-school risk or thresholds for automatic action. Research and PSB-specific data since that time have convincingly shown that in-school transmission risk can be kept very low even at high levels of community case incidence.

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

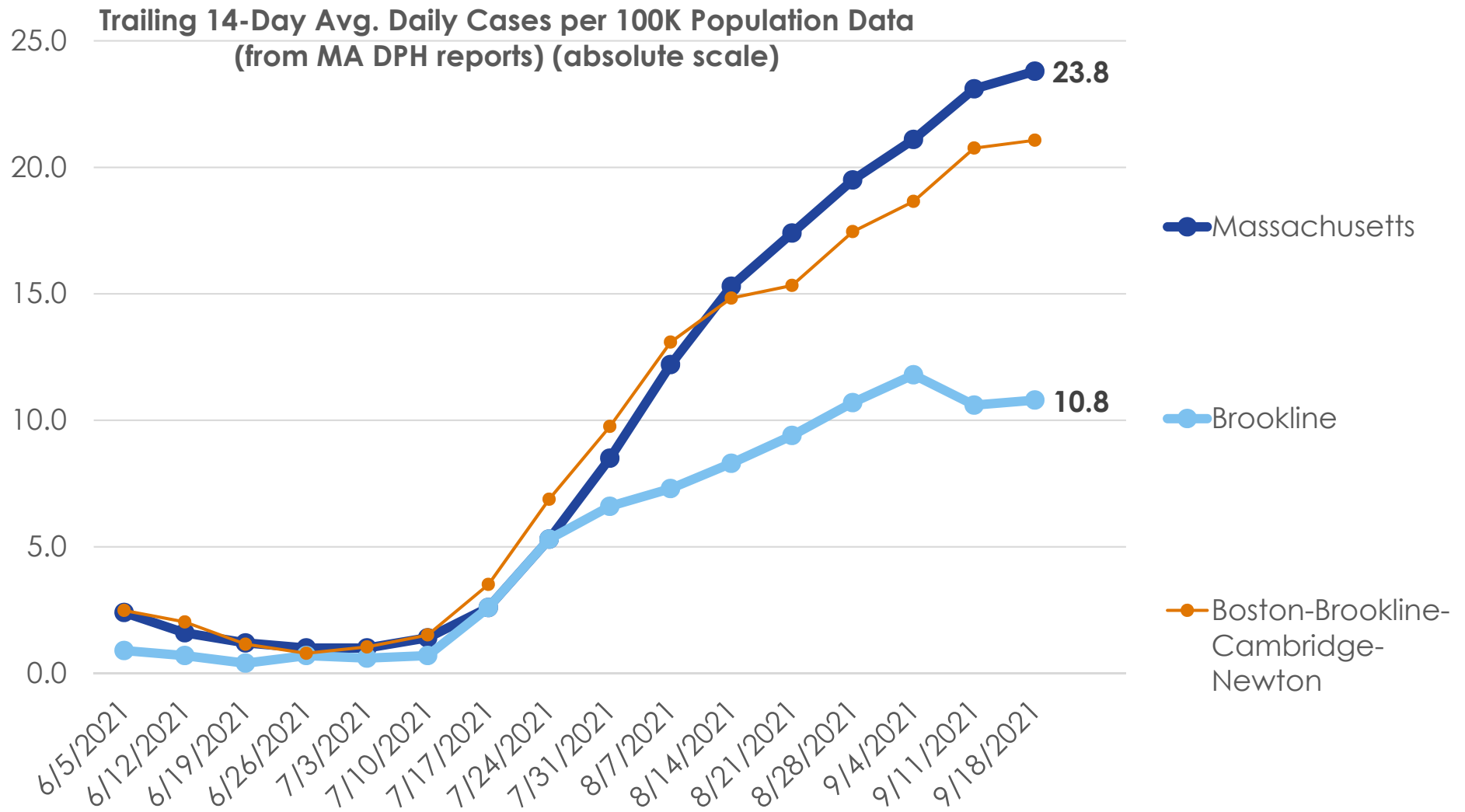
Group	Population		
	Under 10K	10K-50K	Over 50K
Grey	Less than or equal to 10 total cases	Less than or equal to 10 total cases	Less than or equal to 15 total cases
Green	Less than or equal to 15 total cases	<10 avg cases/100k AND >10 total cases	<10 avg cases/100k AND >15 total cases
Yellow	Less than 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 is here as of 9/18/2021 (barely yellow)

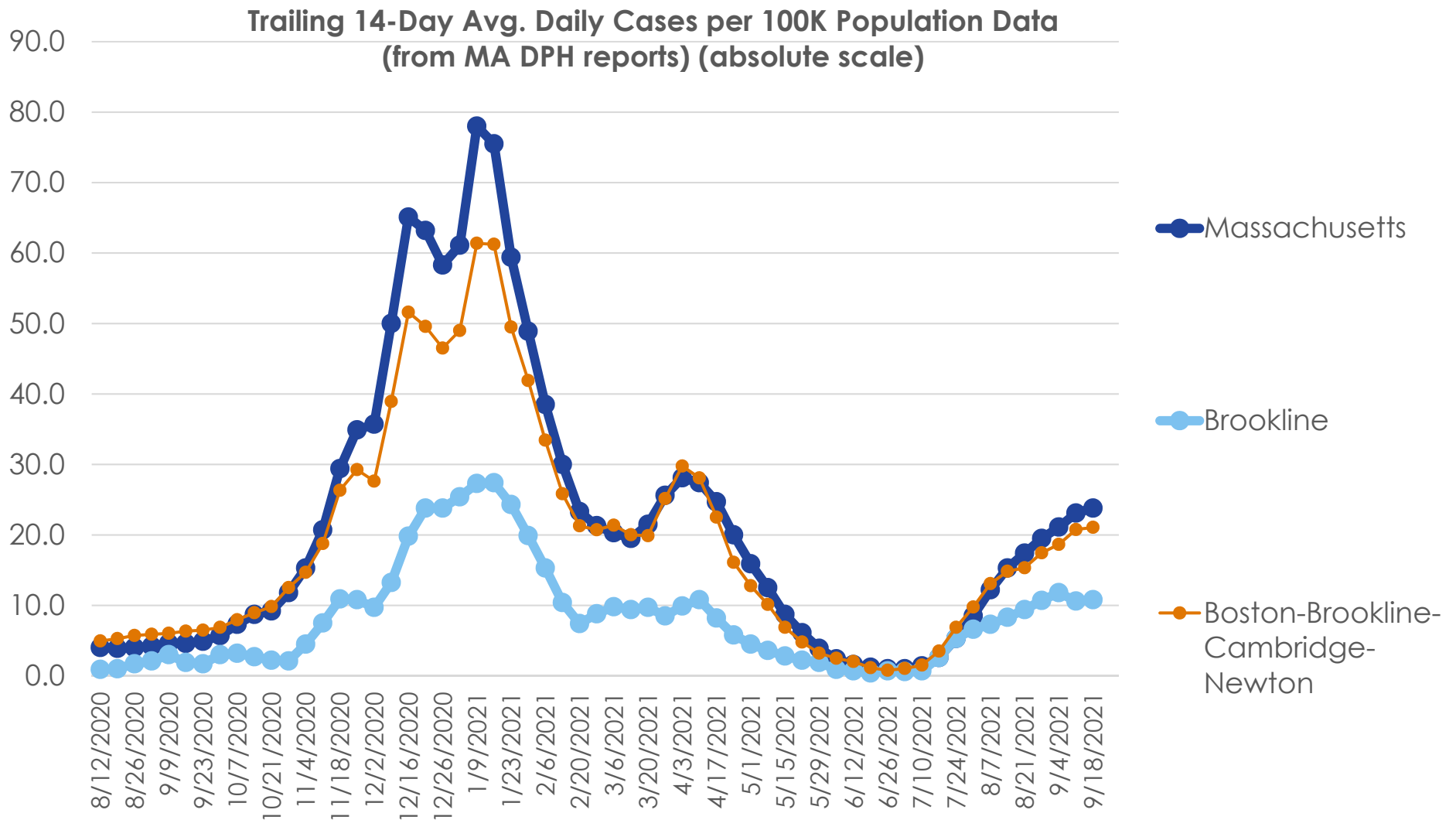
Brookline's population is ~60,000

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.

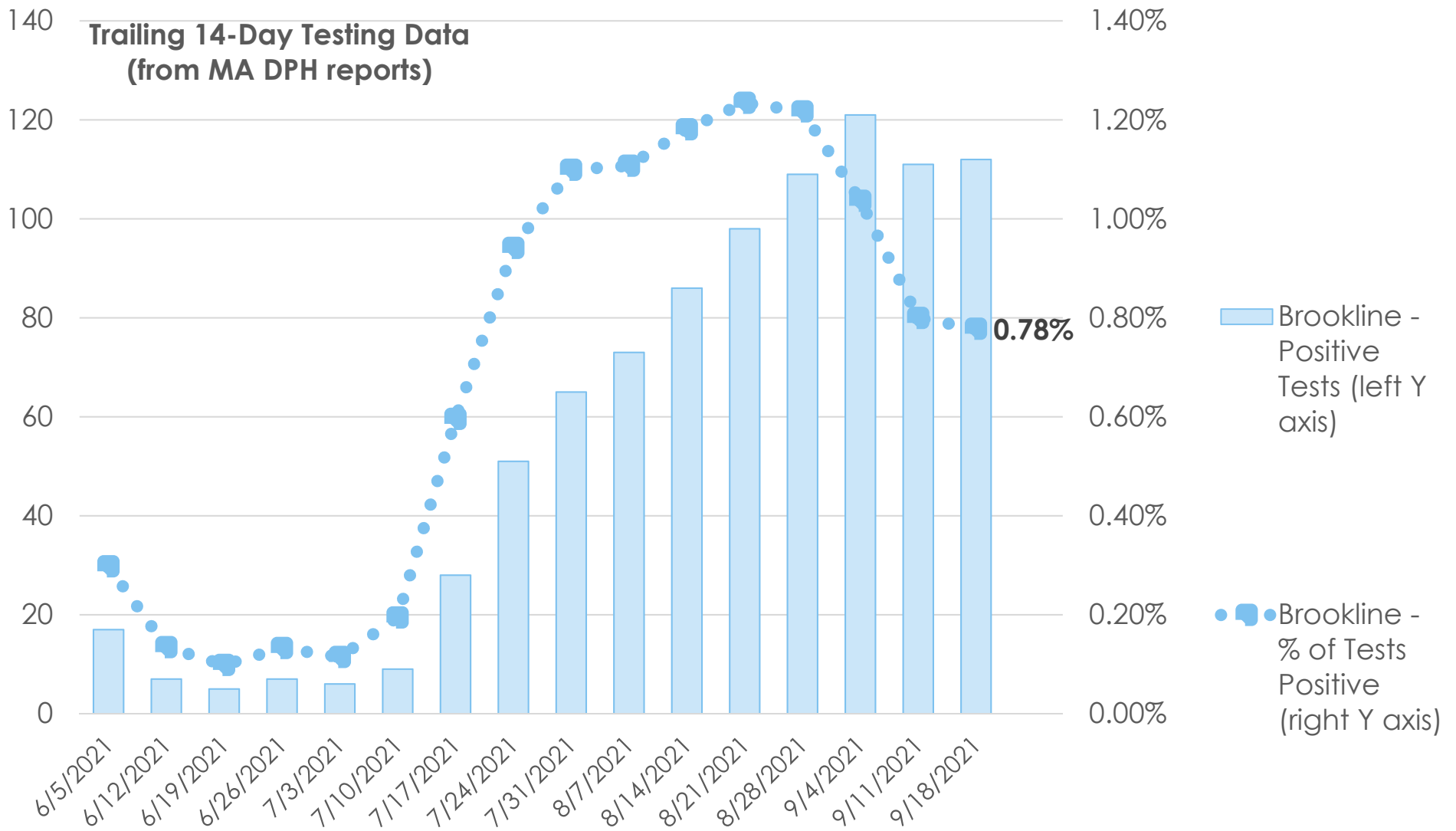
Trends: Avg. Daily New Cases per 100k



Trends: Avg. Daily New Cases per 100k

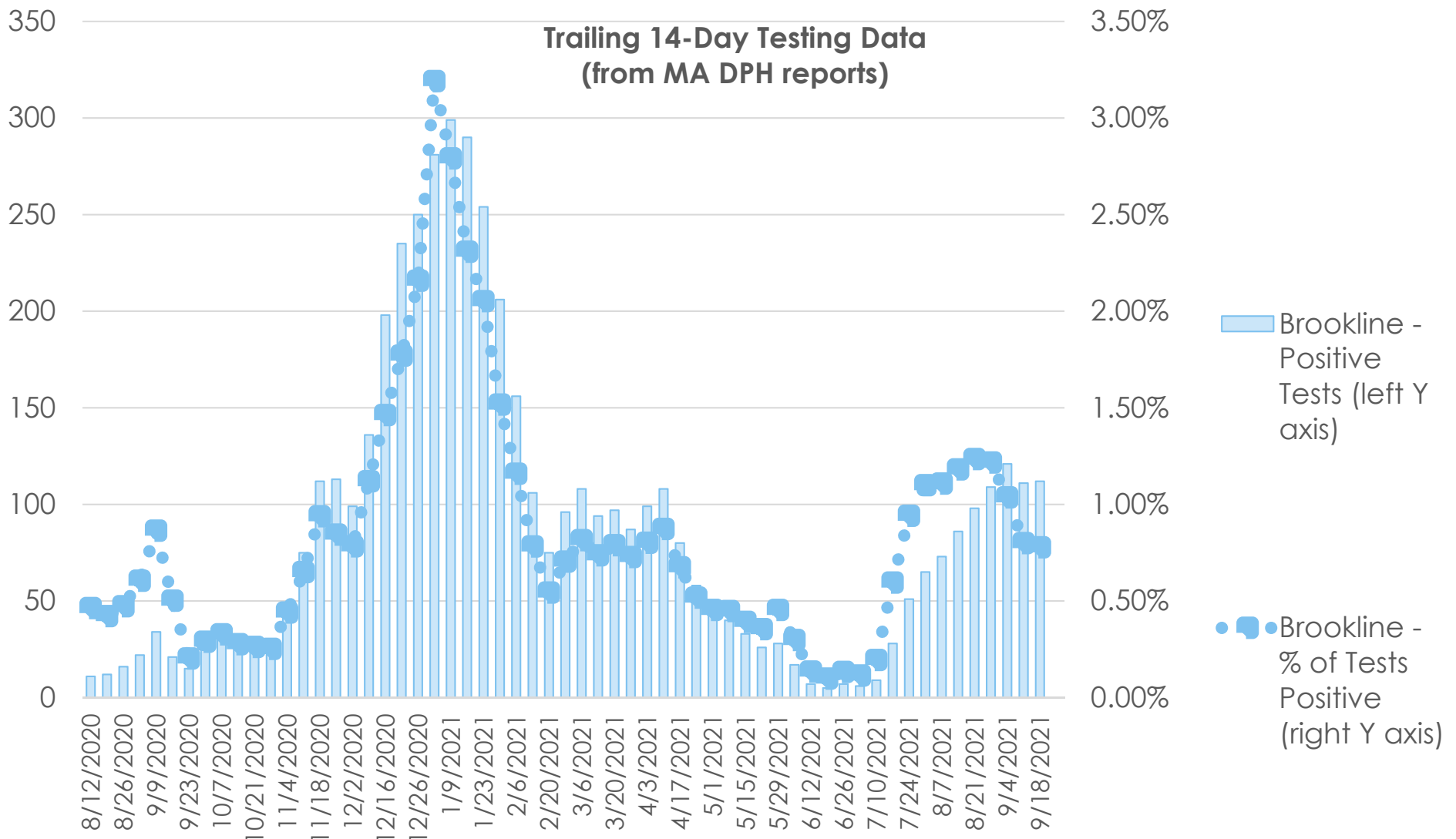


Trends: Test Positivity (Brookline)



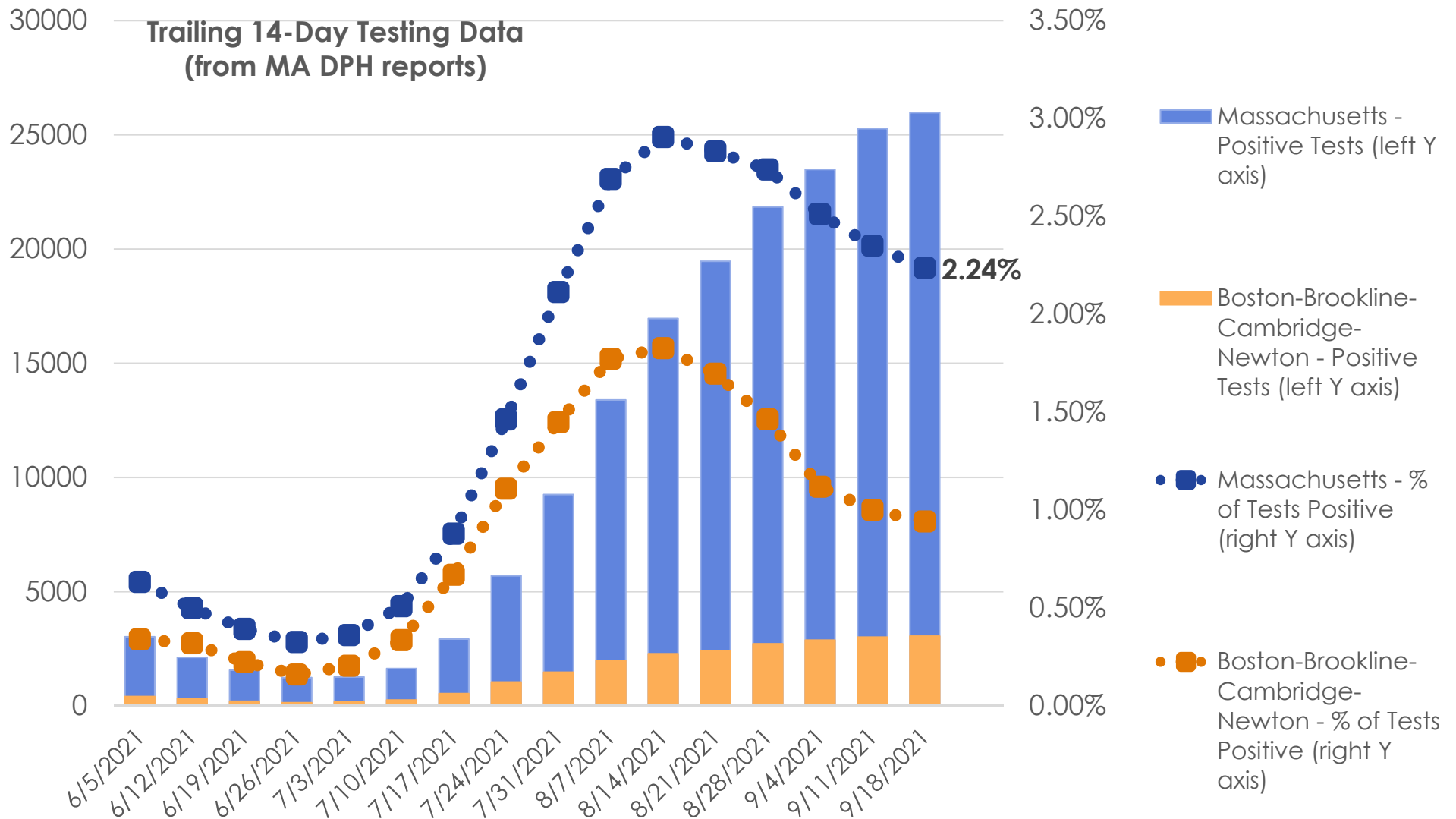
Data source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>

Trends: Test Positivity (Brookline)



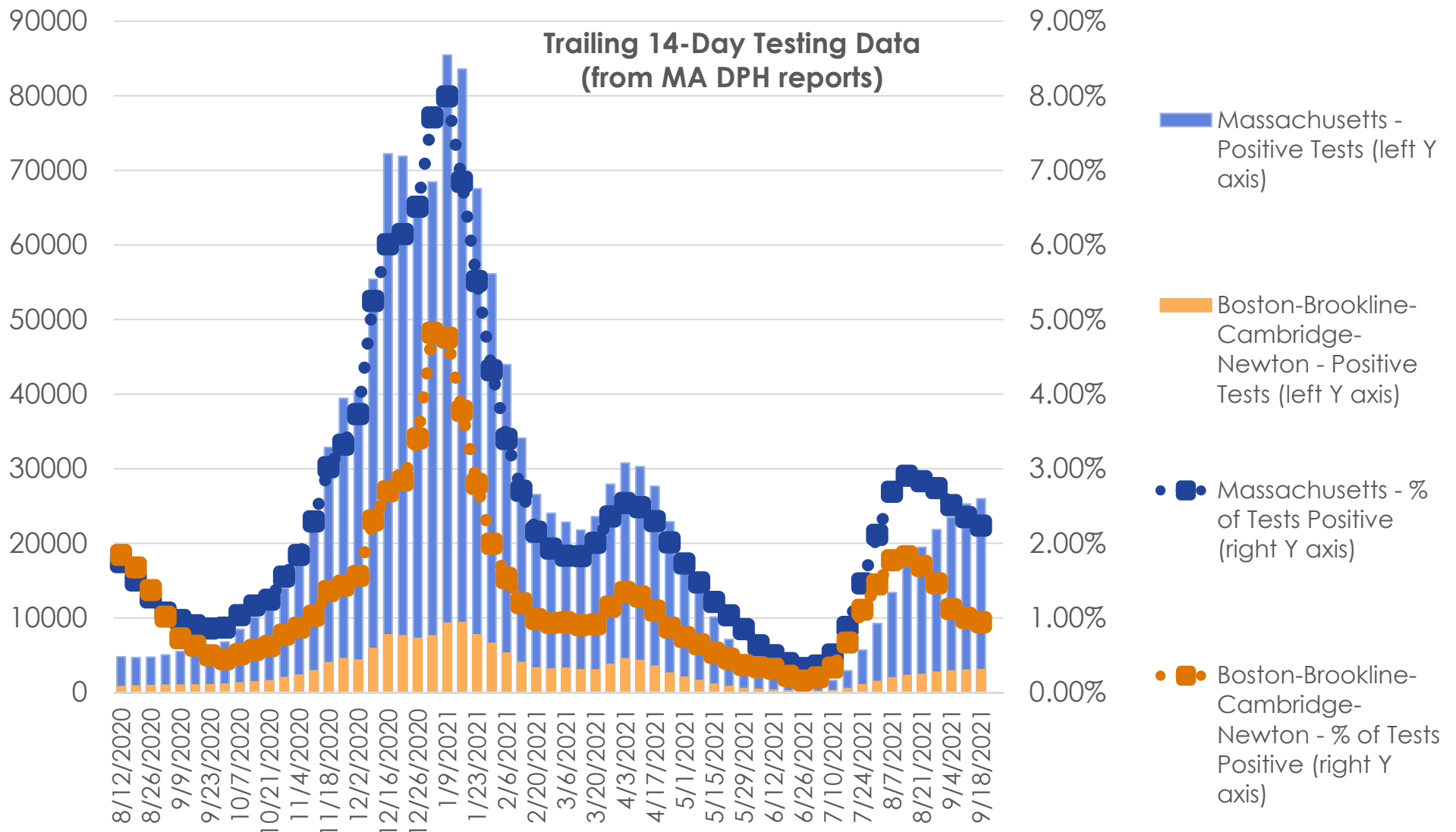
Data source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>

Trends: Test Positivity (Statewide)



Data source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>

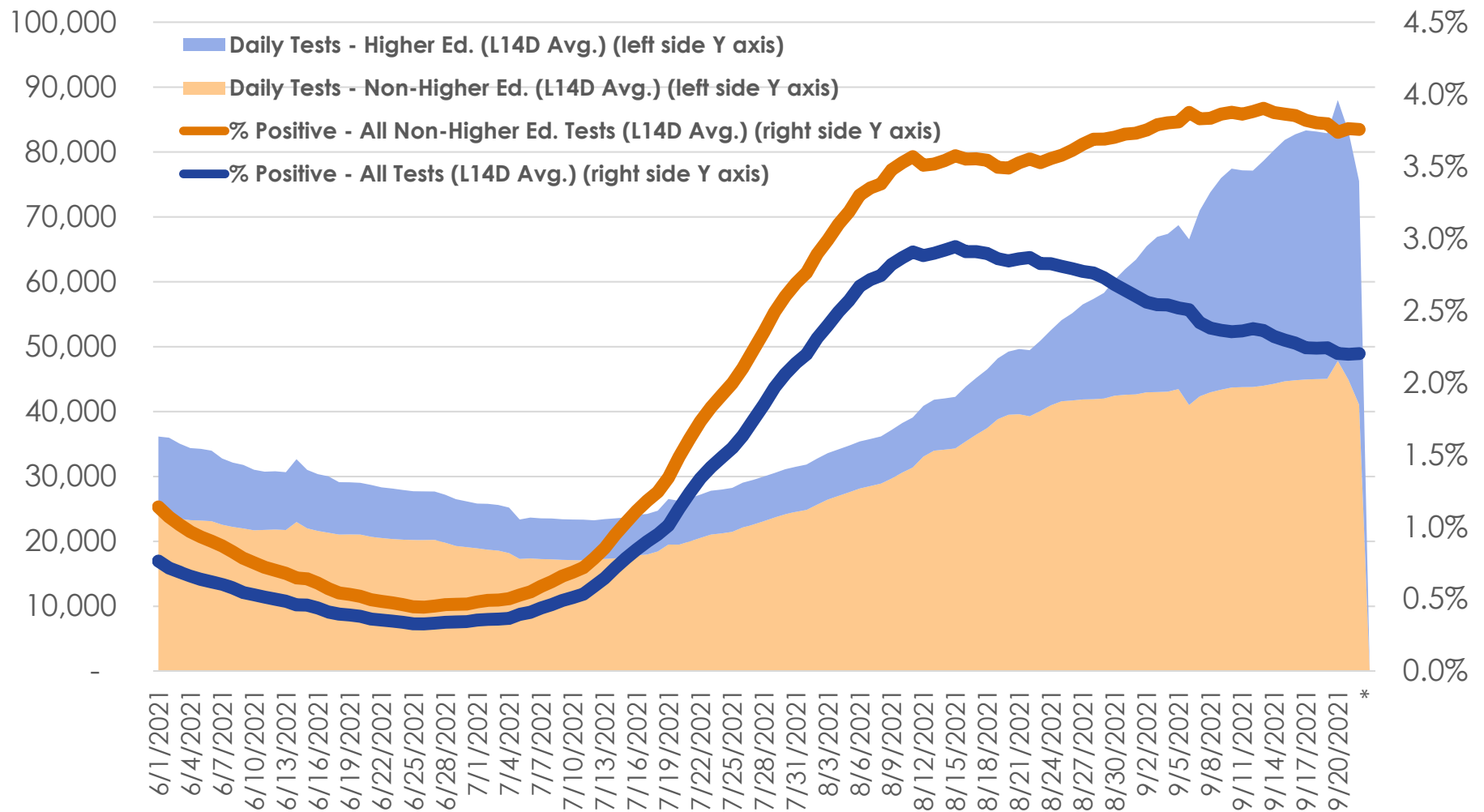
Trends: Test Positivity (Statewide)



Data source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>

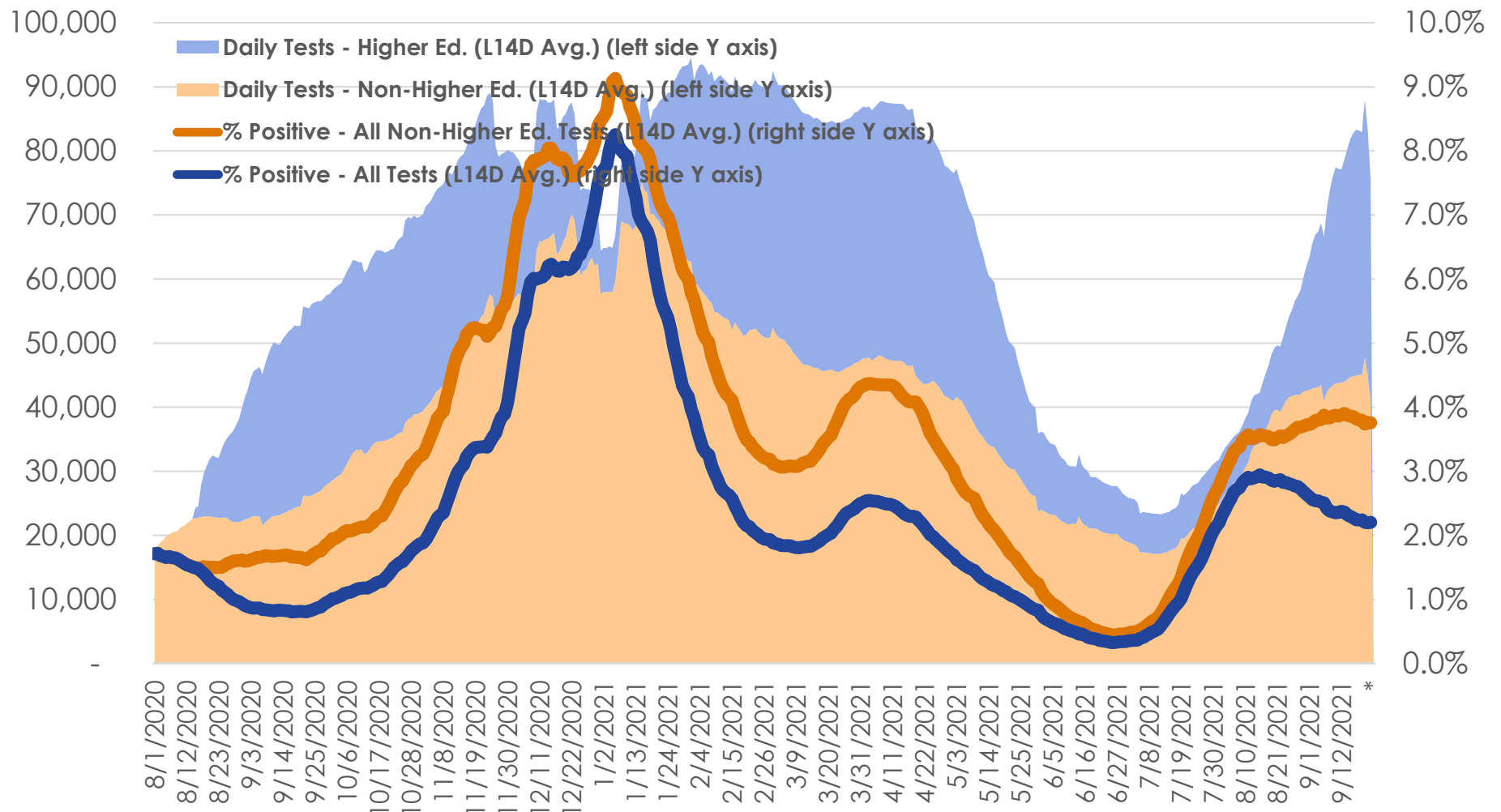
Trends: Test Positivity and Testing Volume (Statewide)

MA Statewide Test Positivity and Volume

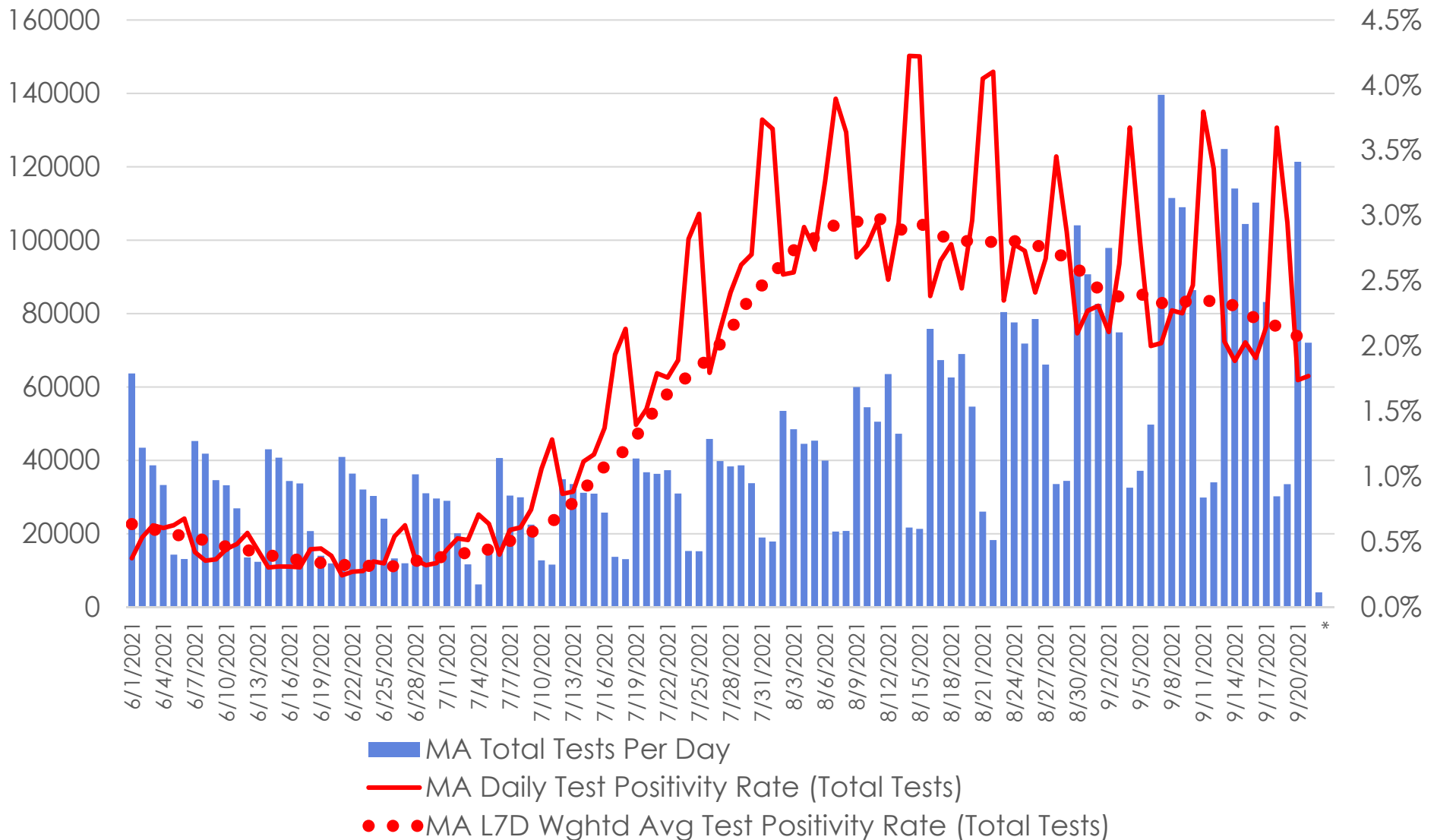


Trends: Test Positivity and Testing Volume (Statewide)

MA Statewide Test Positivity and Volume

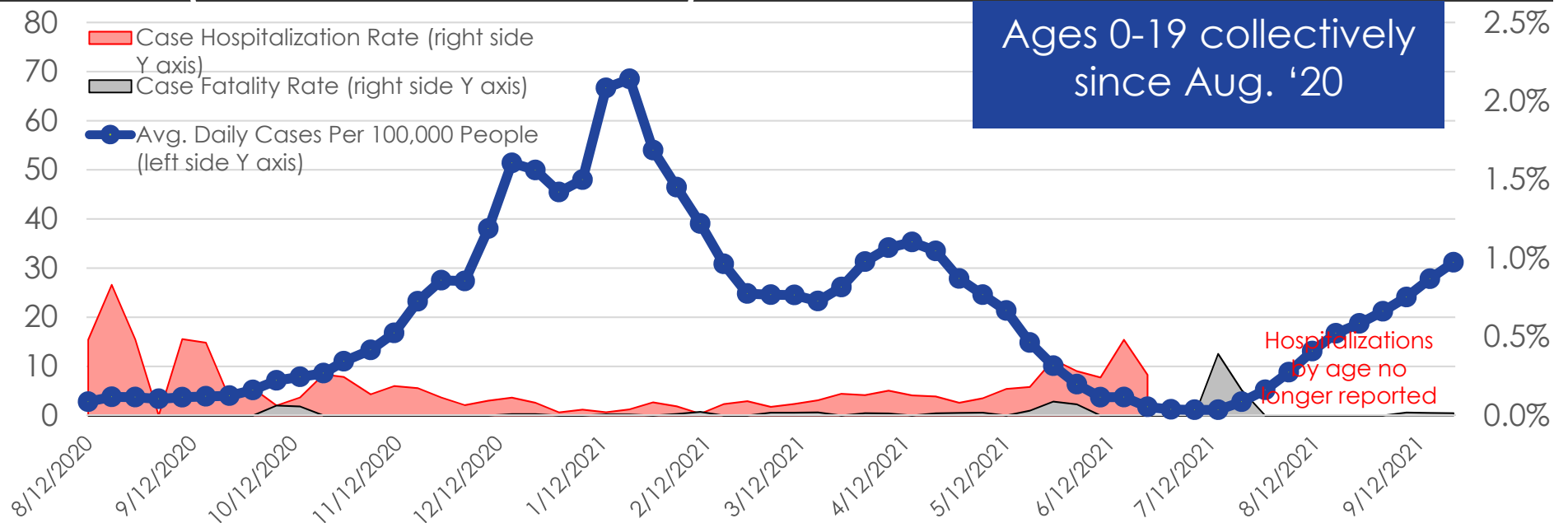


Trends: Daily Test Volumes and Positivity (Statewide)



Data source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>

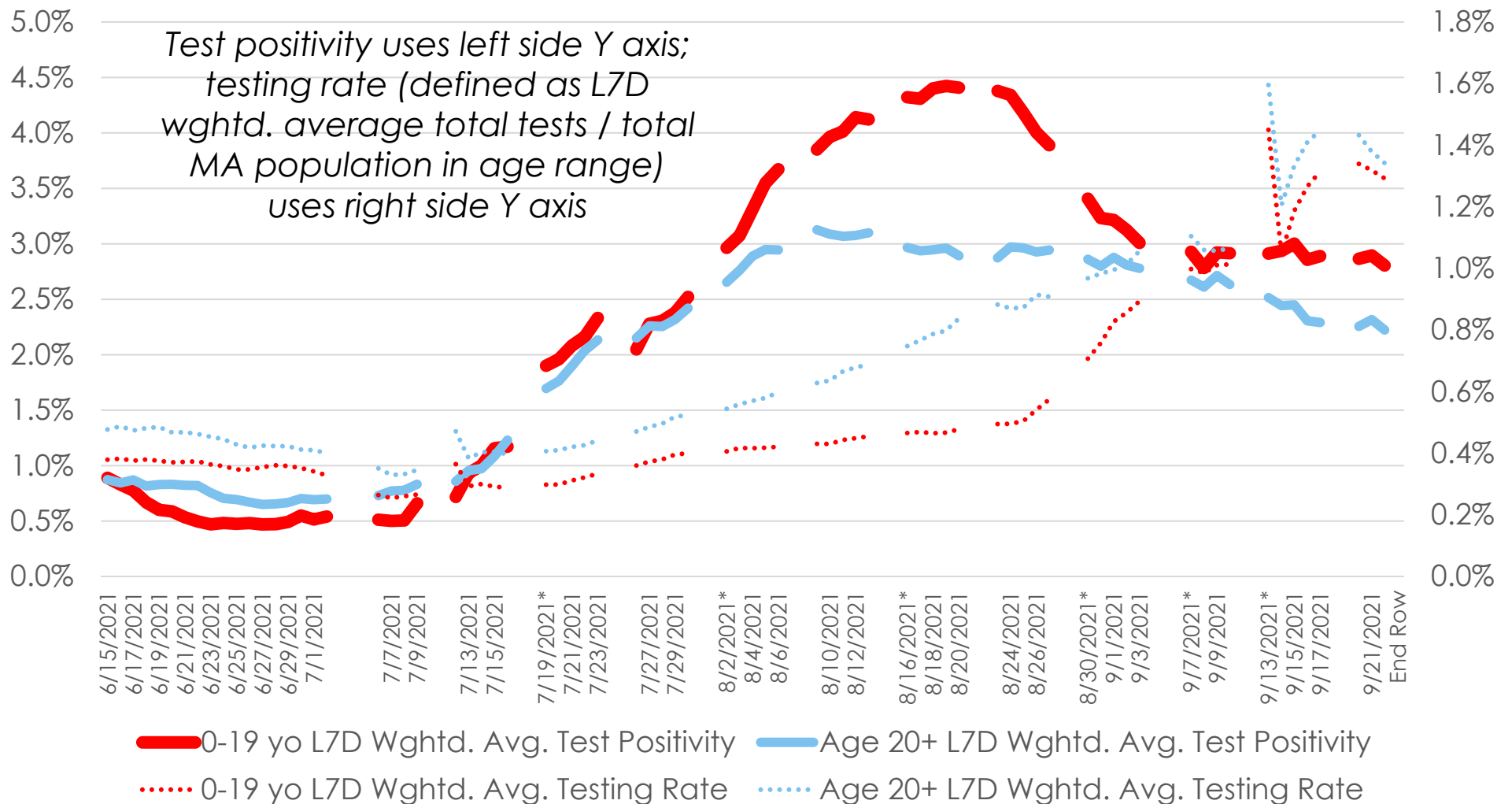
Trends: 0-19 Year-Old Age Cohort (MA Statewide)



Total Cases (Avg. Daily per 100k Pop.)	5/30 – 6/12/2021	8/1 – 8/14/2021	9/5 – 9/18/2021
<5 yo (unvaxxed)	157 (3.1)	767 (15.3)	1,260 (25.1)
5-9 yo (unvaxxed)	190 (3.7)	950 (18.4)	1,837 (35.5)
10-14 yo (some vaxxed)	240 (4.3)	954 (17.1)	1,739 (31.2)
15-19 yo (~1/2 vaxxed)	243 (3.8)	1,044 (16.1)	2,092 (32.4)
All ages (mostly vaxxed)	2,689 (2.8)	16,240 (16.7)	24,942 (25.6)

Trends: 0-19 Year-Old Age Cohort vs. Adults (MA Statewide)

MA Statewide Average Testing Rates and Test Positivity by Age Group

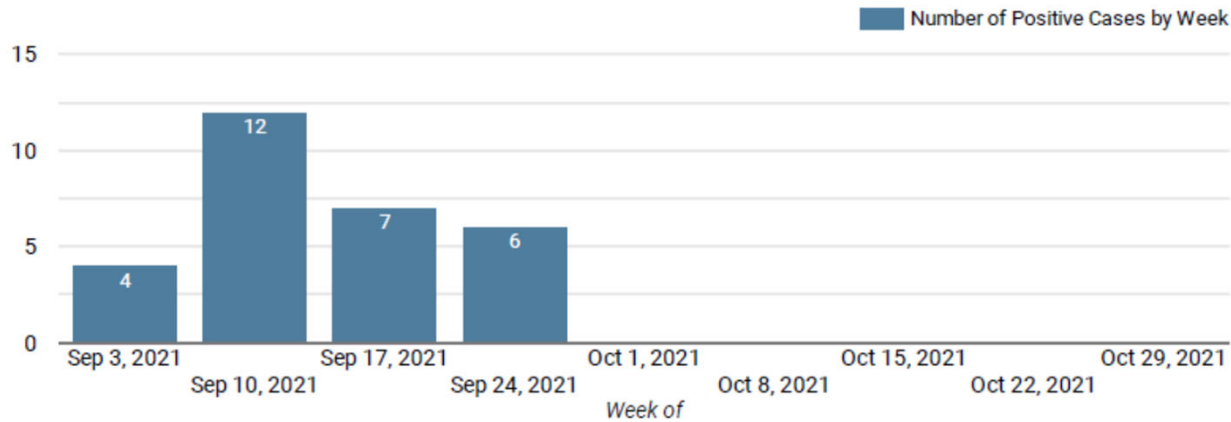


COVID-19 CASES: DISTRICT DASHBOARD (SY2021-22)

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 **Friday to Thursday**.

Source: Public Schools of Brookline School Health Services Department

Number of Positive Cases, by Week

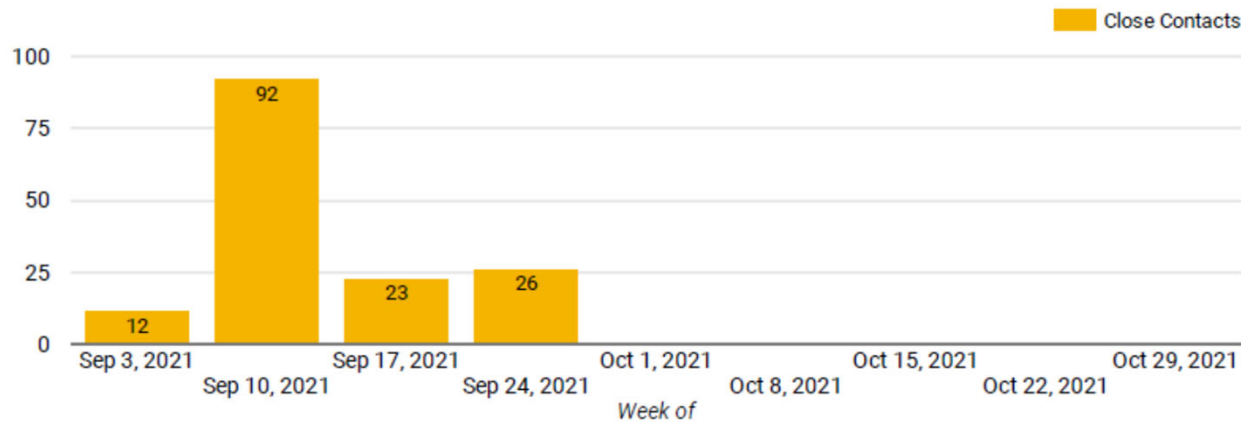


TOTAL PSB CASES TO DATE: 29

Students: 23
Staff: 6

Total cases among school-based students and staff: 29

Number of Close Contacts, by Week



TOTAL CLOSE CONTACTS*: 153 close contacts connected to 18 cases

Total positive cases with no close contacts* at school: 9

**Close contacts are defined as anyone has interacted with a COVID-19 positive individual under the following circumstances: The interaction must be indoors, within six feet of distance, lasted for a combined total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period, and occurred within a 48 hour period before the individual tested positive/displayed symptoms for COVID-19.*

COVID-19 CASES: SCHOOL BY SCHOOL DASHBOARD (SY2021-22)

The table outlines the number of positive COVID-19 cases by week and the number of cumulative cases for the year at each school. For the purpose of this dataset, weeks run **Friday to Thursday**.

Source: Public Schools of Brookline School Health Services Department

Number of Positive Cases, by School & District Offices (Week of 9/17 - 9/23)

School/Building	Weekly Positive Cases	Cumulative Positive Cases	Weekly Close Contacts	Cases with Close Contacts
BEEP @ Beacon	0	0	-	-
BEEP @ Clark	0	0	-	-
BEEP @ Lynch	0	0	-	-
BEEP @ Putterham	0	0	-	-
Baker	1	6	3	1
Brookline High School	2	6	11	2
Driscoll	0	1	-	-
Florida Ruffin Ridley	0	0	-	-
Heath	1	7	12	1
Lawrence	1	4	-	-
Lincoln	0	1	-	-
Pierce	1	4	-	-
Runkle	0	0	-	-
Total	6	29	26	4

School/Building	Weekly Positive Cases	Cumulative Positive Cases	Close Contacts	Cases with Close Contacts
District Office	0	0	-	-

COVID-19 CASES: GRADE LEVEL AND STAFF DASHBOARD (SY2021-22)

The table outlines the number of positive COVID-19 cases by week and the number of cumulative cases for the year at each school. For the purpose of this dataset, weeks run **Friday to Thursday**.
Source: Public Schools of Brookline School Health Services Department

Total Number of Positive Cases, by Grade Level and Staffing (Week of 9/17 - 9/23)

Grade Level	Weekly Positive Cases	Cumulative Positive Cases
BEEP/Pre-K	0	0
Kindergarten	0	3
1st Grade	0	1
2nd Grade	2	5
3rd Grade	0	2
4th Grade	1	2
5th Grade	0	0
6th Grade	1	3
7th Grade	0	1
8th Grade	0	0
9th Grade	0	1
10th - 12th Grade	2	5
Staff (School-Based)	0	6
Staff (District Office)	0	0
Total	6	29

PSB-Specific Vaccination Rates

- **Staff** – voluntary survey with roughly 50% participation revealed >95% fully vaccinated
 - **But** hard to account for sample bias issues to assess how representative this might be of the entire staff
 - Vaccination requirement being implemented
- **Students**
 - MA DPH MIIS and other information sources available to PSB suggest at least 80-85% of eligible students are fully vaccinated

Student Vaccination Policy

Some Questions for Discussion

1. **Should PSB consider its own student vaccination policy or wait for MA DPH/DESE to implement statewide?**
 - If the latter, should we urge state-level action (joining Arlington, Belmont, and other MA districts)?

2. If PSB-specific:
 - **Applicable to which students?**
 - Ages 16 and up (Pfizer-BioNTech full FDA approval)
 - Ages 12-15 (Pfizer-BioNTech EUA)
 - Only students who want to participate in all/certain extracurricular activities
 - **Vaccination required for attendance/ participation vs. regular testing as alternative?**
 - **What exemptions should exist?** (only as needed for individual religious/medical accommodations or more?)

Conservatory: PSB Current Approach

- Following International Coalition Performing Arts Aerosol Study Updated Guidelines from 7/9/21:
 - Outdoor singing/wind instrument playing when feasible
 - Indoor singing/wind instrument playing only with masks (and bell covers for instruments)
 - PSB has purchased slitted instrument masks for every student and teacher of a wind instrument (on backorder but arriving soon)
 - Only playing wind instruments outdoors until the slitted masks arrive—other music activities substituted if class is indoors
 - 50 minute time limits on indoor playing/singing, with PSB enhanced ventilation/air filtration systems (5+ ACH)
 - Minimum 3 ft interpersonal distancing (**more when feasible**)

Sources: PSB; <https://nafme.org/international-coalition-performing-arts-aerosol-study-updates-guidelines-for-music-education-classrooms/> ; <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acsenvironau.1c00007> ; <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/coronavirus-covid-music-wind-instruments-spread-transmission>

Conservatory: Updated Guidance from Int'l Coalition Performing Arts Aerosol Study Team 8/12/21

As the United States continues the process of moving to the next phase of the pandemic, questions about music activity abound. Many questions still exist for the fall and the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Although the United States is reaching a higher level of vaccinated adults, the vaccination rates for those ages 12-17 remains low. Importance will need to be placed on local and state respiratory disease transmission rates for use of mitigations. Depending on developments with respect variants such as the Delta variant and other potential risk factor enhancements, these suggestions are meant to provide some best practices as we move into the next phase in the pandemic.

Outdoors: Outdoors remains the safest space

No mitigations needed depending on the level of local and state transmission rates.

Indoors: Indoor environments vary greatly

• **Masks.** Masking with appropriate material* remains the best way of reducing potential infected aerosol from circulating in an indoor space. Masks are recommended be worn while singing and speaking.

Conservatory: Updated Guidance from Int'l Coalition Performing Arts Aerosol Study Team 8/12/21

- **Bell Covers.** Bell covers made from appropriate material* remain the best way of reducing potential infected aerosol from circulating in an indoor space. Depending on your comfort level, instrumentalists can wear masks only when speaking and slitted performance masks are optional.
- **Rehearsal Times.** In spaces with good ventilation rates and HEPA filtration, increased indoor rehearsal times of 50 minutes may be considered. A minimum of 3 air exchanges per hour should be used, if there are spaces with higher air change rates, you may consider longer rehearsal times.
- **Physical Distancing.** Distancing may be decreased to 3 feet, adjusting farther or closer depending on local conditions.
- **Hygiene.** Continue good hygiene practice moving forward, including appropriate elimination of brass fluid.
- **Face Shields and Partitions.** Plastic face shields only stop large droplets, not aerosol; room dividers inhibit the function of the HVAC system and are not recommended.

PSB Conservatory Mitigation Plan

Considerations for Safe General Music and Conservatory Classes

As we prepare for the coming school year, we plan to have as much normalcy in our Performing Arts program as possible. We are following and keeping abreast of guidance from DESE, CDC, and the National Association for Music Education ([NAfME](#)) in regards to music and in particular singing and wind instruments. In addition to mitigation factors such as greater air changes per hour than the minimum recommendation, students will sing with masks, and students who play wind instruments will use bell covers. When possible, Chorus and Band will be held in larger spaces such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, cafeterias and meet outside when applicable. Current guidance recommends three feet of distance for these classes when indoors, which may be reduced depending on local conditions. Orchestra, Guitar/Ukulele, Music Production and Music Exploration require no additional spacing. There is currently no mitigation or spacing needed for outdoor singing or wind instruments.

Travel Rules: Domestic

- MA has no current COVID-specific travel restrictions. Public guidance focuses on fully vaccinated individuals and does not address others except to encourage vaccination.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

- CDC:
(8/25/2021)

Domestic Travel RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS	Not Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated
	Get tested 1-3 days before travel	✓
Get tested 3-5 days after travel and self-quarantine for 7 days. Self-quarantine for 10 days if you don't get tested.	✓	
Self-monitor for symptoms	✓	✓
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel	✓	✓



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

CS323515-A 04/02/2021

Source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel>; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

Travel Rules: International

- MA has no current COVID-specific travel restrictions. Public guidance focuses on fully vaccinated individuals and does not address others except to encourage vaccination.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

- CDC:
(8/25/2021)

International Travel RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS	Not Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated
Get tested 1-3 days before traveling out of the US	✓	
Mandatory test required before flying to US	✓	✓
Get tested 3-5 days after travel	✓	✓
Self-quarantine after travel for 7 days with a negative test or 10 days without test	✓	
Self-monitor for symptoms	✓	✓
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel	✓	✓



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

CS323515-A 04/02/2021

Source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel>; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>

Travel Rules: PSB

What are the current travel restrictions? Will I be able to travel out of state without a quarantine?

Massachusetts [COVID-19 Travel Guidance](#) suggests that if you are vaccinated there are no restrictions on domestic travel, and you can travel freely. Here are the CDC's recommendations for [unvaccinated people, including a viral test 3-5 days after and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel](#). Since children under the age of 12 are ineligible for a vaccine, we anticipate that families may have questions. We request that all PSB families and staff follow the State's travel guidance. Qualifying special conditions include serious family emergencies/illnesses, deaths, and custody arrangements. If you have questions, please contact your principal or school nurse.

Source:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OL7nGMZXwBTfAXU47JvI_tANaLZmLEzI2fBWTM21DAE/edit?fbclid=IwAR1cWOnGD6Hn4W3oBEYU7Av8sJ6pXtSHqtY2JtbN8HaO0AhuOur1UUIID0gw#heading=h.825dwqyetrjk