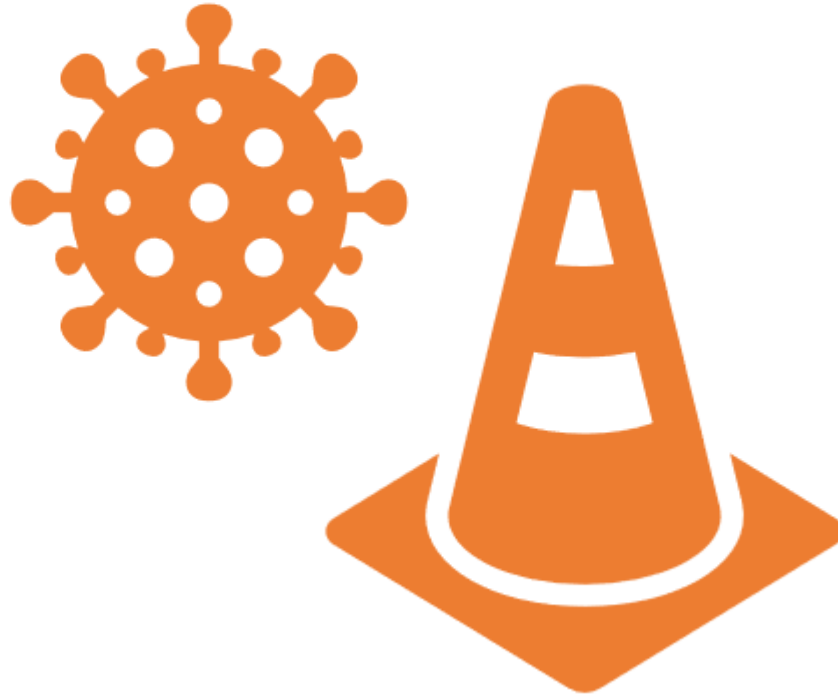


School Reopening Update

November 12, 2020



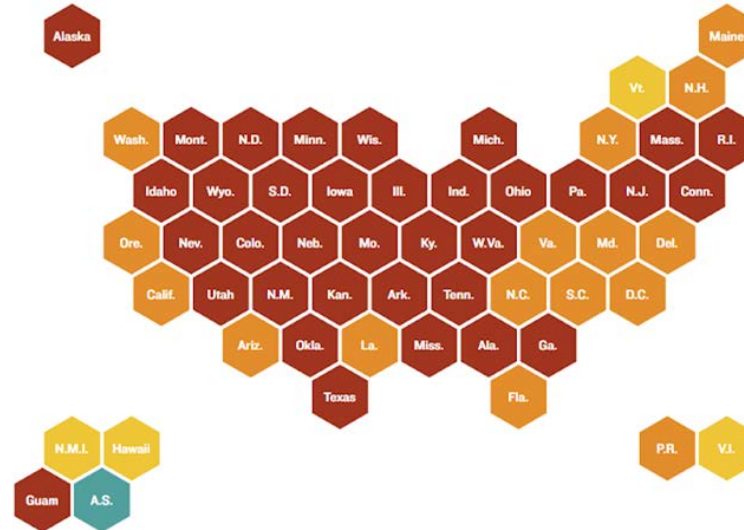
CHANGING VIRUS PATTERNS AHEAD

Daily New Cases by State (as of 11/9)

3

Which Places Have The Most New Daily Cases?

Data as of November 9



RED

Threshold: 25+ daily new cases per 100,000 people

Indicates: unchecked community spread

ORANGE

Threshold: 10-24 daily new cases per 100,000 people

Indicates: escalating community spread

YELLOW

Threshold: 1-9 daily new cases per 100,000 people

Indicates: potential community spread

GREEN

Threshold: <1 daily new case per 100,000 people

Indicates: close to containment

Source: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/>

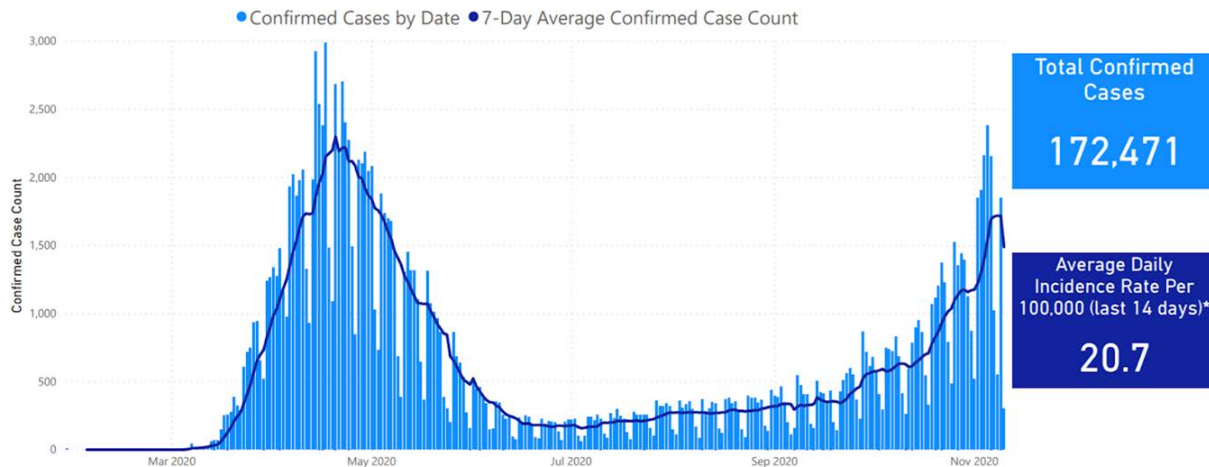
Daily New Cases in Massachusetts (as of 11/11)



Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Daily Confirmed Cases (Since March)

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases To Date by Date Individual Tested



Data Sources: COVID-19 Data provided by the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences; State Population Estimate 2019; Small Area Population Estimates 2011-2020, version 2019, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health; Tables and Figures created by the Office of Population Health.

Note: all data are current as of 8:00am on the date at the top of the page. Due to lag in reporting by laboratories, counts for most recent dates are likely to be incomplete.

*Last updated Wednesday, November 11, 2020 Covers 10/25/2020-11/7/2020

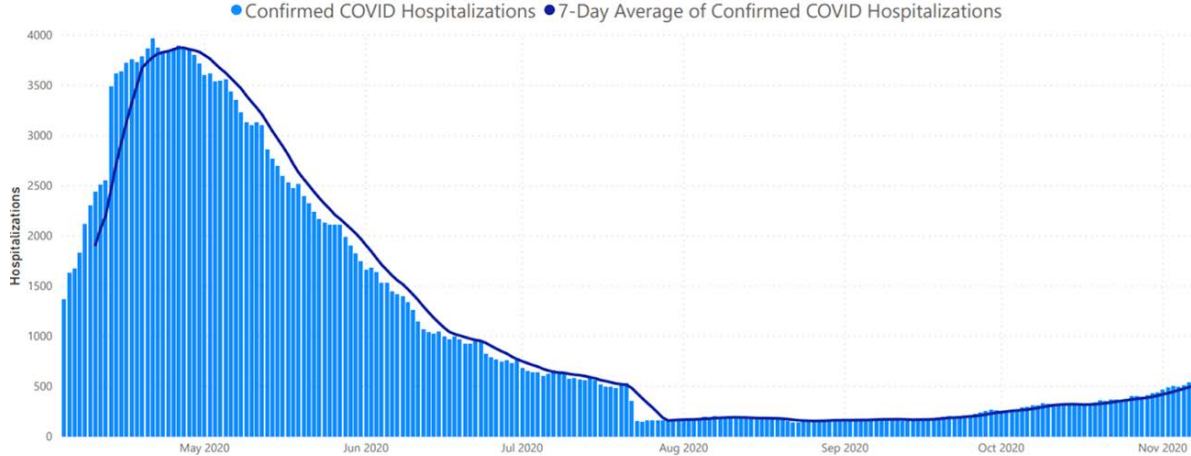
MDPH State Data: Hospital Admissions (through 11/10)



Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard- Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Daily Confirmed Hospitalizations

Total Confirmed COVID Patients in Hospital



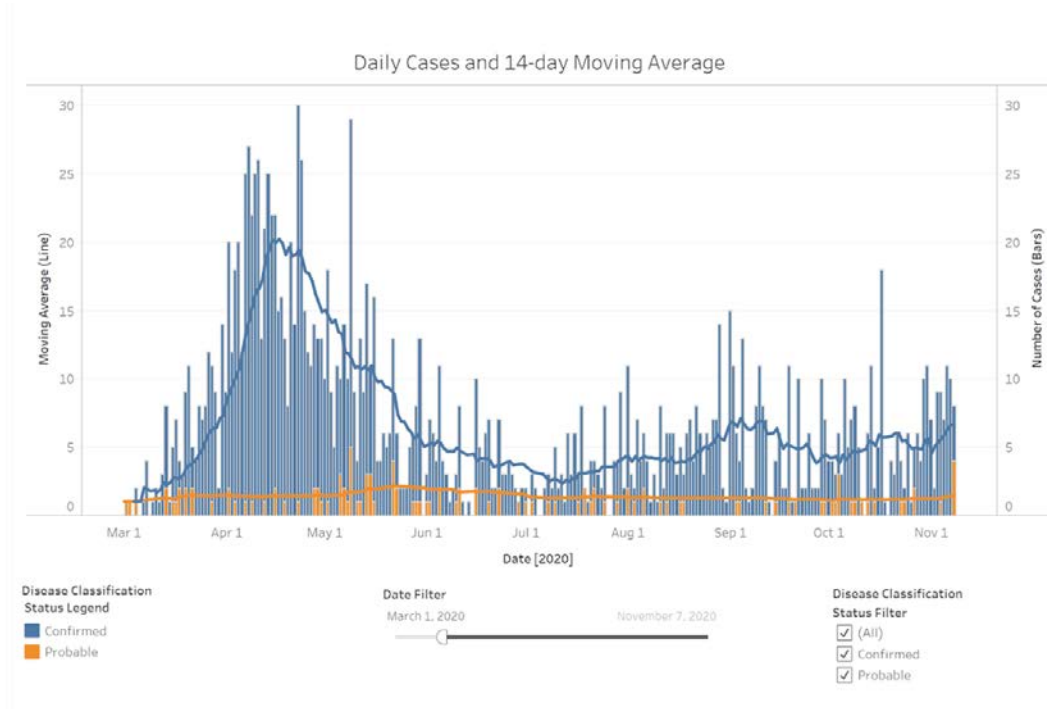
Data Sources: COVID-19 Data provided by the MDPH survey of hospitals (hospital survey data are self-reported); Tables and Figures created by the Office of Population Health.

Notes: data are current as of 3:00pm the day before the date at the top of the page. For purposes of this reporting, "confirmed" are cases with a PCR test. Data prior to July 22, 2020 include both confirmed and suspected COVID hospitalizations, as confirmed COVID hospitalizations were not reported separately during this time.

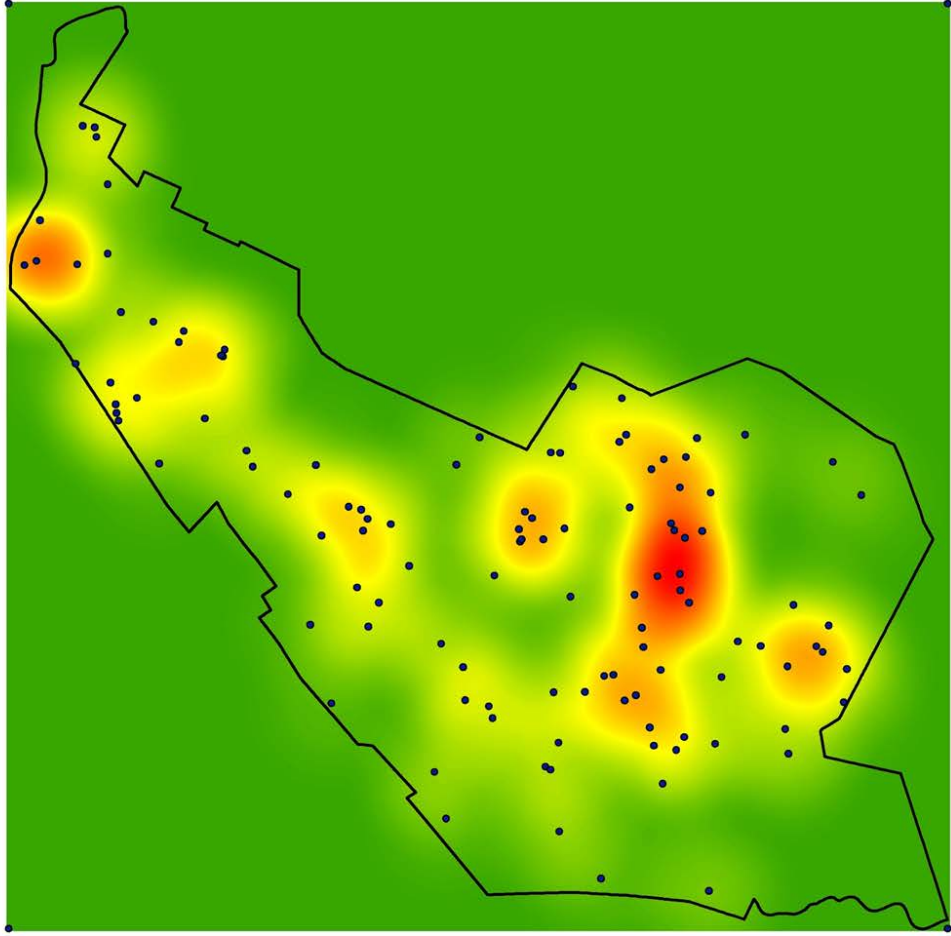
13

Source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting# covid-19-daily-dashboard->

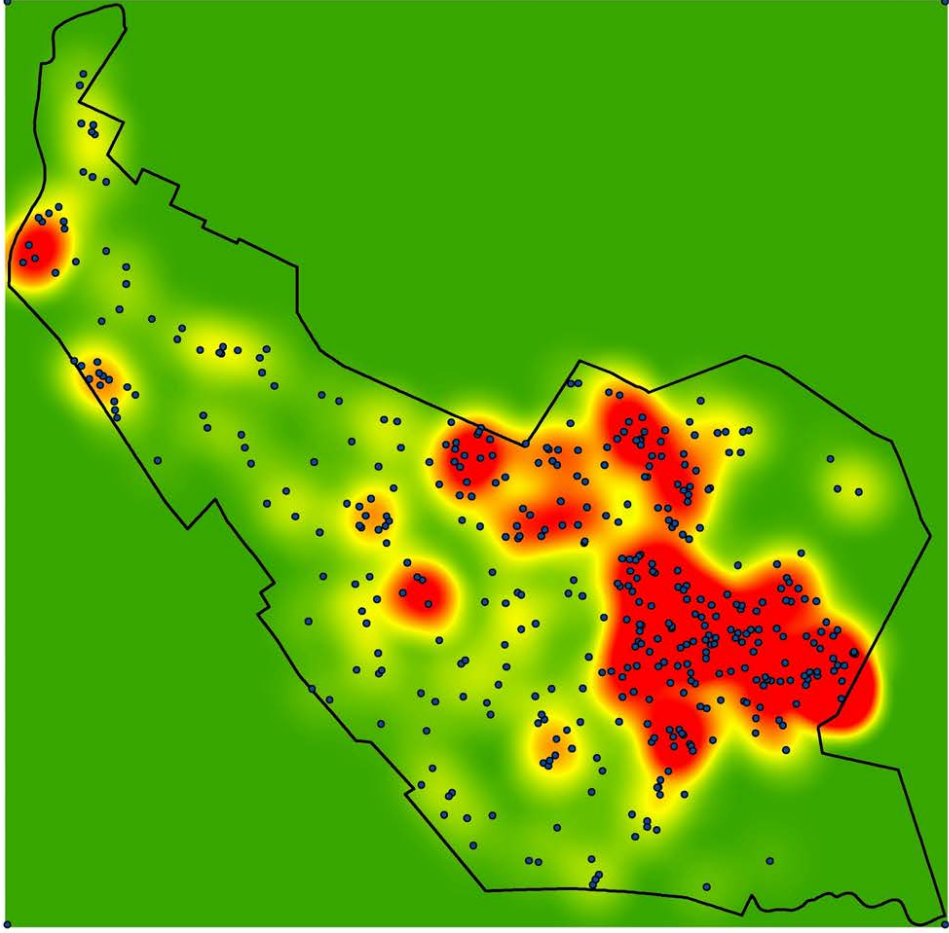
Somerville Case Data: Positive Cases Identified by MDPH (through 11/10)



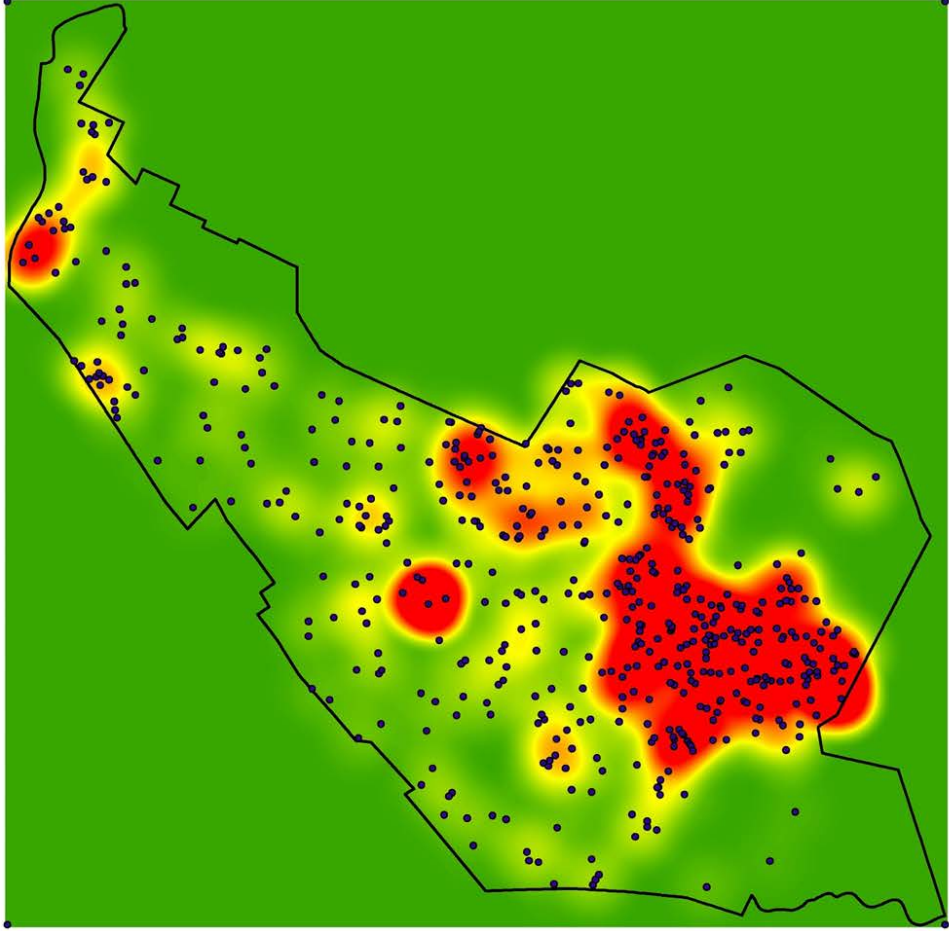
- ▶ As of Tuesday, 11/10/20:
 - ▶ 1,712 positive confirmed cases (PCR test)
 - ▶ 123 positive probable cases (antigen or antibody)
 - ▶ 47 fatalities



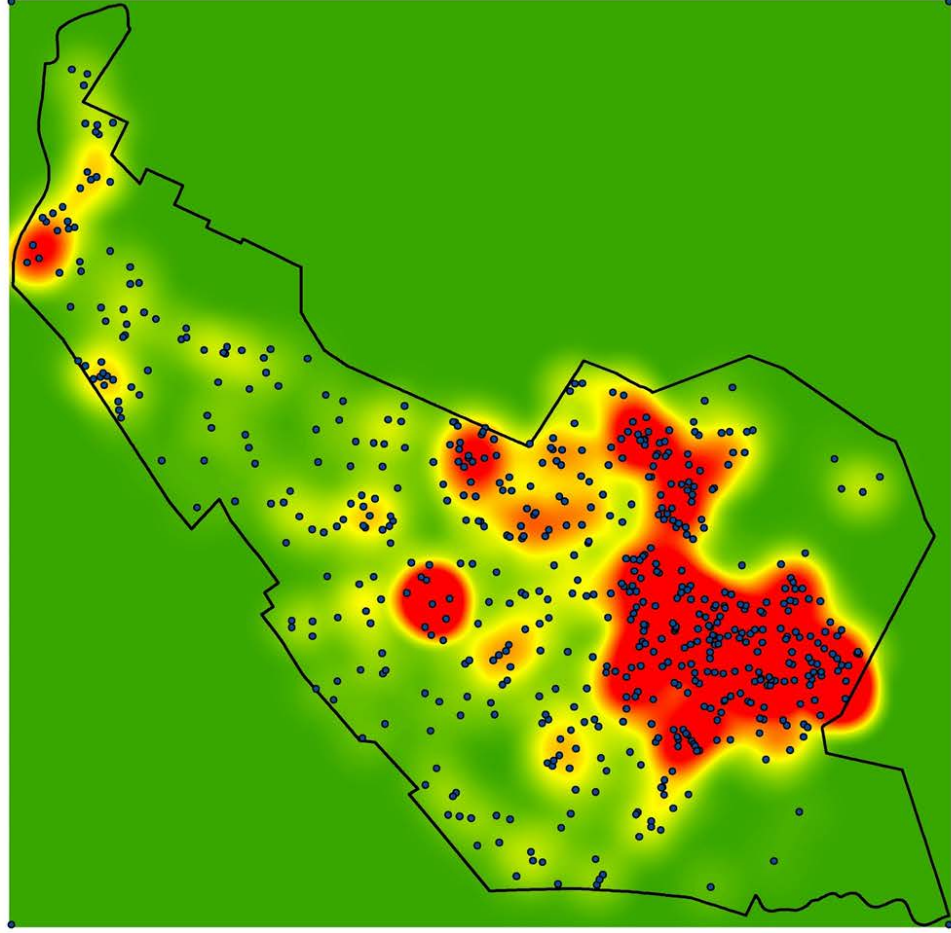
MARCH 1-31



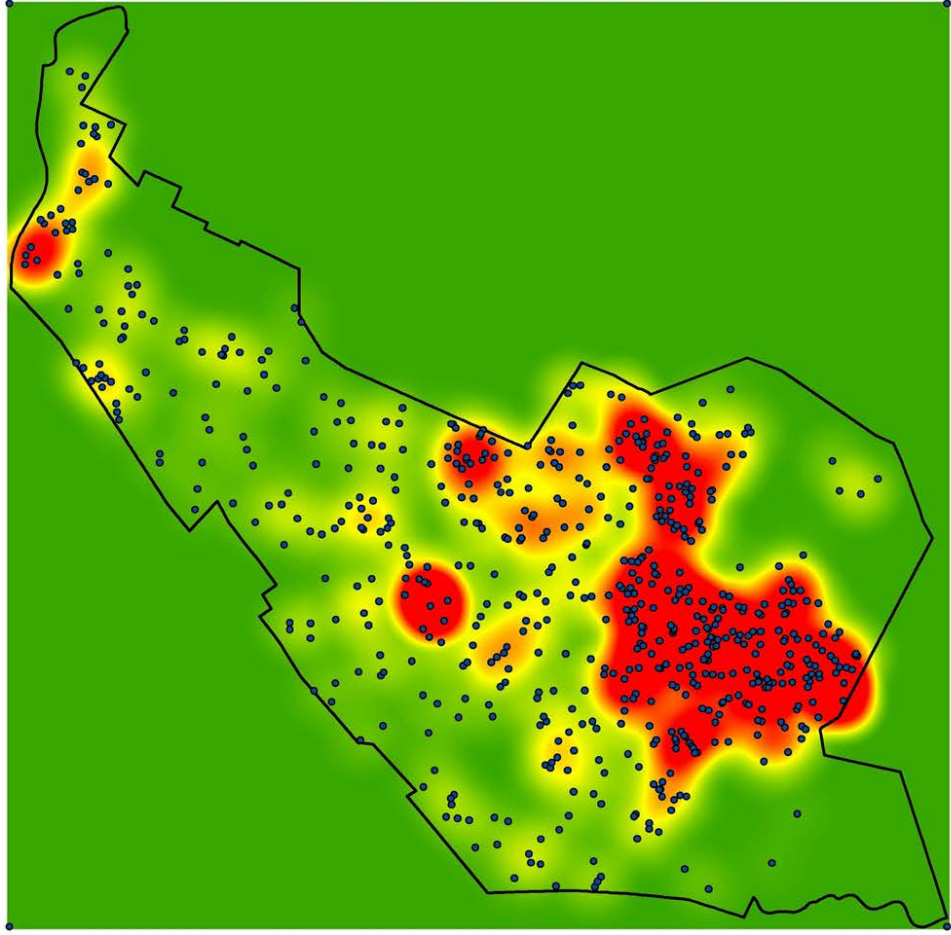
APRIL 1-30



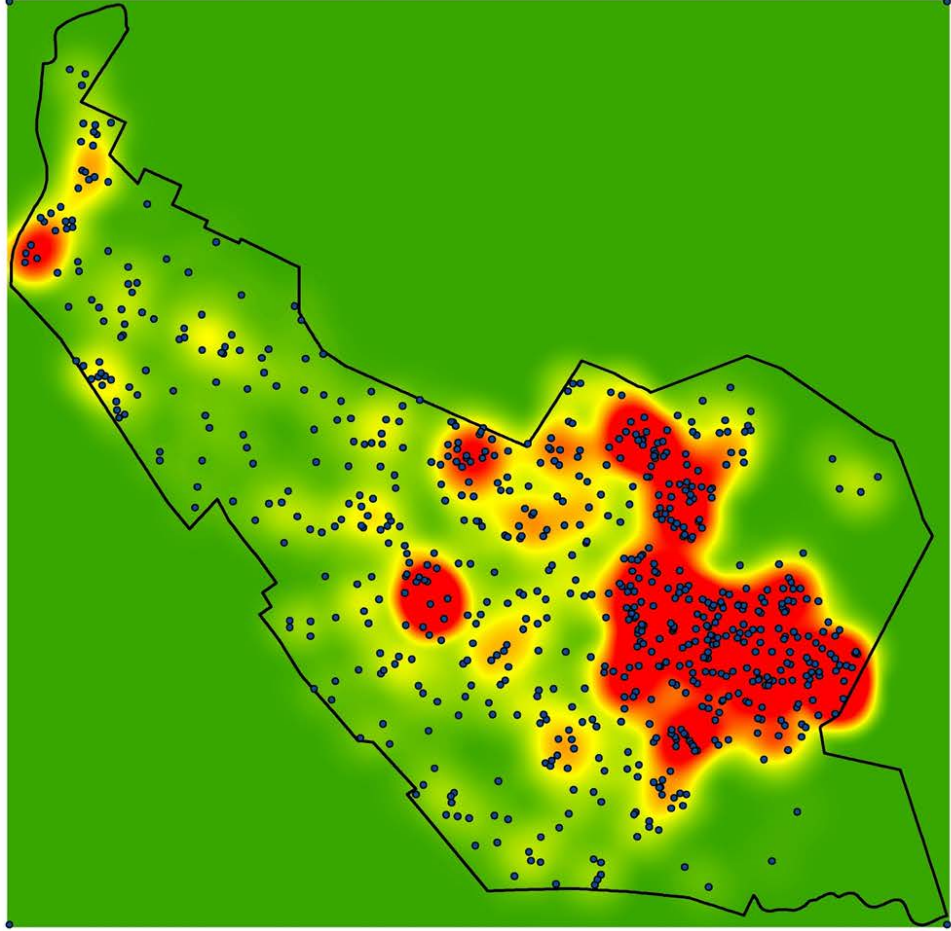
MAY 1-31



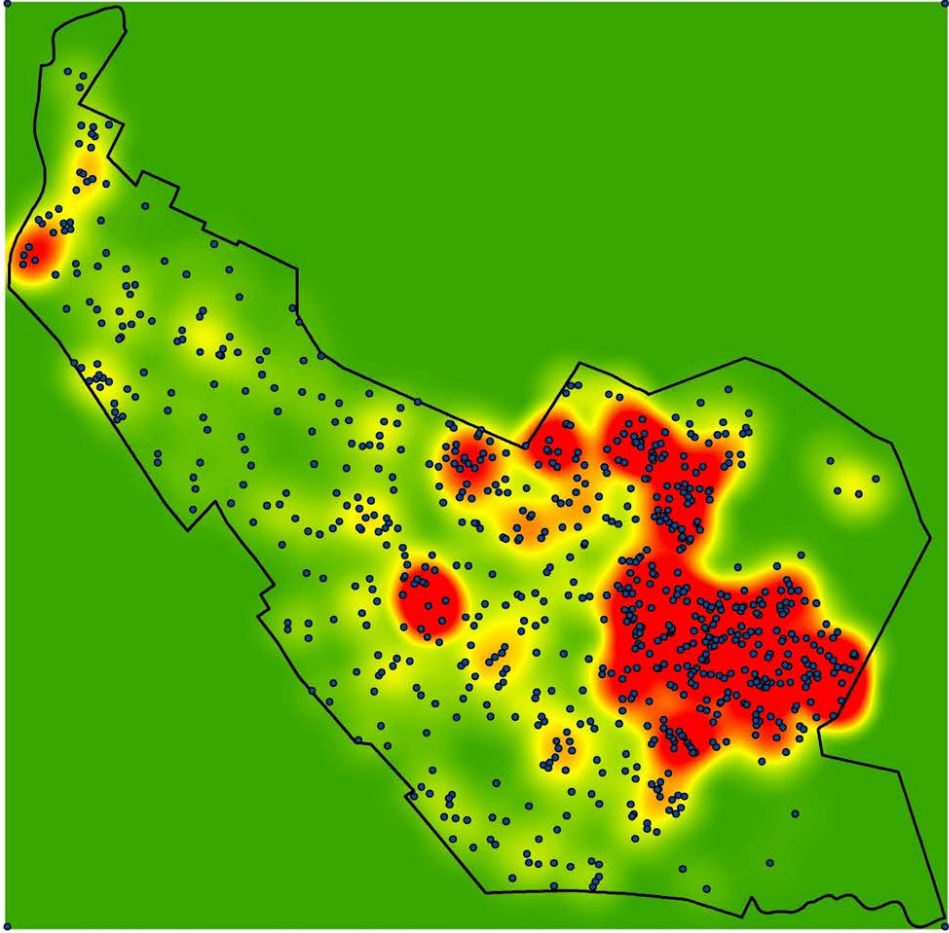
JUNE 1-30



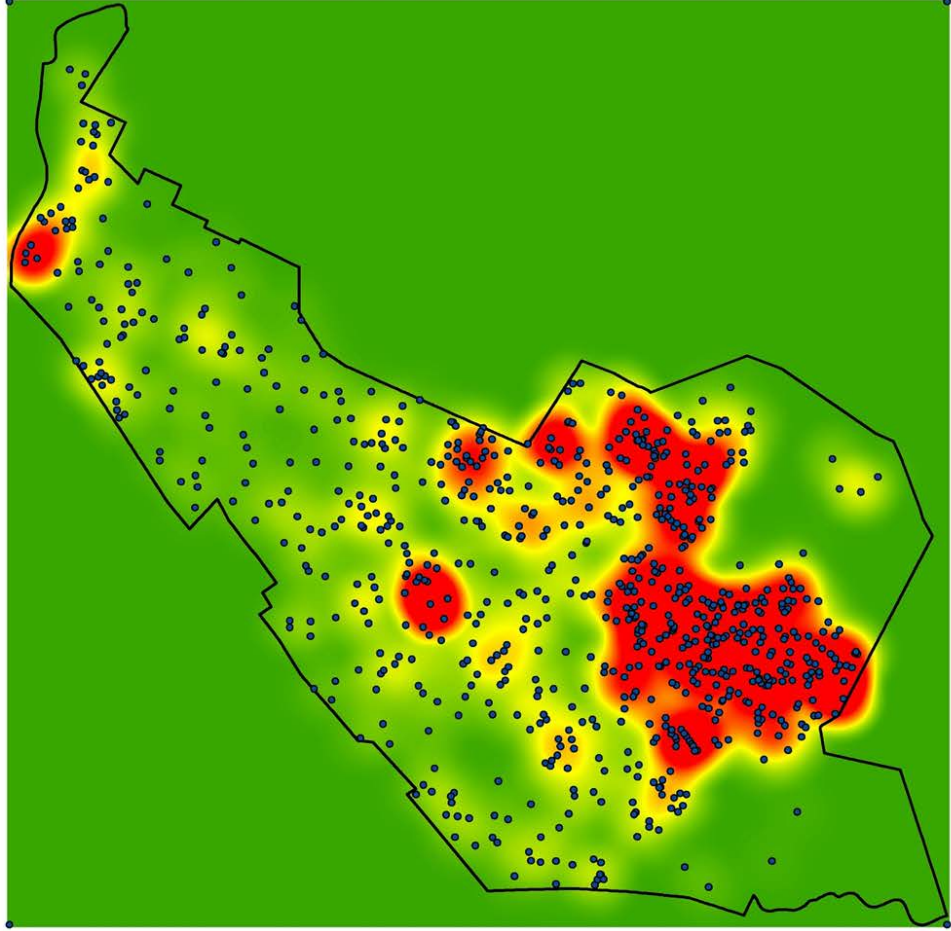
JULY 1-31



AUGUST 1-31



SEPT 1-30

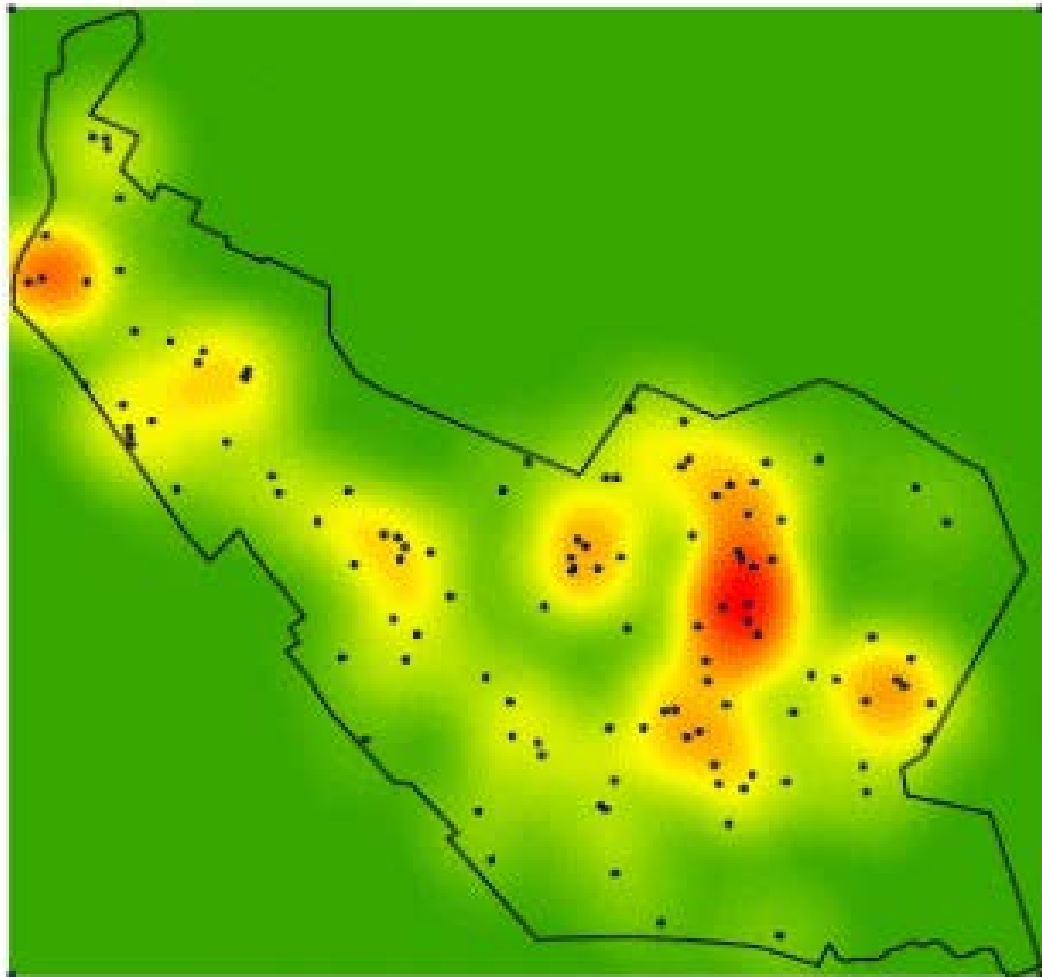


OCT 1-28

Somerville Confirmed COVID-19 POSITIVE Cases

March 1 - October 28

*Each frame is one
month*



Science-based approach

16

Expert Advisors to Somerville & Region

- Dr. Samuel Scarpino (Northeastern)
- Dr. Paul Biddinger (MGH)
- Dr. Rochelle Walensky (MGH)
- Dr. Mauricio Santillana (Harvard)
- Dr. Alessandro Vespignani (Northeastern)
- Dr. Louise Ivers (Harvard/MGH)
- Dr. Sanjat Kanjilal (Brigham & Women's Hospital)
- Dr. Michael Mina (Harvard/Brigham & Women's Hospital)

Health Inequity experts

- Dr. Nancy Krieger (Harvard School of Public Health)
- Dr. Jarvis Chen (Harvard School of Public Health)
- Dr. Maia Majumder (MIT)
- Marie-Laure Charpignon (MIT)

City Testing Working Group

- Dr. Amy Bantham, ICS
- Kristen Stelljes, ICS
- Glenda Soto, SPS
- Liz Gaskell, Broad Institute
- Doug Kress, ICS
- Jeff Curley, SPS
- Omar Boukili, ICS
- Tim Snyder, ICS

Building Experts

- Rich Raich, City of Somerville
- Fitzmeyer and Tocci
- PMA (OPM)

**Safer Teachers, Safer Students PK12
Testing Collaborative**

School reopening

- ▶ While case counts are increasing, so is the need to get our children back to school for in-person learning.
- ▶ But we need to use every tool available to do so in a way that keeps students, staff, and the community safe
- ▶ The suite of safety measures proposed by the City and SPS will put Somerville in the strongest possible position to have a safe and sustainable school reopening

School reopening

- ▶ The state is now urging all schools to reopen for in-person learning. But they are not providing the tools needed to do so safely.
 - ▶ There is strong evidence that children catch and transmit the virus and can cause household outbreaks
 - ▶ Minority communities disproportionately bear the health impacts of COVID-19
 - ▶ Contact tracing in MA currently fails to identify the source of at least half of infections
 - ▶ The state is not supporting testing in schools

Internal Factors

Building &
Ventilation
Achieve “Low
Risk” Score

In-Person
Social
Distancing
and Other
Safety
Measures In
Place

Start
Phased
Re-Opening

Routine COVID-
19 Testing and
Contact Tracing
Protocols
Operational

External Factors

Community incidence
and transmission

Evolving science and
research

Availability of material
and human resources



**Internal
Factors**

**In-Person
Social
Distancing
and Other
Safety
Measures In
Place**

Safety Measures

- ▶ School & Classroom Setup

- ▶ Desks & tables spaced 6 feet apart - ✓
- ▶ Sinks or sanitizer stations in classrooms - ✓
- ▶ Virus shields placed in some high traffic areas - ✓
- ▶ Wellness room in every school - ✓
- ▶ In-building protocols - ✓

- ▶ Enhanced Cleaning

- ▶ Plan for enhanced daily cleaning & sanitizing - ✓
- ▶ DPW purchased more electrostatic sprayers to disinfect buildings - ✓

Safety Measures - continued

- ▶ Masks, Face Shields, Gloves
 - ▶ SPS has ordered 270,000 masks that meet BOH health and safety guidelines; 24,000 pairs of gloves; and hundreds of face shields - ✓
- ▶ Bus Transportation
 - ▶ Significantly limited; One student per row on bus

Internal
Factors

Routine COVID-
19 Testing and
Contact Tracing
Protocols
Operational

Board of Health COVID-19 Testing Order

- ▶ Requires K-12 schools to submit a COVID-19 transmission prevention implementation plan to the Board of Health
- ▶ Must require ongoing testing of teachers, employees, and others providing ongoing services in school buildings

Final BOH order:

<https://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/boh-order-school-testing-final-11-2-2020.pdf>

To meet the BOH order

- ▶ The Testing Working Group is recommending:
 - ▶ A School Committee policy requiring that all students and staff be tested regularly and receive the flu vaccine
 - Provides for medical exemptions
 - ▶ A transmission prevention implementation plan

Why require COVID-19 testing?

- ▶ Understanding how the virus is impacting our students, teachers, and staff allows us to make decisions in real time based on our own situation, not a guess based on what's happening around us
- ▶ For this to work, we need to understand how the virus is moving across the entire in-person SPS community

With required COVID-19 testing we will be able to:

- ▶ Quickly identify COVID-positive individuals who are asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic to prevent further spread in school and community
- ▶ Trace close contacts of positive individuals
- ▶ Isolate and quarantine positive or potential positive individuals
- ▶ Rule out COVID-19 for individuals who present COVID-19-like symptoms, allowing earlier return to school

Criteria Used to Select Approach + Testing Partner

- ▶ **Flexibility:** Partner and City/SPS have ability to change approach to adapt to changing phases and situation
- ▶ **Sustainability:** We have the ability to maintain logistics and cost over time
- ▶ **Acceptability:** Staff and students feel comfortable taking the test; it is as non-invasive as possible and individuals can easily access the tests
- ▶ **Reliability:** We have confidence in the results we are getting (high specificity is especially desirable)
- ▶ **Ability to test minors:** Partner has ability to work with a student population
- ▶ **Rapid results:** Test results are ideally returned within 24 hours after receipt of samples

Criteria used to evaluate 23 testing options

COVID-19 Testing Partners Selected

	Ginkgo Bioworks/ Immune Observatory	Tufts University/ Broad/Cataldo
Flexibility	Legal agreement between district and Ginkgo for in kind donation, can book now for November but likely not Thanksgiving week	Incentive to work with Somerville, developing methodology for surrounding communities targeting Somerville and Medford, ongoing relationship
Sustainability	Free, one-time donation for staff baseline only City administers test	\$25 per individual test (shared cost = \$12.50), \$40 per pool of 8-13, City hires Cataldo to administer test at \$75 per staff per hour and \$28 PPE per staff per day
Acceptability	Saliva	Anterior nasal Anterior nasal, pooled
Reliability	PCR: 100% all	PCR: 100% all
Ability to Test Minors	No	Yes
Rapid Results	Within 24-72 hours, includes overnight shipping	Within 24 hours, local lab

Our COVID-19 Testing Approach

Baseline:

- ▶ Tufts + Broad individual PCR anterior nasal testing; Cataldo swabbing (students);
- ▶ Ginkgo Immune Observatory PCR saliva test (staff)

Screening, December 2020+: Tufts + Broad PCR, anterior nasal; Cataldo staff performing swabbing

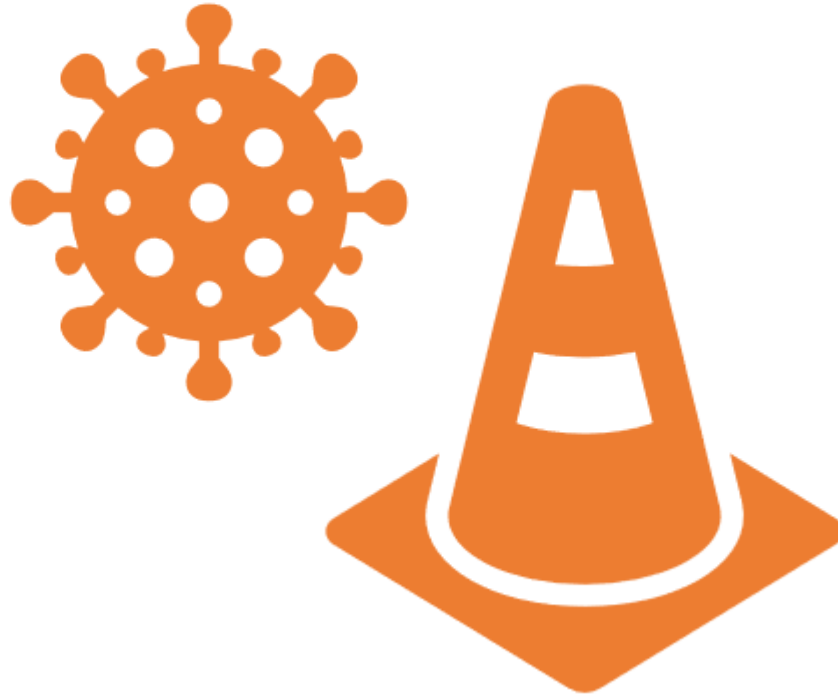
- ▶ 2x / week for staff
- ▶ 1x / week for students

Symptomatic: HHS will facilitate appointment with CHA/mobile testing

Robust contact tracing essential component throughout

COVID-19 Testing – next steps

- ▶ Recommended policy is currently before School Committee for consideration
- ▶ COVID-19 Transmission Prevention Implementation Plan is being finalized and will be presented publicly at the School Committee meeting on November 16



**CHANGING VIRUS PATTERNS
AHEAD**

Questions?

Building presentation to immediately follow