

# Wellesley Public Schools

## WPS COVID-19 WEBINAR

September 21, 2021



**Wellesley Public Schools**

*Learning • Caring • Innovating*

# Panelists

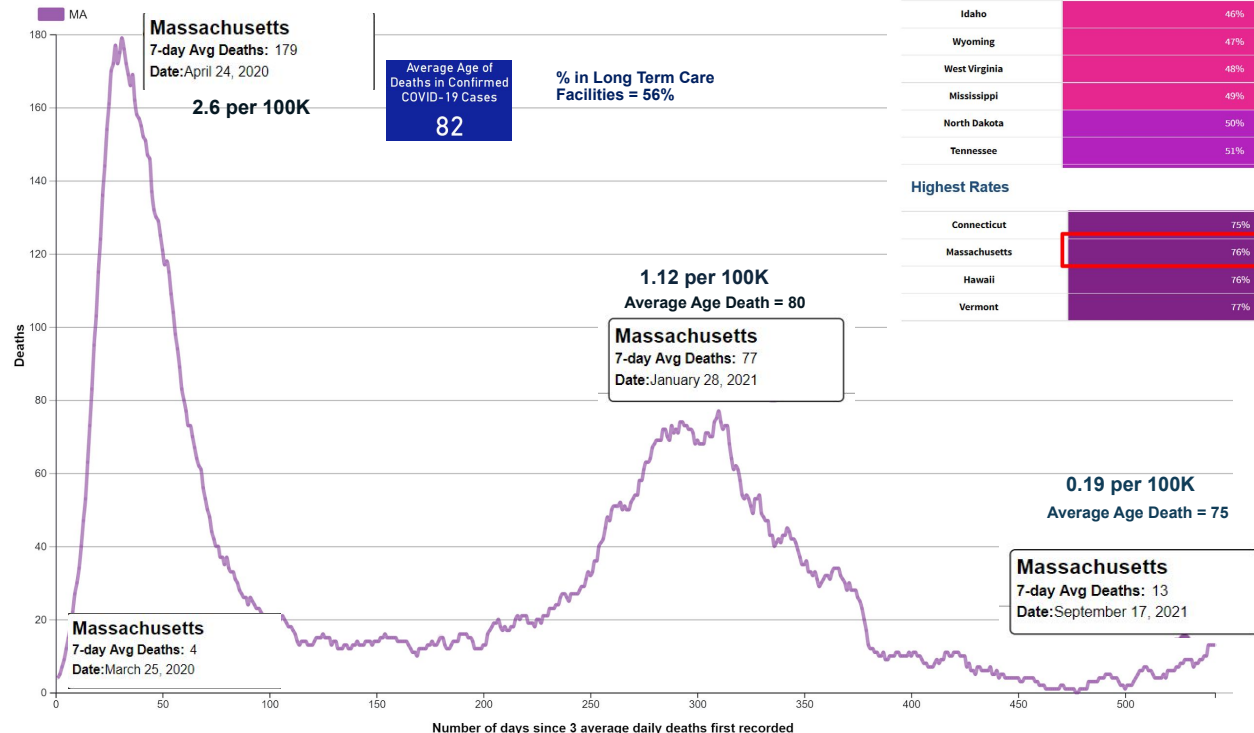
- **Dr. David Lussier, Superintendent of Schools**
- **Ashley Hulme, WPS Director of Nursing**
- **Dr. Marcia Testa-Simonson, Wellesley Board of Health**
- **Leonard Izzo, Director, Wellesley Health Department**
- **Kathy Dooley, WPS Technology Director**
- **Dr. Jamie Chisum, Principal, Wellesley High School**
- **Dr. Mark Ito, Principal, Wellesley Middle School**
- **Rachel McGregor, Principal, Fiske Elementary School**
- **Toni Jolley, Principal, Bates Elementary School**
- **Catherine Mirick, Chair, Wellesley School Committee**



# COVID-19 Deaths in Massachusetts since Beginning of Pandemic

New deaths attributed to Covid-19, reported to CDC, in MA

Seven-day moving average of new deaths, by number of days since 3 average daily deaths first recorded.



## US Vaccination Rates

### Lowest Rates

| STATE         | % OF POP. WITH AT LEAST ONE DOSE | % OF POP. FULLY VACCINATED |
|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Idaho         | 46%                              | 40%                        |
| Wyoming       | 47%                              | 40%                        |
| West Virginia | 48%                              | 40%                        |
| Mississippi   | 49%                              | 41%                        |
| North Dakota  | 50%                              | 43%                        |
| Tennessee     | 51%                              | 44%                        |

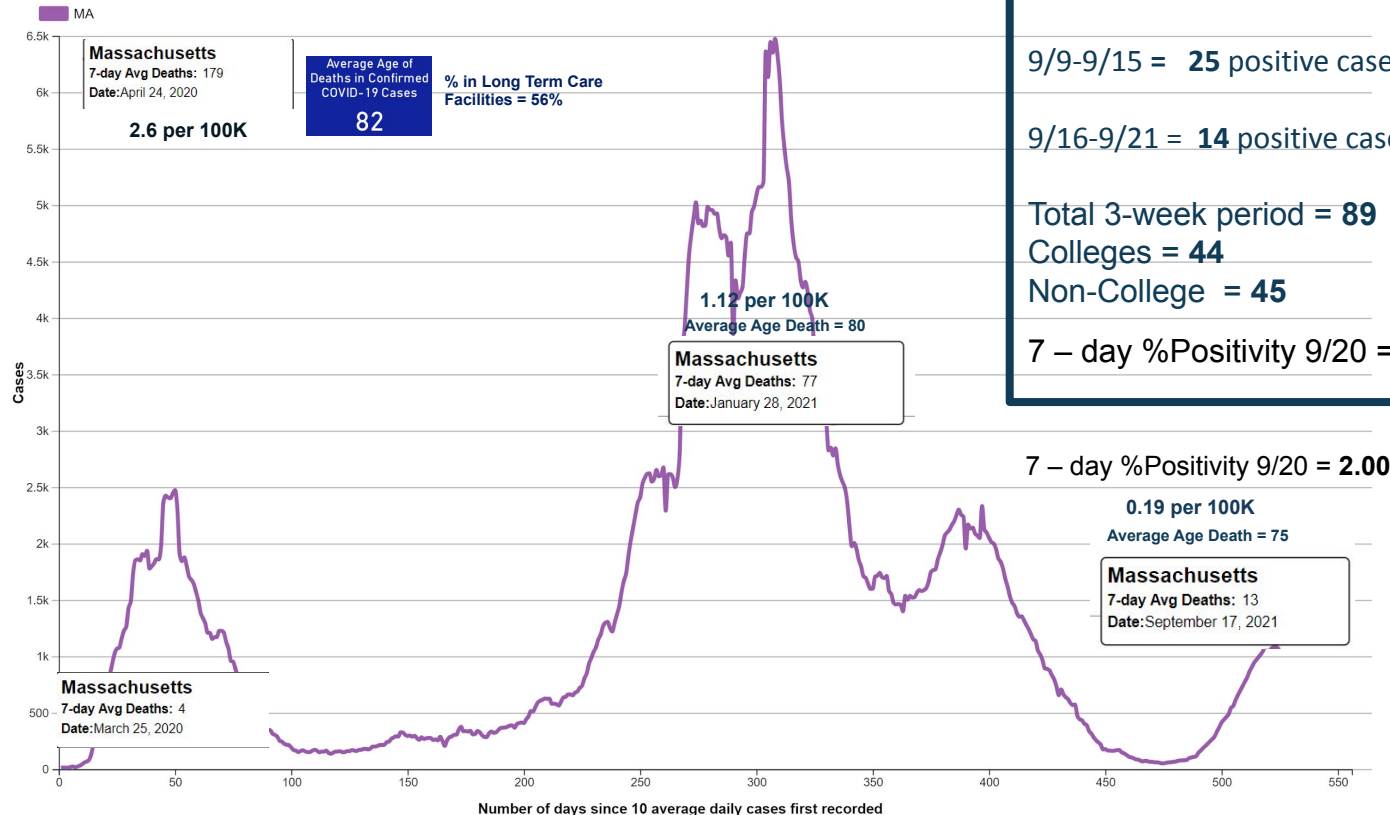
### Highest Rates

|               |     |     |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| Connecticut   | 75% | 67% |
| Massachusetts | 76% | 67% |
| Hawaii        | 76% | 56% |
| Vermont       | 77% | 69% |

# COVID-19 Positive Tests in Massachusetts since Beginning of Pandemic

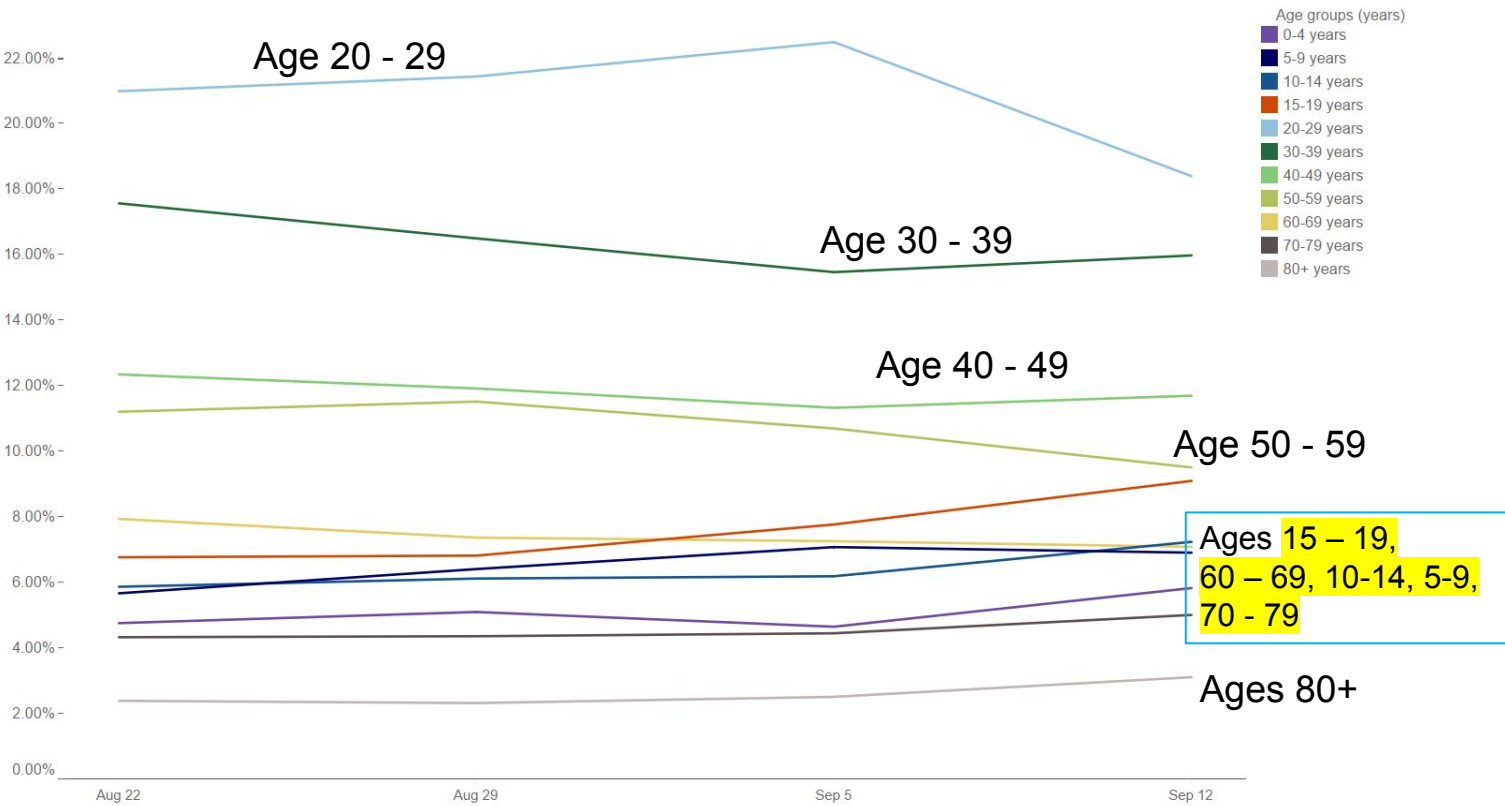
New cases of Covid-19, reported to CDC, in MA

Seven-day moving average of new cases, by number of days since 10 average daily cases first recorded.



# MA - Percentage of Positive Tests by Age (8/22 – 9/17)

Proportion of positive tests for the past four weeks\* by age group



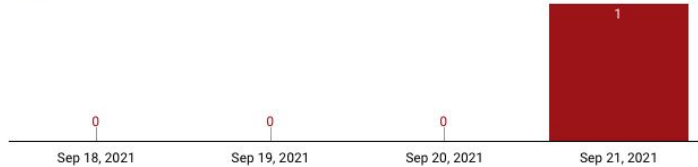
# WPS COVID-19 Dashboard



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Positive Tests by Date



## **Positive Case Procedure**

Notify Wellesley Health Department

Connect with the individual/family - provide education, support

- WHD and WPS collaborate for contact tracing both inside and outside of school

Identification and notification of any close contacts

- Within 6 feet for a cumulative time of more than 15 minutes during a 24 exposure

- Use MDPH and DESE guidelines

Protect the privacy of everyone involved

## **We All Need to Continue to Do Our Part**

- Get vaccinated if you are eligible

- Wear your face mask

- Consistent hand hygiene

- Physical distancing

- Stay home with any symptoms

*Please consult with your primary care physician or*

*your school nurse if you have any questions or concerns*

[Click for  
Situation  
Chart](#)

COVID-19 Dashboard Selected Date Range

Sep 18, 2021 - Sep 21, 2021

Positive Tests in Date Range

1

Positive Tests in SY21-22

10

Positive Tests: In Date Range SY21-22

|                      |   |   |
|----------------------|---|---|
| P.A.W.S.             | 0 | 1 |
| Bates Elementary     | 0 | 0 |
| Fiske Elementary     | 0 | 0 |
| Hardy Elementary     | 0 | 0 |
| Hunnewell Elementary | 0 | 0 |
| Schofield Elementary | 0 | 1 |
| Sprague Elementary   | 1 | 2 |
| Upham Elementary     | 0 | 0 |
| WMS                  | 0 | 1 |
| WHS                  | 0 | 5 |
| Central Office       | 0 | 0 |



# WPS MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- **Vaccination:** Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDC and AAP recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all adolescents 12 years of age and older who do not have contraindications for the vaccine.
- **Masks** when indoors
- CDC/AAP recommendation: indoor mask use over age 2 regardless of vaccination status
  - ◆ Masks continue to be required on buses/vans
  - ◆ Masks not needed outdoors
- **Lunches:** Continue to eat outdoors (weather permitting)
  - ◆ Assigned seating and careful consideration of recommended spacing of unmasked students during indoor lunch.
- **Hand washing/Sanitizing**
- **Air Quality Improvements:** MERV-13 filters were addressed and completed in the Fall of 2020
- **Home Screening:** Continued education of staff, students and families on the need to **STAY HOME** when not feeling well.
- **COVID-19 Testing Program**



# WPS Viral Testing Program (2021-22)

- WPS is participating in the state viral testing program
- Three types of testing:
  - Symptomatic Testing
  - Test-and-Stay
  - Surveillance Testing





## Symptomatic Testing

Symptomatic Testing simply means that a Rapid Antigen Test may be administered to any individual who presents symptoms **while at school**.

If a student/staff member presents with an onset of mild symptoms **while at school**, the individual may be considered for rapid antigen testing, *if clinically indicated*.

- If the result is positive, they should be sent home. The school nurse will provide specific guidance at that time. Follow up with PCP will be advised.
- If the result is negative, and the student may return to class at the discretion of the school nurse.
- If the minimal symptom(s) persist, the individual should remain home the following day and should seek medical care and be evaluated for the need for PCR testing.



## Close Contact in a School Setting

**A close contact in the classroom is someone who has been within 3 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual while indoors for at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period and does not meet any of the exemption criteria\*\*\***

**A Close Contact due to an exposure in a classroom setting has three (3) options:**

### **1. "Test and Stay" to Remain in School during quarantine**

- Duration: 7 days
- Test: rapid test daily on school days. Remain in school provided student tests negative and remains asymptomatic
- ***Quarantine at home when outside of school setting***
- [Covid Testing Program Link](#)

### **2. Quarantine at Home and Test to Return to School**

- Duration: Quarantine at home for at least 7 days
- Test: On day 5 or later (antigen or PCR)
- Return to School: Day 8, provided student stays asymptomatic and test was negative
- Monitor Symptoms: through day 14

### **3. Quarantine at Home, No Testing**

- Duration: quarantine at home for 10 days
- Return to School: on day 11 provided student stays asymptomatic
- Monitor Symptoms: through day 14



# Close Contact Exemptions in a School Setting

The following close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols:

- Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts: Individuals who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Classroom close contacts: An individual who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom while both individuals were masked, so long as the individuals were spaced at least 3 feet apart, is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Bus close contacts: Individuals on buses must be masked according to federal requirements. As such, individuals who are masked on buses when windows are open are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days: An individual who has been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and then becomes a close contact of someone with COVID-19 is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols if:
  - The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness AND
  - The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms.



## Test and Stay

*Available when an asymptomatic student/staff member has been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual while at school.*

- Administered to the potentially exposed individual for 5 consecutive days from date of exposure.
- The individual can safely remain in school following each negative test result
  - If a test does come back positive, that individual should be sent home as soon as possible.
- Weekend school-sponsored events: eMed at-home test available for the student to self-administer
  - The individual should receive one eMed test kit to take home on the last day of school prior to the activity, and take the test on the same day as, but prior to arriving at, the event.
  - If the test is negative the individual should show the negative result to school staff (coaches, etc) at the event, and is cleared to participate. The individual should remain masked.

***\*Student is still considered in QUARANTINE and should be following traditional quarantine guidelines when at home during this time.***

- If the test is positive, the individual should be treated as a positive case.



## Test and Stay

*For when an individual has been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual while at school.*

- ◆ **Students arrive at Gym/Cafeteria/Medical Waiting Room at a time designated by school and communicated to those involved at time of notification**
  - After the test, students will sit in a waiting area separate from those waiting to be tested.
  - When results are available, testers will dismiss students back to class.
  - Parents/guardians/Caregivers are asked to remain locally within 30 minutes of test in the event their student tests positive, they will need to be available for pick-up
  - If the student is a van/bus rider; please provide the school with the name of a designated adult (ie: an emergency contact ) who will be available each morning to dismiss your student in the rare instance of a positive result.



## Surveillance (Pool) Testing

Routine COVID pooled testing involves combining several test samples together and then testing the group sample with a PCR test for detection of COVID-19. Testing for all consenting students and staff members will typically take place once per week.

### NEGATIVE POOL:

→ REMAIN IN SCHOOL

### POSITIVE POOL :

- Repeat PCR test and rapid antigen test at school for individuals in pool prior to next school day.
- If asymptomatic with negative rapid test, return to school until and unless an individual is identified as positive.

# Test & Stay FAQ:

## **1. My child was exposed outside of school, can they be tested at school?**

The state is FIRM on restricting test and stay for IN SCHOOL exposures only. No exceptions. Test and Stay is only possible because we are in a controlled environment in school where the risk remains very low for transmission. The students are not out of quarantine with test and stay, The school is simply managing their quarantine while in the building and parents should be adhering to traditional quarantine guidelines when that student returns home each day (ie: no playdates, sports practice (non-school sponsored) , no traveling, etc).

## **2. The kits are available OTC at CVS, can I test them at home before coming to school?**

The test and stay program is streamlined and closely managed by our team with CIC health and is conducted in a controlled environment with quality control measures and a strategic tracking method and documentation system to minimize the workload on our school nurses; therefore, testing at home in lieu of test & stay is not an option. You may choose to keep your child home and follow the traditional 7/10/14 day protocol (protocol available on our website under health services)



Questions?