COVID REPORT #14

JANUARY 17, 2022

Contents: Data from 1/10 & 1/3

Bottom line: The situation is changing constantly; increasing case numbers are alarming.

Next report expected January 24 (Monday schedule)

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WEEKLY MESSAGE

I'm now on a Monday weekly schedule (delayed due to holiday). I call our current status: ***"Plateau? Way too high!"*** Hospital admissions are overwhelming capacity, with most patients ***unvaccinated***. On the positive side, deaths are down compared with last year, largely attributable to vaccinations (plus available treatments).

PLEASE FOLLOW THE USUAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Mask indoors; observe social distancing; avoid large indoor gatherings
- Get vaccinated & boosted! (See next slide for information.)

"Omicron" masks: Public health experts advise that tight-fitting, non-cloth masks (N95 or KN95; 95% filtration) provide much better protection against infection than cloth masks for both wearers and those around them. This is because it takes many fewer Omicron virus particles to mount an infection than earlier variants. However, many have complained about the difficulty in obtaining N95 or KN95 masks. Local medical supply houses can't get KN95s. While available on the internet, it can be difficult to assure that a particular brand is legitimate & meets specifications. I hope to have more details next week.

MORE INFORMATION ON MASKING:

- Fitting: Mask should be tight & collapse slightly when inhaling
- Also acceptable: KF94 ("Korean filter") gives 94% filtration
- Go to CDC (cdc.gov/coronavirus) & click under "Testing & Masks"
- **Town masking discussion: Please join the dialogue; see town home page**.

Vaccine Information

Current recommendations are for all individuals 5 years & over to be vaccinated against the Covid-19 coronavirus (unless there is a medical contraindication). Preference is for a 2-dose mRNA vaccine (Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna), but the single dose J&J is also acceptable. Pfizer is authorized for all age groups, the other 2 for 18+. *From Medicare, 1/10/22:* Everyone 18+ should get a booster 2 months after their J&J vaccine, or 5 months after completing their primary mRNA vaccine series. Youth ages 12 to 17 should also get a booster of Pfizer-BioNTech 5 months after their primary series.

Vaccination markedly reduces one's susceptibility to infection, including to Omicron. Importantly, infection is much milder, rarely needing hospitalization or leading to death. Furthermore, milder cases are less likely to be transmitted to others.

Vaccination Options:

- Local vaccination resources & scheduling:
  https://getvaccinatedberkshires.org/ (Next clinic: Sat, Jan 22, 9 AM - 2 PM, BCC, Pittsfield)
  https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/berkshire (search for other options)
- Statewide: https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/
- Community Health Programs Mobile Unit (offers both testing and/or vaccinations)
  https://www.chpberkshires.org/mobile/ (Van schedule)
  Telephone: 1-413-528-0457 (Note: appointments are now required for the Mobile Unit)
- Berkshire Health Systems:
  Schedule via your Patient Portal or call the Hotline 1-855-262-5465.
- Vaccines are also available at local pharmacies. Contact yours for an appointment.

WORKPLACE SAFETY STANDARDS

The impetus for issuing the Emergency Orders on Workplace Safety Standards for Local Businesses & Enterprises (including Special Public Events & "Clubs") was the recent uptick in Covid-19 cases in town. Data in this Report provide ample evidence that Covid is still with us & surging again. The Delta variant's high transmission rate has led to this resurgence despite our relatively high vaccination rate here & statewide. Recently added Slide 10 shows case counts since January 2020. Please note: (i) we are about where we were 1 year ago & (ii) we're just entering winter, when Covid peaked to its highest levels last year.

During the state emergency, Covid cases were to be reported to the Board of Health. That mandate ended last May, when the emergency was lifted. To control virus spread, we need to reestablish this measure to assist us with tracing contacts as quickly as possible. Thus, the emergency order creates 2 mandates: (i) reporting & (ii) suspension of operations & cleaning following an exposure. The 1st mandate helps us & the 2nd is the sensible response. The remaining requests in the orders amount to strong encouragement to comply with the best practices for stopping the spread of Covid-19.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Privacy: Confidentiality will be maintained. Personal information will only be known to the Board of Health & our health agents (Code Enforcement & Public Health Nurse).
- We will only use provided information to ascertain the source of an infection or to alert potential contacts so they may take necessary measures (e.g., testing, quarantine, etc.).
- An employer will ***not*** be held accountable if an employee fails to report his/her positive test.
- Finally, the Board of Health has the authority to issue such emergency orders without hearing public comment (see MA code & statute cited in the order). The rationale is that time may be of the essence. The board has the responsibility to weigh benefits & burdens in protecting public health with such an order. However, we are still subject review via appeal (noted in the order).

***Orders on town website: town.adams.ma.us/board-health/pages/covid-19-information.**

Adams Data as of 1/14/22 (from MAVEN*)			
	Date Range	**Days**	**Cases**
Previous case numbers	July	31	16
	August	31	71
	Sep 1 - Sep 28	28	25
	Sep 23 - Oct 12	20	36
	Oct 13 - Oct 28	14	63
(Note the different time spans)	Oct 29 - Nov 4	7	10
	Nov 5 - Nov 11	7	19
	Nov 12 - Nov 18	7	27
	Nov 19 - Nov 25	7	51
	Nov 26 - Dec 2	7	63
Accumative total	Dec 3 - Dec 9	7	58
971 cases = 11.8%	Dec 10 - Dec 16	7	16
(Adams pop = 8,227)	Dec 17 - Dec 24	8	24
	Dec 25 - Dec 31	7	67
	Jan 1 - Jan 7	7	97
Current cases	**Jan 8 - Jan 14**	**7**	**103**
Current rate	**14.7 new cases/day**		
Current cases by age cohort	<5		7
	5-20		22
	21-40		25
	>40		49
Vax status: 31 were listed as vaccinated (32% of those eligible)			
*Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network			

Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts

publichealthwm.org/covid-19/data/Berkshire

Based on best available data as of 1/13/22

Berkshire County COVID-19 Data

Western Mass COVID-19 County Data Dashboard

Current 2-Week Period: Dec 26, 2021–Jan 8, 2022
Prior 2-Week Period: Dec 19, 2021–Jan 1, 2022

CASES

Confirmed Cases
(current 2 week period)
3,200
Prior 2-week period: 1,691

Cumulative Confirmed Cases: 16,345

Average Daily Cases per 100,000
(current 2 week period)
180.8
MA: 267.3
Prior 2-week period: 95.6

TESTS

Tests
(current 2 week period)
26,930
Prior 2-week period: 17,773

Percent Positive Tests *(current 2 week period)*
12.42%
MA: 21.52%
Prior 2-week period: 9.88%

DEATHS

Deaths
(current 2 week period)
9
Note: No new deaths in 2nd week of span.

Cumulative Confirmed & Probable Deaths: 351

Symbols indicate change when compared to prior two-week period. **For New Cases, Incidence per 100,000, and Total Tests**: **Higher** (upward arrow) means the number in the current two-week period is higher than the prior period. **Lower** (downward arrow) means the number in the current two-week period is lower than prior two-week period. **No change** (equal sign) means the number in the current two-week period is the same as the prior period. **For Percent Positivity**: less than 0.10% difference in the percent positivity is considered **No change** (equal sign).

Data sources: MDPH, 1/13 and 1/6 *COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report* Raw Data & *COVID-19 Daily Dashboard* https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting,

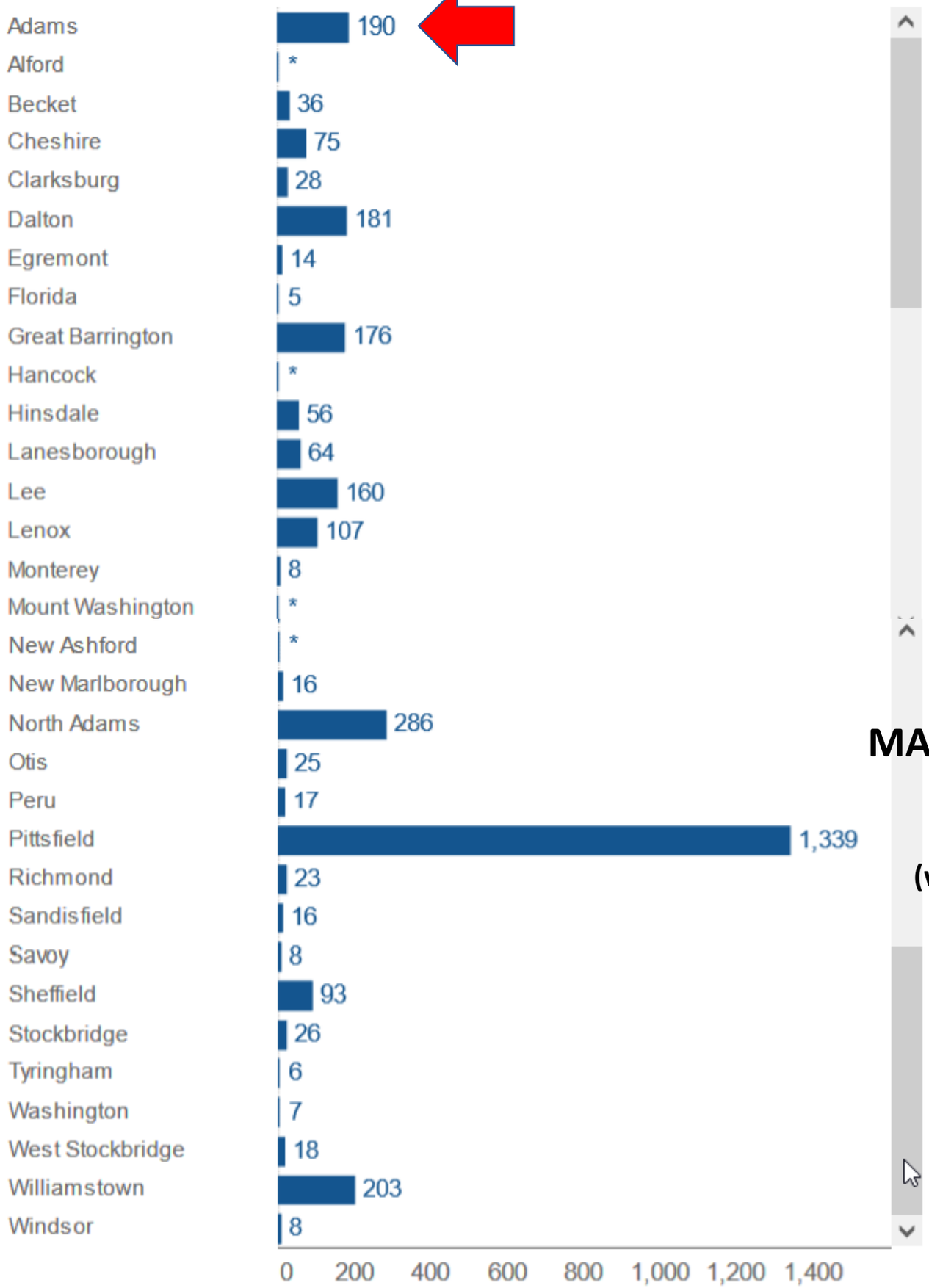
PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
PARTNERS FOR HEALTH EQUITY

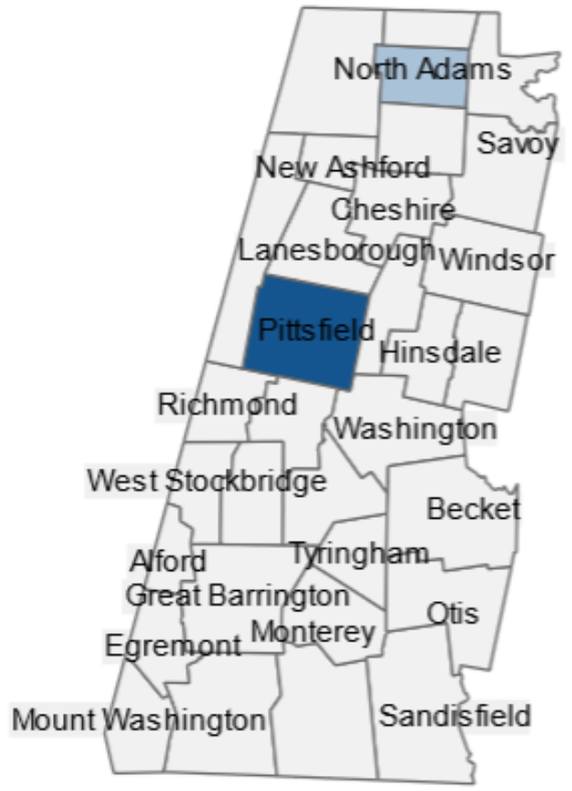
Note that most panels also list data for previous week.

Cumulative deaths = 351 (1 per 368 persons in the county*)

***April 2020 population = 129,026 per US Census data (calculation revised 1/14/2021)**

1/13/22 data: 14-day case counts (Dec 26 – Jan 8, 2022)



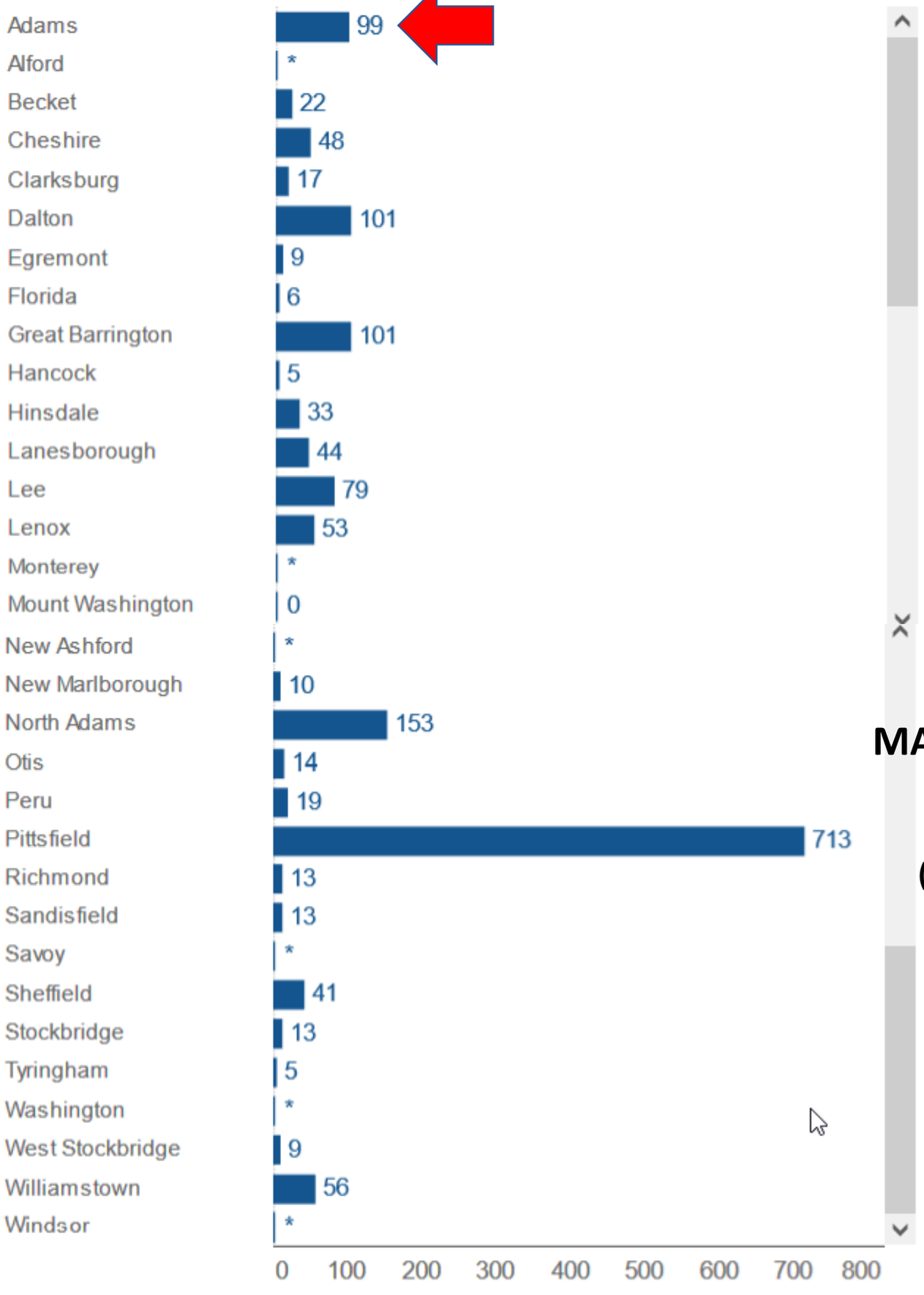


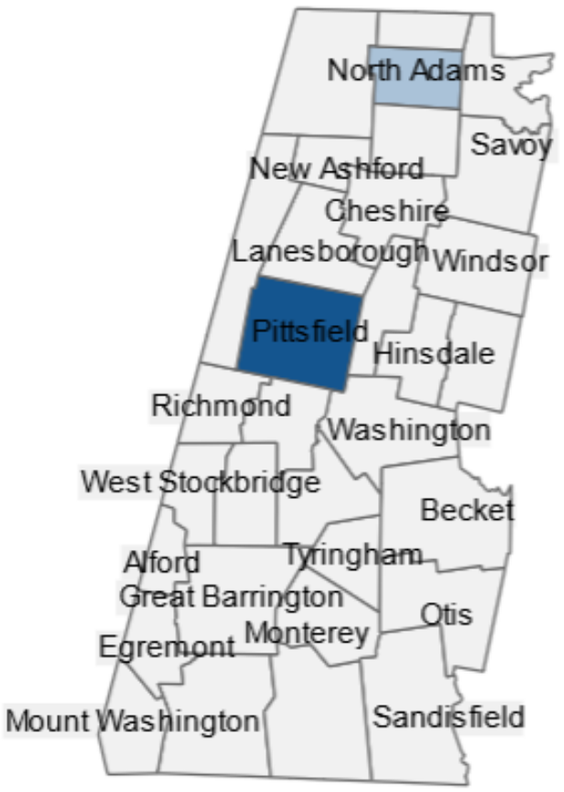
MA totals = 260,623; Berkshire County = 3,200

(www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting)

Current 2-week span

1/6/22 data: 14-day case counts (Dec 19 – Jan 1, 2022)





MA totals = 147,905; Berkshire County = 1,691

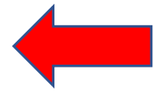
(www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting)

Previous 2-week span reported

Case Counts (total per 2 weeks shown)			
Date range*	**MA**	**County**	**Adams**
8/15-8/28	19,049	380	46
8/29-9/11	22,489	350	23
9/12-9/25	22,175	326	14
9/26-10/9	18,528	309	25
10/10-10/23	17,081	441	59
10/24-11/6	17,738	579	43
11/7-11/20	29,741	781	68
11/21-12/4	46,475	1,063	129
12/5-12/18	65,835	951	50
12/12-12/25	80,930	963	41
12/19-1/1	147,905	1,691	99
12/26-1/8	260,623	3,200	190

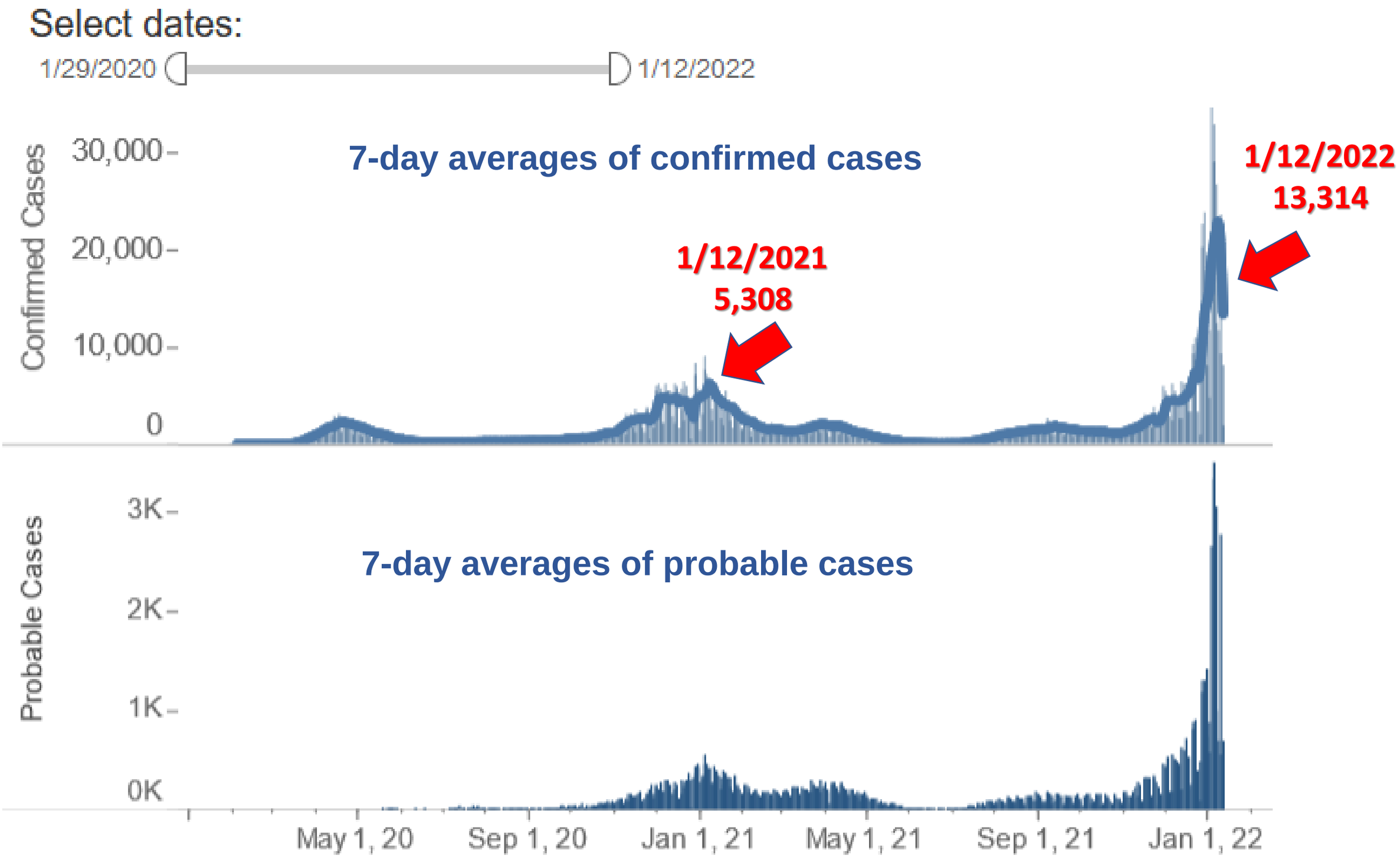
***Note that every other previous 2-week ranges are shown.**

14-Day Average Daily Incidence Rate (per 100,000)			
Date range*	**MA**	**County**	**Adams**
8/15-8/28	19.5	21.5	39.9
8/29-9/11	23.1	19.8	20.0
9/12-9/25	22.7	18.4	12.2
9/26-10/9	19.0	17.5	21.7
10/10-10/23	17.5	24.9	51.2
10/24-11/6	18.2	32.7	37.3
11/7-11/20	30.5	44.1	59.0
11/21-12/4	47.7	60.1	112
12/5-12/18	67.5	53.7	43.4
12/12-12/25	83.0	54.4	35.6
12/19-1/1	151.7	95.6	85.9
12/26-1/8	267.3	180.8	165.0



***Note that every other previous 2-week ranges are shown.**

MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 CASES OVER TIME



MA totals (confirmed + probable): Cases = 1,250,765 (17.6%); Deaths = 20,510 (0.29%, about 1/346)

[www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting (Covid-19 Cases)]

1/11/22

Ages	Pop	Per capita	Fully vaxed	% of Age	% of Town	Boosted	% of Age	% of Town
5-11 Yr	573	7%	170	30%	3%	-	0%	0%
12-15 Yr	328	4%	221	67%	4%	4	1%	0%
16-19 Yr	329	4%	242	74%	4%	64	19%	2%
20-29 Yr	1,068	13%	648	61%	11%	166	16%	6%
30-49 Yr	1,941	24%	1,341	69%	23%	512	26%	19%
50-64 Yr	1,885	23%	1,466	78%	26%	757	40%	28%
65-74 Yr	1,014	12%	920	91%	16%	647	64%	24%
75+ Yr	775	9%	718	93%	13%	512	66%	19%
Total	8,227	100%	5,726	70%	100%	2,662	32%	100%

(Data posted 1/13/22) (+42) (+195)

1/4/22

Ages	Pop	Per capita	Fully vaxed	% of Age	% of Town	Boosted	% of Age	% of Town
5-11 Yr	573	7%	157	27%	3%	-	0%	0%
12-15 Yr	328	4%	219	67%	4%	2	1%	0%
16-19 Yr	329	4%	238	72%	4%	50	15%	2%
20-29 Yr	1,068	13%	649	61%	11%	136	13%	6%
30-49 Yr	1,941	24%	1,331	69%	23%	464	24%	19%
50-64 Yr	1,885	23%	1,457	77%	26%	704	37%	29%
65-74 Yr	1,014	12%	921	91%	16%	614	61%	25%
75+ Yr	775	9%	712	92%	13%	497	64%	20%
Total	8,227	100%	5,684	69%	100%	2,467	30%	100%

(Data posted 1/6/22)

COVID-19 Cases in Fully Vaccinated Individuals

- COVID-19 cases in vaccinated people are counted as those who test positive more than 14 days after the final dose of vaccine*
- As of January 8, 2022 there were 5,120,310 fully vaccinated people and there were 262,060 cases in vaccinated people
- 4,553 of those 262,060 cases resulted in hospitalization and 1,054 cases resulted in death based on information reported to date

	Cumulative count through last week (reported 1/1/2022)	Cumulative count through this week (reported 1/8/2022)	% of All Fully Vaccinated Individuals*
Cases	179,594	262,060 **+ 82,466**	5.1%
Hospitalizations among cases	3,909	4,553 **+ 644**	0.09%
Deaths among cases	942	1,054 **+ 112**	0.02%

Note: Identification of cases in vaccinated people relies on matching data between the system of record for cases and vaccinations. The number of cases in vaccinated people may be undercounted due to discrepancies in the names and dates of birth of individuals, resulting in an inability to match records across systems. Hospitalization data is likely also undercounted as identification and reporting of hospitalized cases relies on that information being obtainable by case investigators through patient interview.

*Vaccination began December 14, 2020; the earliest date at which individuals would be considered fully vaccinated is January 19, 2021

Source: MIIS Data, MAVEN data

COVID-19 Cases in Fully Vaccinated Individuals

- COVID-19 cases in vaccinated people are counted as those who test positive more than 14 days after the final dose of vaccine*
- As of January 2, 2022 there were 5,090,635 fully vaccinated people and there were 179,594 cases in vaccinated people
- 3,909 of those 179,594 cases resulted in hospitalization and 942 cases resulted in death based on information reported to date

	Cumulative count through last week (reported 12/25)	Cumulative count through this week (reported 1/1)	% of All Fully Vaccinated Individuals*
Cases	134,565	179,594	3.5%
		+ 45,029	
Hospitalizations among cases	3,539	3,909	0.08%
		+ 370	
Deaths among cases	854	942	0.02%
		+ 88	

Note: Identification of cases in vaccinated people relies on matching data between the system of record for cases and vaccinations. The number of cases in vaccinated people may be undercounted due to discrepancies in the names and dates of birth of individuals, resulting in an inability to match records across systems. Hospitalization data is likely also undercounted as identification and reporting of hospitalized cases relies on that information being obtainable by case investigators through patient interview.

*Vaccination began December 14, 2020; the earliest date at which individuals would be considered fully vaccinated is January 19, 2021

Source: MIIS Data, MAVEN data

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following material from the CDC (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/): Click on “Quarantine & Isolation” link for all the details.

RECOMMENDATIONS / GUIDELINES:

- **Quarantine:** Quarantine if you have been in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been fully vaccinated. People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 5-7 days after their exposure, even if they don’t have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.
- **Isolation (for individuals positive for Covid-19):** People who are in isolation should stay home until it’s safe for them to be around others. At home, anyone sick or infected should separate from others, stay in a specific “sick room” or area, and use a separate bathroom (if available). To calculate your 10 full day isolation period, day 0 is your first day of symptoms. Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed. If you test positive for COVID-19 and never develop symptoms, day 0 is the day of your positive viral test (based on the date you were tested) and day 1 is the first full day after your positive test. If you develop symptoms after testing positive, your 10-day isolation period must start over. Day 0 is your first day of symptoms. Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed.