




COVID REPORT #6

NOVEMBER 19, 2021

Contents: Data from 11/18 & 11/11

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**Bottom line: Cases continue to increase in
Adams as well as county-wide.**

Next full report expected November 26 or 29

[may be delayed by Thanksgiving Holiday]

WEEKLY MESSAGE

We're back to the Thursday release of MA Department of Public Health for town-by-town data. Covid-19 cases numbers are up in Adams, county & state. Our situation in Adams continues to be **HIGH ALERT**. Thursday's Eagle (11/18) reported that the county's 7-day average increased to 48 new cases per day, up from 46/day the previous week. Moreover, we've had 27 new cases in Adams between November 12 & 18 (Slide 5), so **forget about the hat & wear your mask!** Let's keep our focus on stopping the spread. Importantly, we approved our Emergency Workplace Safety Orders. See Slide 4 for more information*.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO:

- Wear your masks
- Observe social distancing, particularly indoors
- Avoid large indoor gatherings
- Immunize your children! Information on Slide 3 – watch for updates in the *Berkshire Eagle* & town website
- **Get boosted! Anyone 18+ is now eligible.** Vaccinations do work: Even if infected, disease is less severe in vaccinated individuals with substantially lower rates of hospitalization or death.



New!

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

CHILDREN'S VACCINE UPDATE

The US Food & Drug Agency (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) to immunize children ages 5-11 years with the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine ("Comirnaty"). As with adults, 2 doses are given 3 weeks apart; the dosage is lower ($\frac{1}{3}$ or 10 µg vs. 30 µg for adults). Berkshire County has received vaccine. Clinics were scheduled in most public elementary schools beginning November 12. Hoosac Valley (Adams-Cheshire) held its 1st-shot clinic at the Middle/High School on November 15, when 90 of the 461 eligible students were vaccinated. The 2nd-shot clinic is scheduled for December 6. Northern Berkshire Pediatrics has also been very active in this campaign, vaccinating 600 children in our area.

ADDITIONAL VACCINE INFORMATION:

- You may choose to sign up for any available clinic in the county. See the full schedule at <https://getvaccinatedberkshires.org/pedi-schedule>. You may also register at <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/berkshire>. Parents have also been taking advantage of clinics in other communities – it's great to have options.
- Please note the requirements regarding permission & adult accompaniment.
- Children turning 12 between their 2 doses may receive either dosage.
- CDC also recommends vaccination for children who previously had Covid-19. However, each family should consult their own pediatrician.

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. Newly added Slide 10 shows case counts since January 2020. Please note: (i) we are now 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).

ADAMS DATA (as of 11/18)

Adams Data (MAVEN*)		
Previous numbers [Note the different time spans; days in parentheses]	July	(31) 16
	August	(31) 71
	Sep 1 – Sep 28	(28) 25
	Sep 23 – Oct 12	(20) 36
	Oct 13 – Oct 28	(14) 63
	Oct 29 – Nov 4	(7) 10
	Nov 5 – Nov 11	(7) 19
Current numbers	Nov 12 – Nov 18	27
Current weekly rate	New cases/day	3.9
Current cases by age cohort (11/6 – 11/11)	< 12	8
	12-20	2
	21-40	7
	> 40	10
11 of the 27 were vaccinated		



*MAVEN: Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network

Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts

publichealthwm.org/covid-19/data/Berkshire

Based on best available data as of 11/18/21

Berkshire County COVID-19 Data

Western Mass COVID-19
County Data Dashboard

Current 2-Week Period: Oct 31–Nov 13, 2021

Prior 2-Week Period: Oct 24–Nov 6, 2021

CASES



Confirmed Cases

(current 2 week period)

651

Prior 2-week period: 579

Cumulative Confirmed Cases: 9,821

TESTS



Tests

(current 2 week period)

21,183

Prior 2-week period: 20,881

DEATHS

Deaths

(current 2 week period)

6

Cumulative Confirmed &
Probable Deaths: 330



Average Daily Cases per 100,000

(current 2 week period)

36.8

MASS: 23.0

Prior 2-week period: 32.7



Percent Positive Tests (current 2 week period)

3.22%

MASS: 2.26%

Prior 2-week period: 2.94%

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 (equals 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).

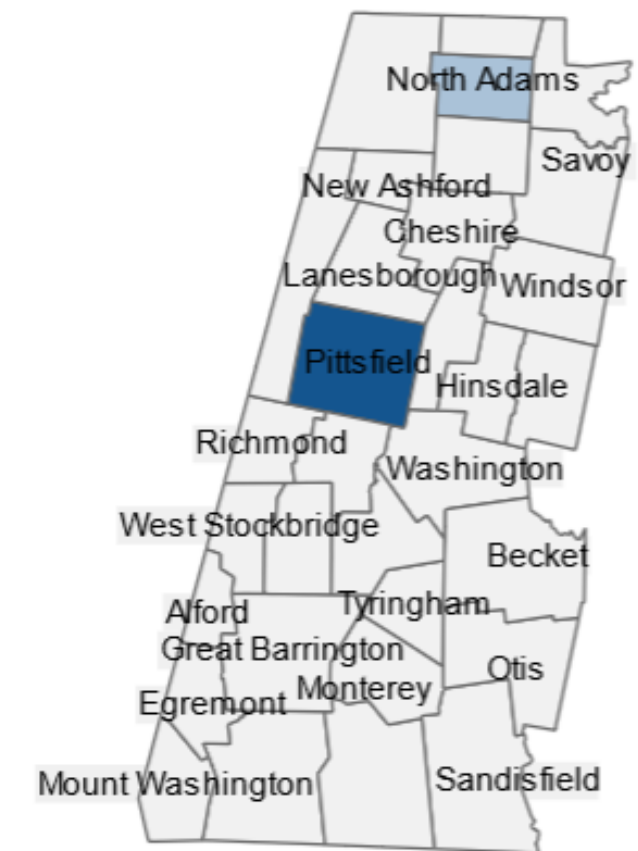
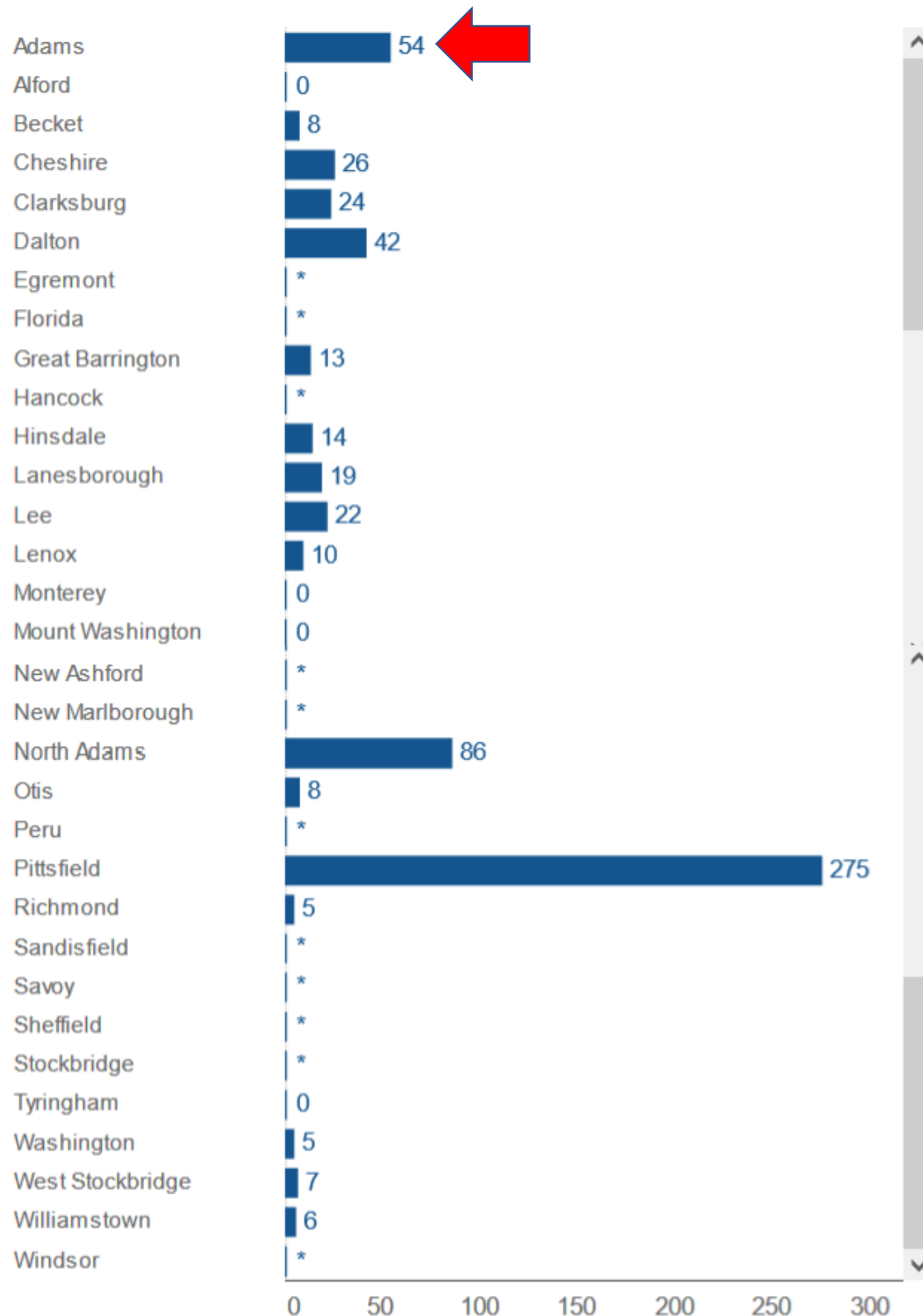
Data sources: MDPH, 11/18 and 11/11 COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report Raw Data & COVID-19 Daily Dashboard <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>.



Cumulative deaths = 330 (1 per 379 persons in the county*)

*2019 population = 124,944

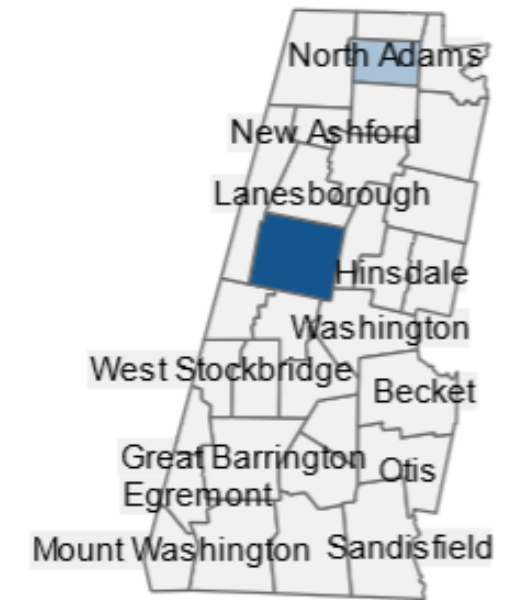
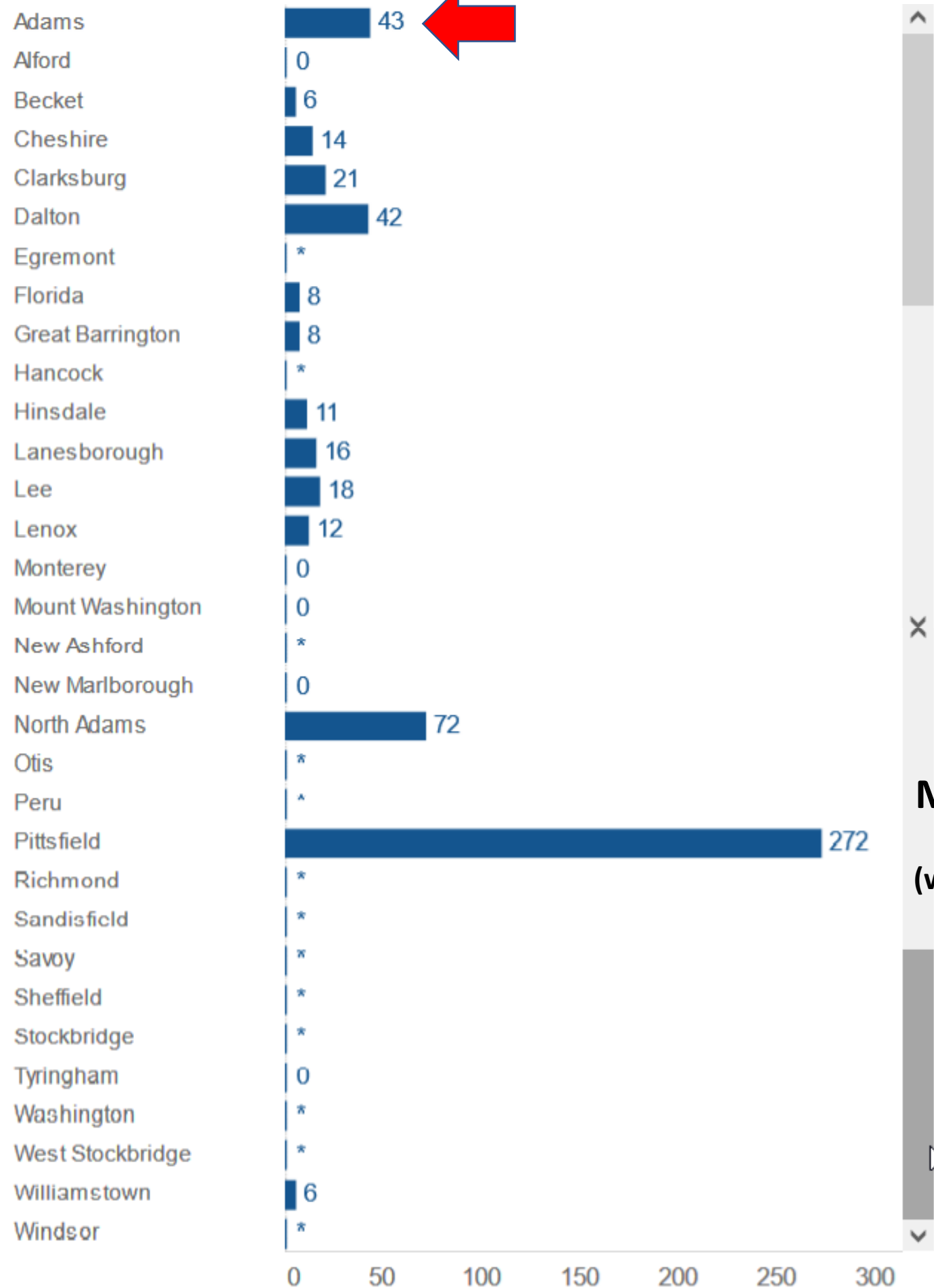
11/18/21 data: 14-day case counts (Oct 31 – Nov 13, 2021)



MA totals = 22,403; Berkshire County = 651
 (www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting)

Most recent 2-week span reported

11/11/21 data: 14-day case counts (Oct 24 – Nov 6, 2021)




MA totals = 17,738; Berkshire County = 579

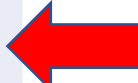
(www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting)

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
10/31-11/13	22,403	651	54



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
10/31-11/13	23.0	36.8	46.9



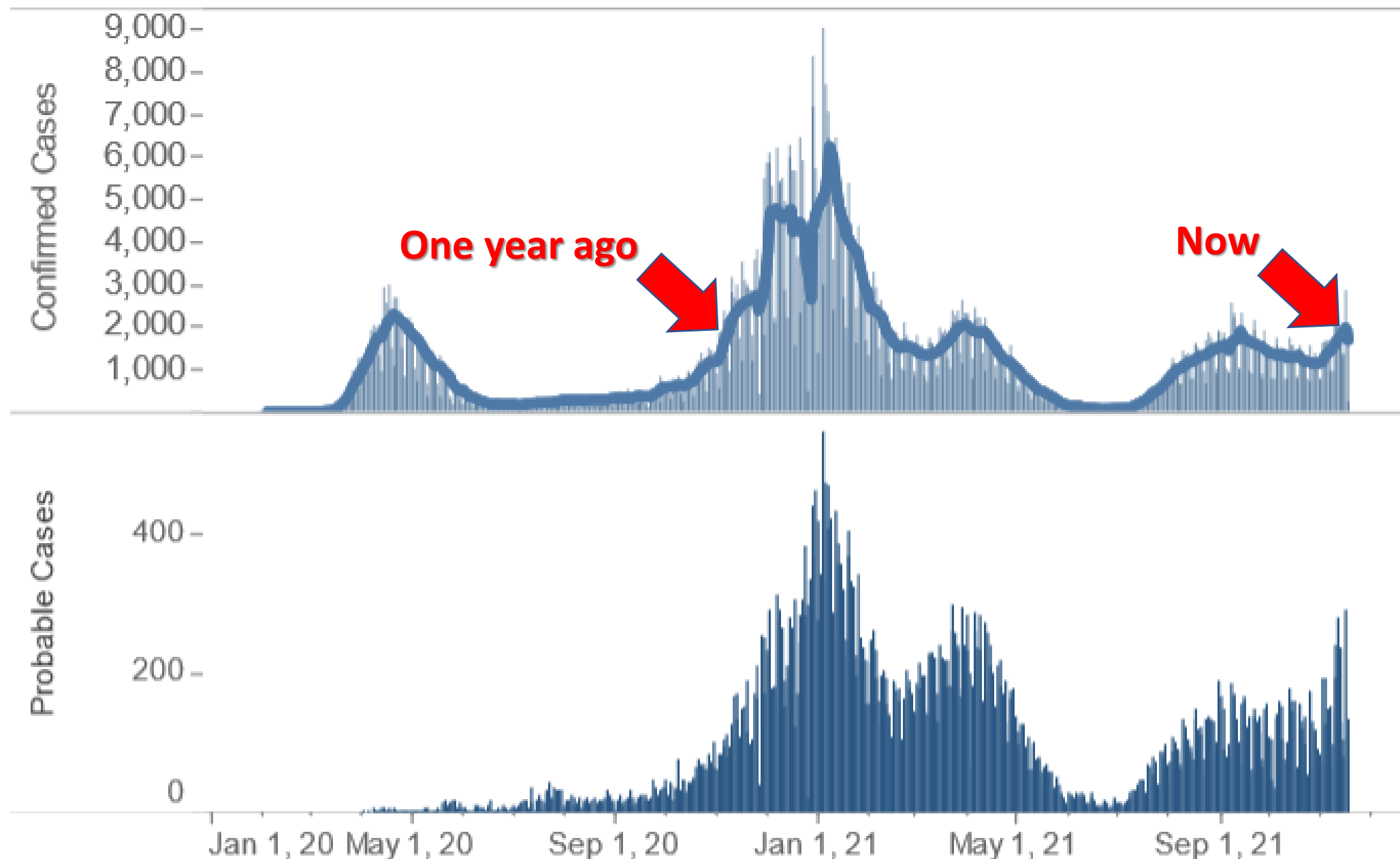
*Note that earlier 2-week ranges are every *other* week.

MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 CASES OVER TIME

COVID-19 Confirmed and Probable Cases

Select dates:

1/29/2020 11/17/2021



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

Extra slide added for Nov 17 BOH meeting, updated with last week's data.

Adams Covid Data

Date Range	Total	<12	12-20	21-40	>40	Vaxed	Eligible	% eligible
9/1-9/28	25	5	0	5	15	14	20	70%
9/23-10/9	36	4	8	6	18	?	(Excluded from summary)	
10/13-10/21	38	5	7	8	18	< 19	33	< 58%
10/22-10/28	25	2	4	12	7	9	23	39%
10/29-11/4	10	1	1	4	4	7	9	78%
11/5-11/11	19	4	3	5	7	8	15	53%
11/12-11/18	27	8	2	7	10	11	19	58%
Total vax known	144					67	119	56%

Numbers of cases among vaccinated (67) is the upper limit, assumes 18 vaxed for the 10/13-10/21 date range. It definitely looks like cases are higher among unvaccinated.

Rates for vaccinated individuals (11/16/21)

- 1.3% have been infected
- 0.4% have been hospitalized
- 0.1% have died

CTC (Community Tracing Collaborative)

- 11/30: Last day for new cases
- 12/17: Case reports completed
- 12/31: Local Health Liaisons remain available