

COVID REPORT #12

JANUARY 3, 2022

Contents: Data from 1/3 & 12/30

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**Bottom line: The situation is changing constantly;
some good news is mixed with the bad.**

Next report expected January 10 (Monday schedule)

WEEKLY MESSAGE

I skipped a week due to travel & trying to distill what's been happening. As such, I'm calling our current status: ***"What's Up?"*** Massachusetts numbers are skyrocketing; interestingly, the county rate is lower than statewide, with Adams lower yet, but still much higher than acceptable. Omicron seems to lurk around every corner. Friends & family who are assiduous about their behavior have been infected. Vaccination appears to be the best defense. It may be a bit less effective against Omicron than previous variants but markedly diminishes disease severity.

Note: I'm changing the schedule to a single weekly report on Mondays to simplify preparation & posting.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Wear your masks indoors
- Observe social distancing, particularly indoors; wear a mask, if necessary
- Avoid large indoor gatherings
- **Get vaccinated! Anyone 5+ is eligible** (see next slide for information).
- **Get boosted! Anyone 16+ is eligible** (see next slide).
- For CDC information on quarantine/isolation, see the last slide.
- **Masking update:** Currently, Massachusetts only requires indoor masking in certain locations, notably health-care facilities. Various municipalities & private enterprises have enacted their own policies. The Adams Board of Health is seeking input into whether we should develop a mask policy.

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+. Booster shots are recommended to all individuals 16+, with a preference for an mRNA vaccine.

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/pedi-schedule> (Booster clinic, Saturday, Jan 8 at BCC)
<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/medical/mobile_health_units-2/mobile/ (van schedule)
Telephone: 1-413-528-0457 (Appointments are now required for the Mobile Unit)
- Berkshire Health Systems:
Schedule via your Patient Portal or call the Hotline 1-855-262-5465.

No change

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).

Adams Data as of 12/31/21 (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
875 cases = 10.6%	Dec 10 - Dec 16	7	16
(Adams pop = 8,227)	Dec 17 - Dec 24	8	24
Current cases	Dec 25 - Dec 31	7	67
Current rate	9.6 new cases/day		
Current cases by age cohort	<5		4
	5-20		12
	21-40		36
	>40		31
Vax status: 38 were listed as vaccinated (63% 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 12/31/21

Berkshire County COVID-19 Data

Western Mass COVID-19
County Data Dashboard

Current 2-Week Period: Dec 12–Dec 25, 2021
Prior 2-Week Period: Dec 5–Dec 18, 2021

CASES



Confirmed Cases
(current 2 week period)

963

Prior 2-week period: 951

Cumulative Confirmed Cases: 12,930

TESTS



Tests
(current 2 week period)

18,849

Prior 2-week period: 22,322

DEATHS

Deaths
(current 2 week period)

5

Cumulative Confirmed &
Probable Deaths: 344



Average Daily
Cases per 100,000
(current 2 week period)

54.4

MASS: 83.0

Prior 2-week period: 53.7



Percent Positive
Tests (current 2 week period)

5.44%

MASS: 7.74%

Prior 2-week period: 4.62%

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, 12/30 and 12/23 COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report Raw Data & COVID-19 Daily Dashboard <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>.

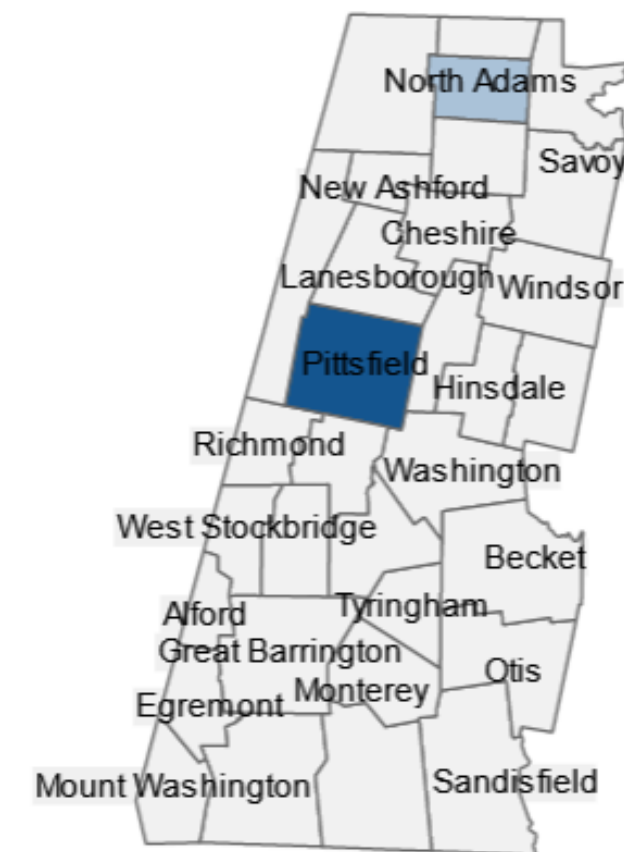
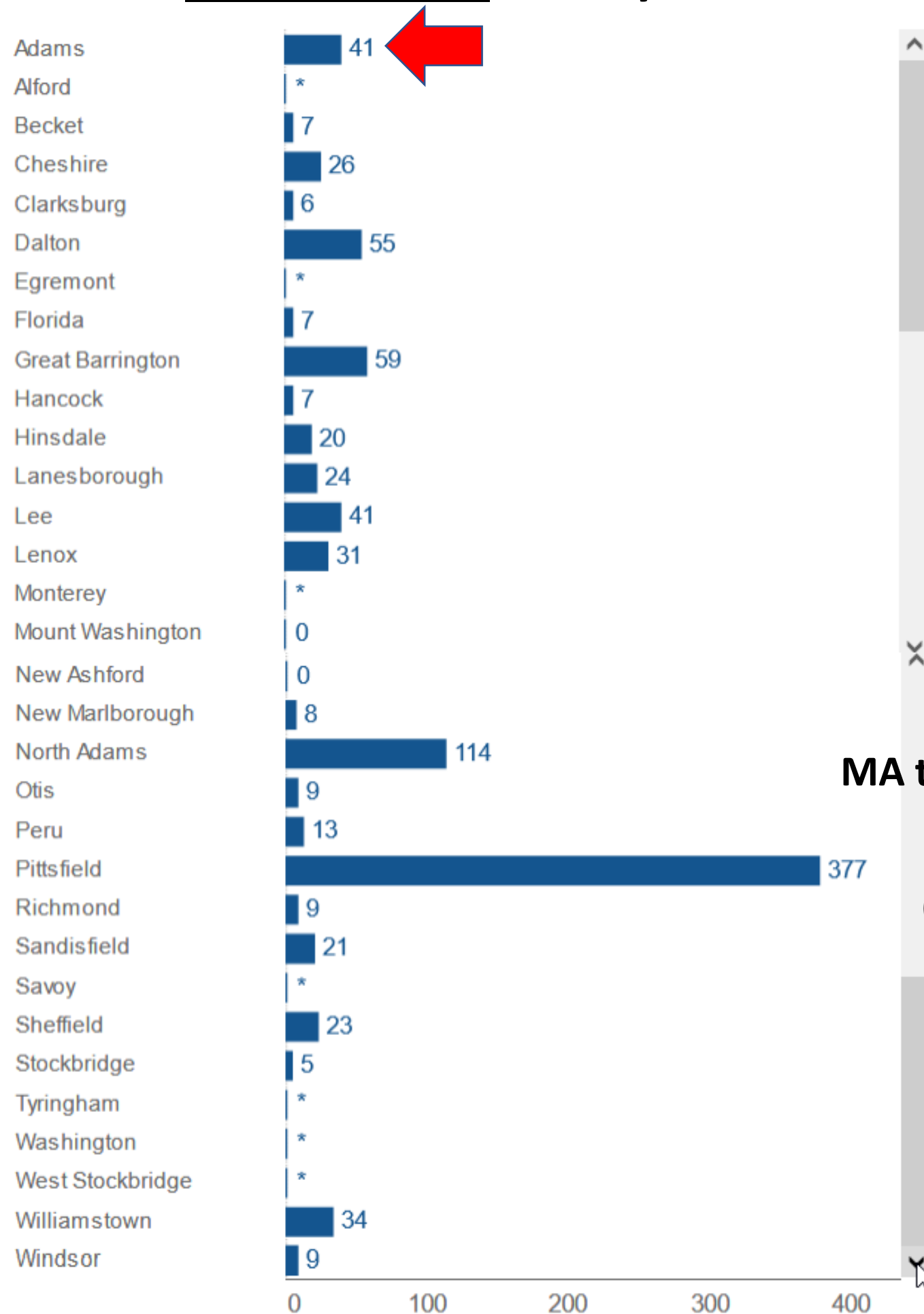


PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE
OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
PARTNERS FOR HEALTH EQUITY

Cumulative deaths = 344 (1 per 363 persons in the county*)

*2019 population = 124,944

12/30/21 data: 14-day case counts (Dec 12 – Dec 25, 2021)

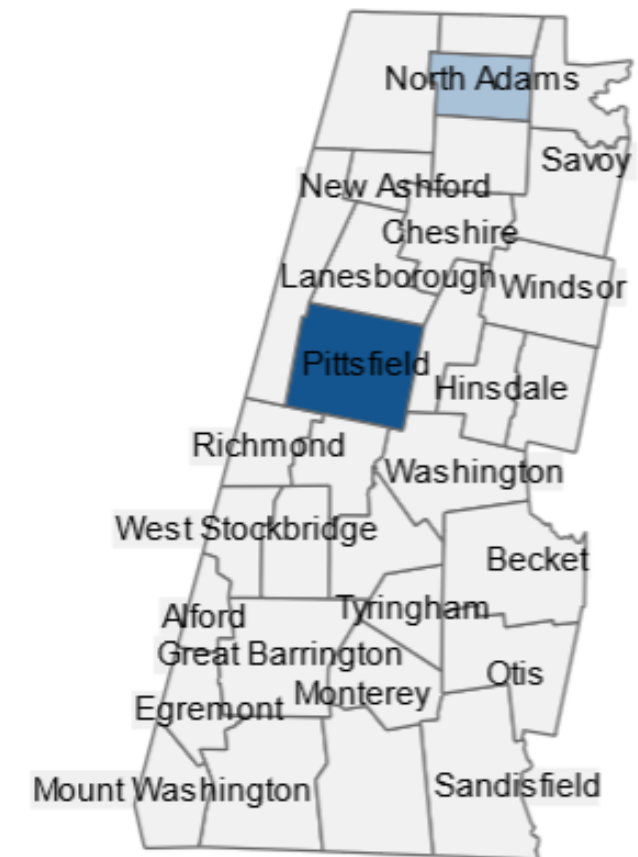
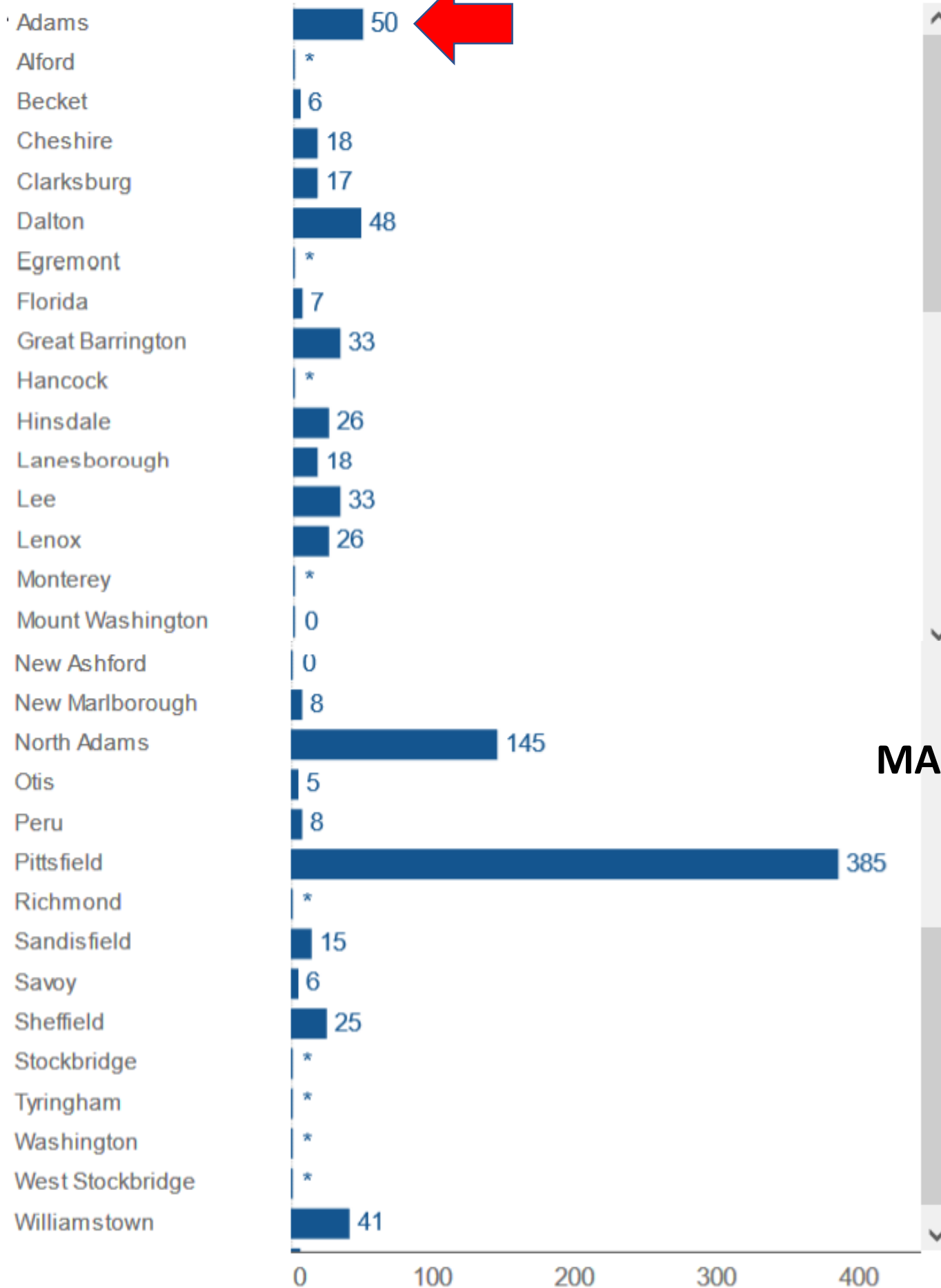


MA totals = 80,930; Berkshire County = 963

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

Current 2-week span

12/23/21 data: 14-day case counts (Dec 5 – Dec 18, 2021)

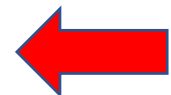


MA totals = 65,835; Berkshire County = 951

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

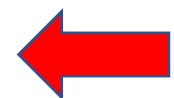
Previous 2-week span reported

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



***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

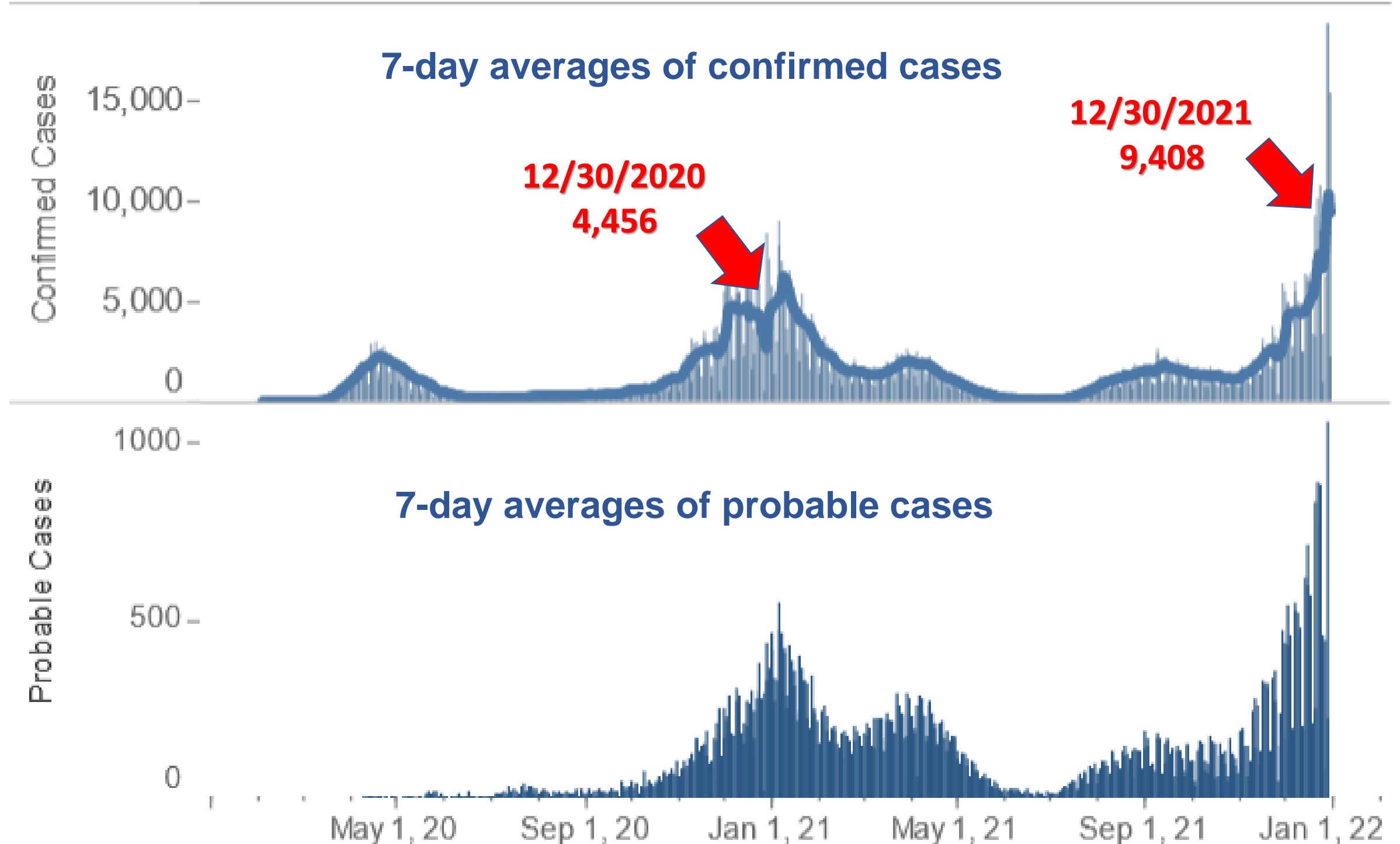


***Note that every other previous 2-week ranges are shown.**

MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 CASES OVER TIME

Select dates:

1/29/2020  12/30/2021



MA totals (confirmed + probable): Cases = 1,061,269 (14.9%); Deaths = 20,273 (0.29%, about 1/350)

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

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.