

COVID REPORT #10 (Updated)

DECEMBER 20, 2021

Contents: Data from 12/16 & 12/9

	<u>Slide(s)</u>	
Message (Status: POSSIBLE RELIEF?)	2	
Children's Vaccine	3	
Emergency Orders: Workplace Safety	4	
Adams: Case numbers, age cohorts	5	
Public Health Institute Dashboard	6	Updated Monday
Berkshire County municipalities	7 & 8	
State, county, Adams since August 15	9	
MA case trends from Jan 2020	10	

**Bottom line: Déjà vu: Cases remain high in
Adams as well as county-wide.**

Next full report expected December 27 (new schedule)

WEEKLY MESSAGE

We've only had 16 new Covid-19 cases in the past week (Slide 5). This is indeed a great sign, especially if it's the beginning of a trend. I'm thus moving us tentatively to **POSSIBLE RELIEF**. New cases remain high in the state & county (Slide 9), so we need to stay focused on stopping the spread. We continue to monitor the Omicron variant. Other than the appearance of more cases in the US, not much more is known. However, vaccination does appear to be partially effective against Omicron.

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

PLEASE CONTINUE TO:

- Wear your masks indoors
- Observe social distancing, particularly indoors; wear masks, if necessary
- Avoid large indoor gatherings
- **Get vaccinated! Anyone 5+ is eligible.** Vaccinations do work: Even if infected, disease is less severe in vaccinated individuals with substantially lower rates of hospitalization or death. Go to <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/> or call Berkshire Health Systems 855-262-5465 Option 2.
- **Immunize your children!** There's more information on Slide 3 – watch for updates in the *Berkshire Eagle* & on the town website.
- **Get boosted! Anyone 18+ is eligible.** See above.
- Note our Emergency Orders on **Workplace Safety Standards** (Slide 4)*

*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.

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 12/16)

Adams Data (MAVEN*)		
Previous numbers [Note the different time spans; days in parentheses] Accumulative total 831 = ~10%	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
	Nov 12 – Nov 18 (7)	27
	Nov 19 – Nov 25 (7)	51
	Nov 26 – Dec 2 (7)	63
	Dec 3 – Dec 9 (7)	58
Current numbers	Dec 10 – Dec 16	16
Current weekly rate	New cases/day	2.3
Current cases by age cohort (12/10 – 12/16)	< 12	1
	12-20	3
	21-40	1
	> 40	11
8 of the 16 were vaccinated (50% of the total)		



*MAVEN: Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network

Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts

publichealthwm.org/covid-19/data/Berkshire

Current Dashboard, updated last Friday.

Based on best available data as of 12/16/21

Berkshire County COVID-19 Data

Western Mass COVID-19
County Data Dashboard

Current 2-Week Period: Nov 28–Dec 11, 2021

Prior 2-Week Period: Nov 21–Dec 4, 2021

CASES



Confirmed Cases

(current 2 week period)

1,122

Prior 2-week period: 1,063

Cumulative Confirmed Cases: 11,842

TESTS



Tests

(current 2 week period)

24,766

Prior 2-week period: 22,207

DEATHS

Deaths

(current 2 week period)

4

Note: No new deaths in 2nd week of span.

Cumulative Confirmed &
Probable Deaths: 336



Average Daily Cases per 100,000

(current 2 week period)

63.4

MASS: 62.2

Prior 2-week period: 60.1



Percent Positive Tests (current 2 week period)

4.89%

MASS: 4.97%

Prior 2-week period: 5.09%

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, 12/2 and 12/9 COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report Raw Data & COVID-19 Daily Dashboard <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>.

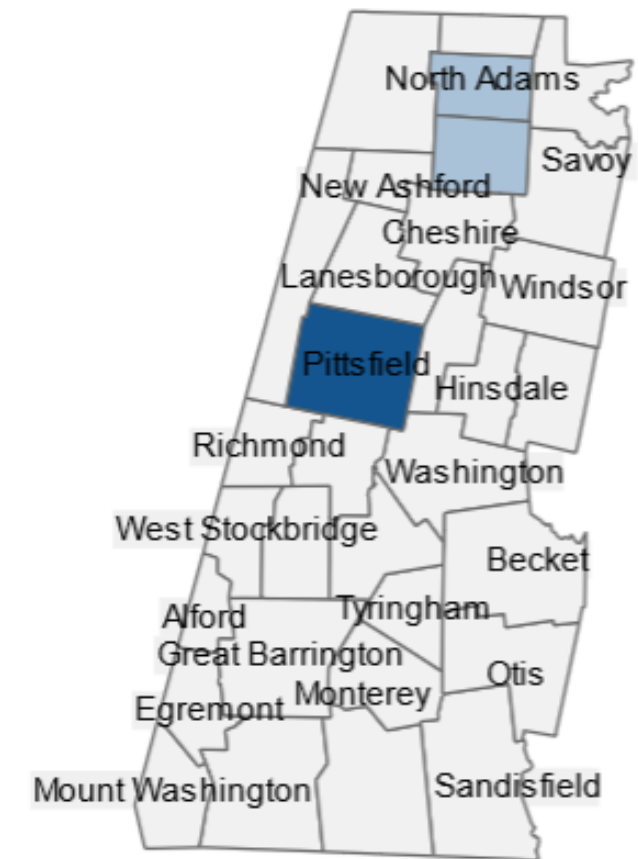
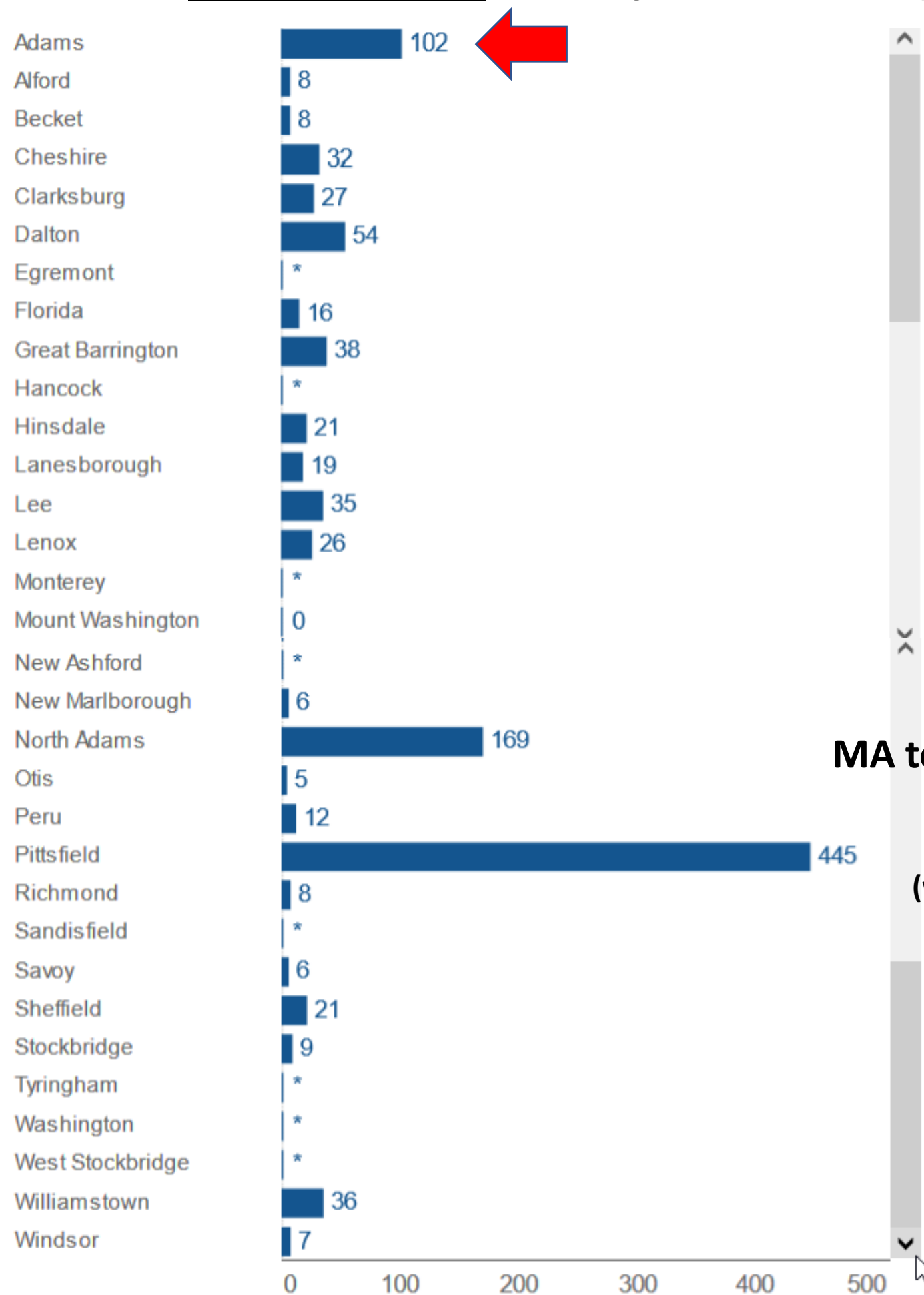


Note that most panels also list data for previous week.

Cumulative deaths = 336 (1 per 372 persons in the county*)

*2019 population = 124,944

12/16/21 data: 14-day case counts (Nov 30 – Dec 11, 2021)

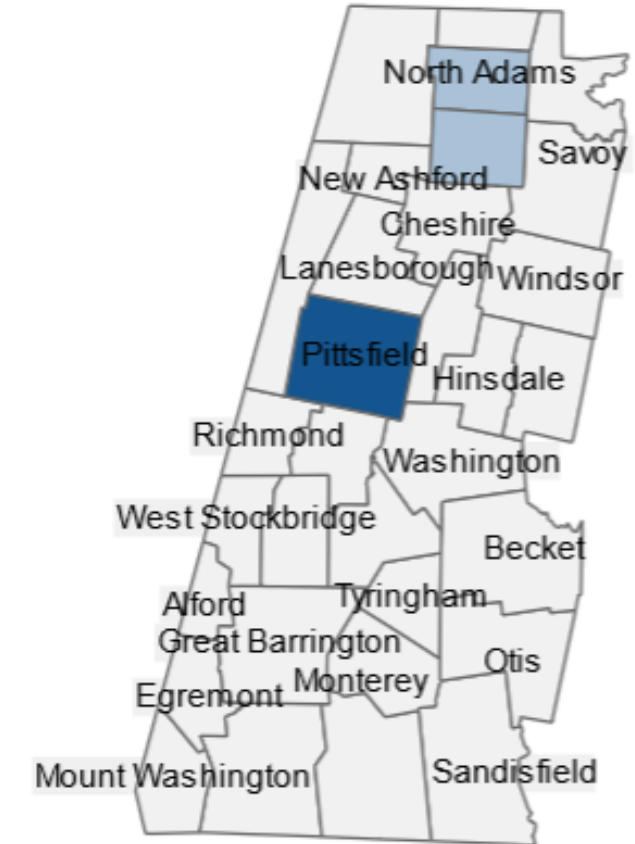
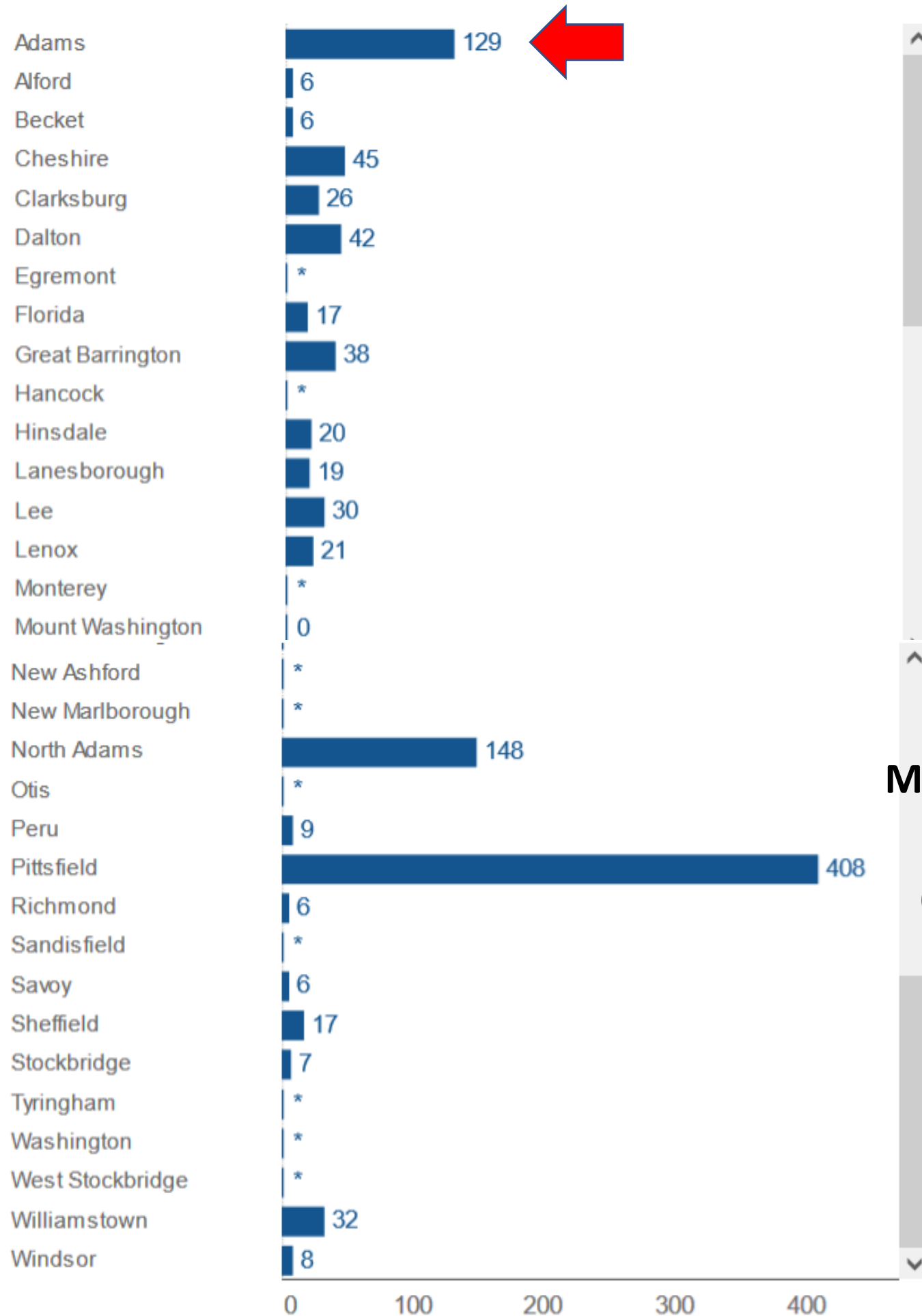


MA totals = 60,639,430; Berkshire County = 1,122

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

Current 2-week span

12/9/21 data: 14-day case counts (Nov 21 – Dec 4, 2021)



MA totals = 47,471; Berkshire County = 1,063

(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
11/28-12/11	60,639	1,122	102
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
11/28-12/11	62.2	63.4	88.6

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

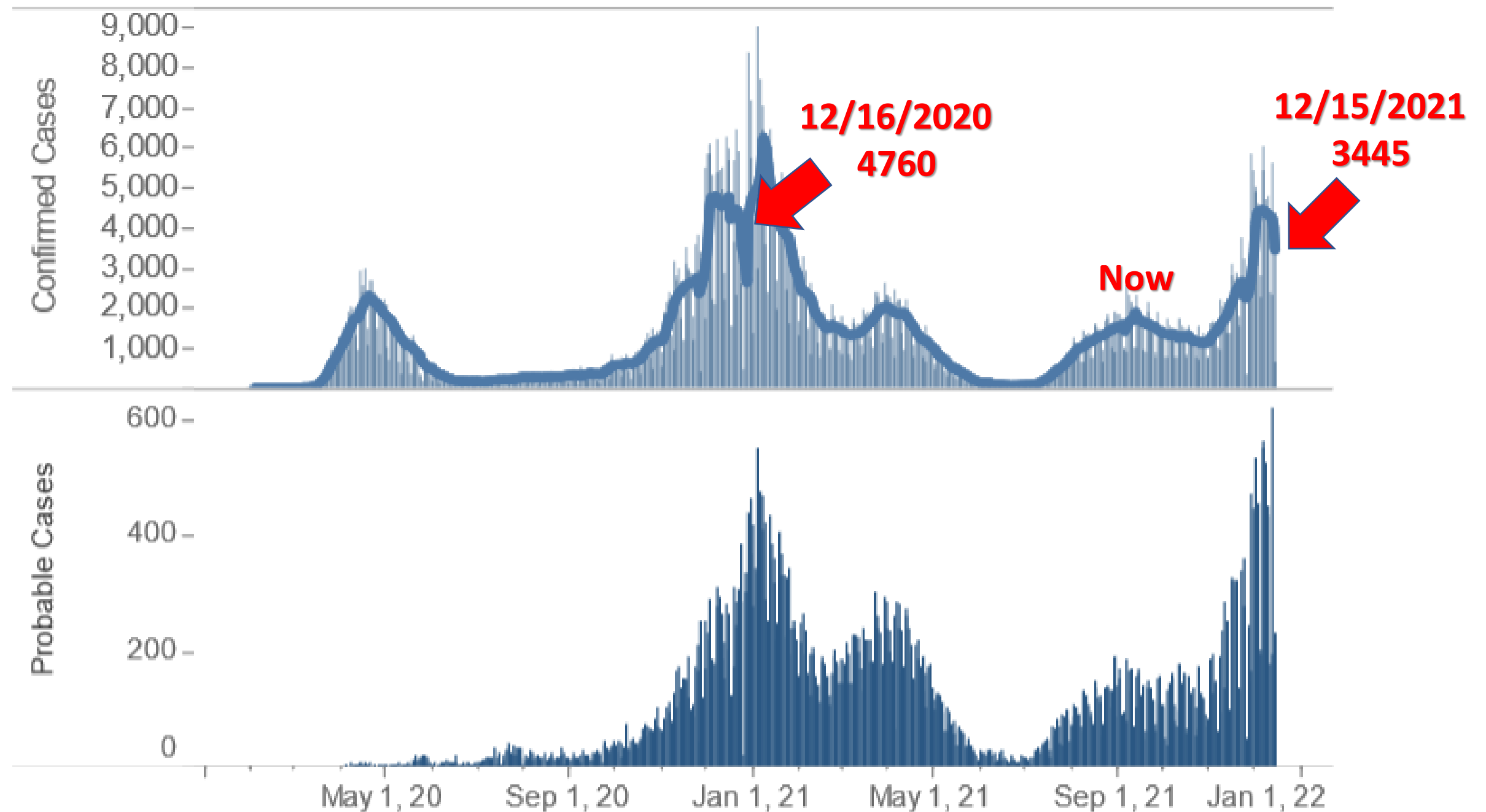
MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 CASES OVER TIME

COVID-19 Confirmed and Probable Cases (7-day running averages)

Select dates:

1/29/2020 12/15/2021

New this week...



Accumulative MA totals: Cases = 991,400 cases (14%); Deaths = 19,783 (0.28%, about 1/359)

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