COVID-19 and Health Equity:
Where Are We Now
and
Where Are We Going?

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11.18.22
Cumulative Percentage of Individuals Fully Vaccinated by Race/Ethnicity in Boston as of Oct. 31, 2022

Data Source: Massachusetts Imm
Percentages calculated
Percentages are calculated
Cumulative Percentage of Individuals with at Least One Booster by Race/Ethnicity in Boston

as of Oct. 31, 2022

Cumulative %

Cumulative Percentage of Individuals with at Least One Booster by Race/Ethnicity in Boston as of Oct. 31, 2022

Data Source: Massachusetts D

Massachusetts Imn
Percentages calcul
Cumulative Percentage Fully Vaccinated by Pediatric/Adolescent Age Group and Race/Ethnicity in Boston (as of Nov 7, 2022)

![Bar chart showing vaccination percentages by age group and race/ethnicity.]

- 0-4 Years:
  - White: 30.1%
  - Asian: 29.4%
  - Black: 5.2%
  - Latinx: 4.6%

- 5-9 Years:
  - White: 86.4%
  - Asian: 82.2%
  - Black: 41.1%
  - Latinx: 40.4%

- 10-17 Years:
  - White: 85.6%
  - Asian: 82.4%
  - Black: 77.9%
  - Latinx: 72.4%

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
School Masking Study: Background and Objectives

• Feb -March 2022 most MA public schools ended required masking for staff and students

• Two school districts, Boston and neighboring Chelsea maintained required mask protections

• **Study Objective**: To determine the impact of school masking policies on COVID-19 incidence among students and staff
Results: Incidence of COVID-19 before and after masking policies rescinded in most schools in MA

Pre-lifting rates were similar across districts

Post-lifting rates diverged with higher COVID-19 case rates among districts that removed universal masking requirements

Staff and Students

Students

Staff

Weekly COVID-19 Cases per 1,000

Date (Start of Reporting Week)

Boston and Chelsea

Reporting Week Mask Requirement Lifted

03-Mar-22 (n=46)
10-Mar-22 (n=17)
17-Mar-22 (n=7)
Did not lift (n=2)

(1) Week of 28-Feb-22: DESE Statewide Mandate lifted (n = 46)
(2) Week of 07-Mar-22 (n = 17)
(3) Week of 14-Mar-22 (n = 7)
Wastewater SARS-CoV-2 Concentration (7-day average)

Normalized SARS-CoV-2 Concentration [RNA copies/mL]

Date:
- Sep 29
- Oct 06
- Oct 13
- Oct 20
- Oct 27
- Nov 03
- Nov 03

New COVID-19 Cases per Day per 100,000 pop. (7-day average)

COVID-19 Cases per day per 100,000 pop.

Date:
- Sep 29
- Oct 06
- Oct 13
- Oct 20
- Oct 27
- Nov 03
- Nov 10

Number of New COVID-19 Hospital Admissions (7-day Total)

Total New COVID-19 Hospital Admissions

Date:
- Sep 29
- Oct 06
- Oct 13
- Oct 20
- Oct 27
- Nov 03
- Nov 10

<table>
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<th>Data through:</th>
<th>RNA copies/mL</th>
<th>7-day trend</th>
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<tr>
<td>10-November-2022</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Decreasing</td>
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</tbody>
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Case Data: MDPH MAVEN | Hospitalization Data: MDPH data, self-reported by Boston hospitals

Updated: 14-November-2022 | Wastewater data: MWRA North, source: https://www.mwra.com/biobot/biobotdata.htm
**Boston COVID-19 Wastewater Monitoring**

**Status:**
- 11 neighborhood sites installed
- Covering ~119,000 people (17% of Boston pop.)

**Data:**
- 2x weekly site-specific sampling results
- Once weekly variant analysis

**Data dissemination, collaborations and communication:**
- Plans to incorporate into routine reporting of metrics and thresholds
- Communicate updates during regular COVID-19 community meetings
Next Steps: Areas of Focus

• Overcoming “Pandemic Fatigue”
• Addressing Systemic Equity and Structural Racism
• Promoting Community Mobilization
• Ensuring Sustainability of Responses
• Building Stronger Public Health Infrastructure in Boston