

Shrewsbury Public Schools Pandemic Response Update

January 19, 2022



Primary Goal

Provide full-time, in-school learning for students with minimal disruptions, while using mitigation strategies to minimize the risk of contracting COVID-19.



Our Approach

- Implement mitigation strategies that reduce the risk of transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19
- Create a sense of belonging and support students' social, emotional, & mental health needs
- Provide learning opportunities that support students' academic needs

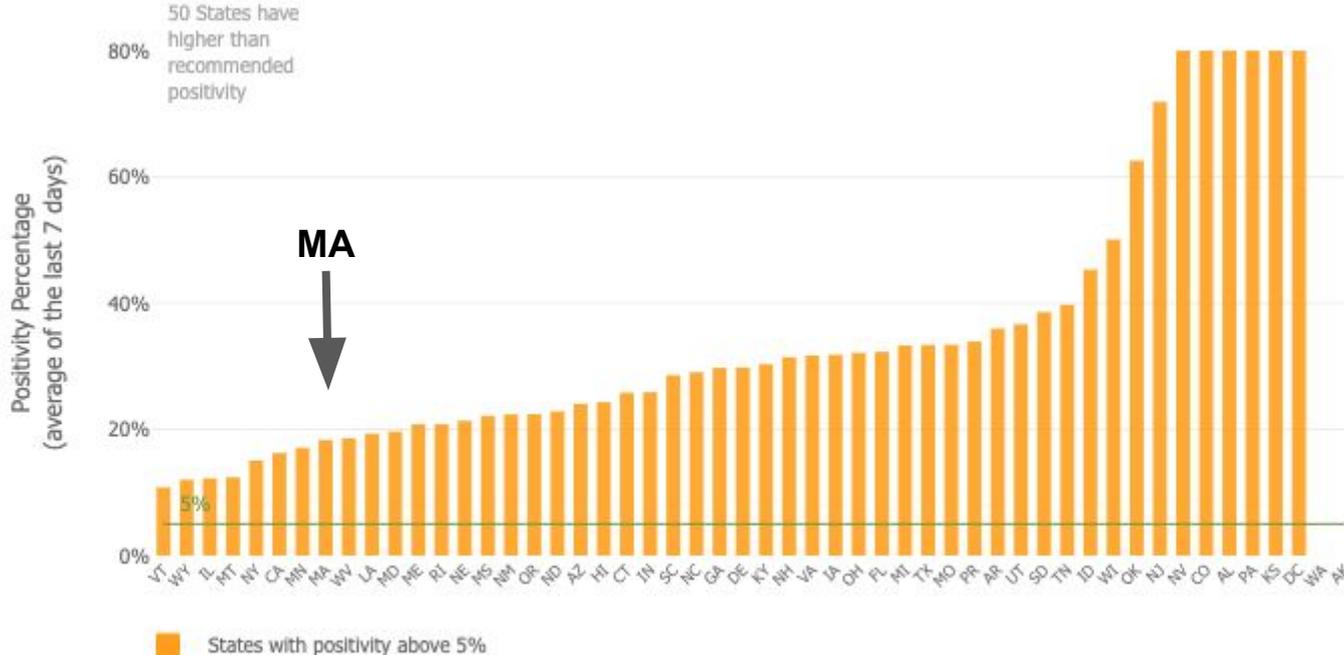


Our State Context

MA 7-Day Positivity Rate = **18.32%**
(8th lowest in the U.S.)

Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/testing-positivity>

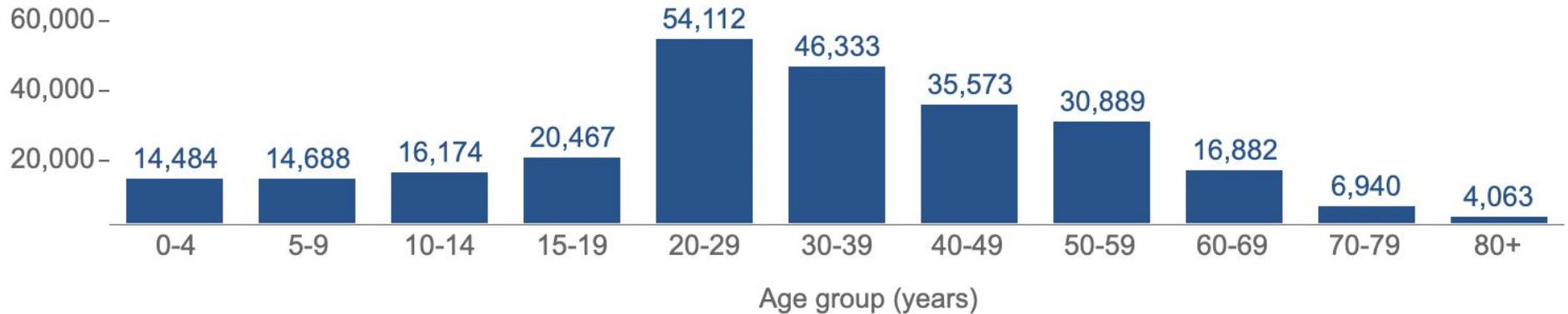




Our State Context: Massachusetts Cases by Age

***As of January 17, 2022**

Confirmed cases by age during the last two weeks *Data updated weekly



Ages 0-9 = 29,172
(Compared to 9,512 in Jan 3 report)

Ages 10-19 = 36,641
(Compared to 11,682 in Jan 3 report)



Our State Context: Hospital Admission Rates by Age

Select hospitalization rate or count

- Number of admissions during the last two weeks
- Rate of admissions during the last two weeks

Select a patient characteristic

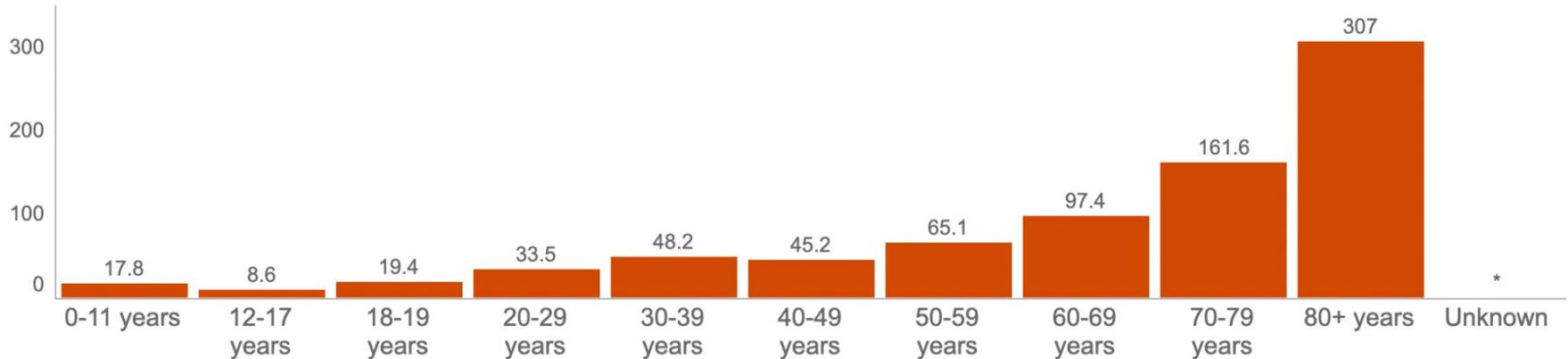
- Age
- Gender
- Hispanic Ethnicity
- Race

Select report date

1/13/2022

The report date January 13, 2022 shows data on patients admitted to hospitals between December 26, 2021 and January 8, 2022.

Rate of admissions during the last two weeks by Age



Previous report as of Dec 25 was 5.4 for 0-11 years, 2.6 for 12-17 years, & 5.5 for 18-19 years (Rates are per 100k population)



Our Local Context

Recent COVID-19 Cases in Shrewsbury & Shrewsbury Public Schools Students

	<u>Town of Shrewsbury</u>	<u>SPS Students</u>
Week ending December 31:	361	79
Week ending January 7:	676	386
Week ending January 14:	629	316
Current week thus far:	?	90

Out of 5,960 students:

- Percentage of students who tested positive for COVID-19 *last* week was 5.30%
- Percentage of students who have tested positive for COVID-19 so far *this* week is 1.51%



Our Local Context

**Shrewsbury 14-Day Positive Test Rate
(20.22% vs. 5.0% Benchmark)**

For Weeks of December 26 - January 8 (Last Published)



Current Case Count in SPS Schools (Out of Approx. 7,100 Total Students & Staff)

This Week to Date

Cases this week (Saturday, January 15 through Wednesday, January 19 at 1:30pm) = 111

Cases where individual was in school during infectious period = 73

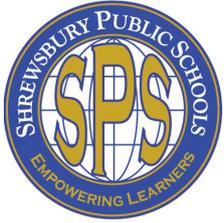
Cases traced to possible or probable exposure in school = 7

Cumulative Total from First Day of School

Cases since the start of the school year = 1,404

Cases where individual was in school during infectious period = 795

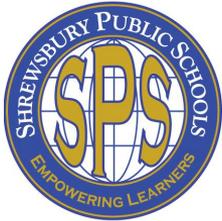
Cases traced to possible or probable exposure in school = 99



Cases: Vaccinated & Unvaccinated

(as of 1/19/22 at 1:30pm)

	Student cases	Staff cases
Vaccinated	358 (37%)	173 (82%)
Unvaccinated	389 (40%)	31 (15%)
Not eligible for vaccination	205 (21%)	n/a
Vaccine status unknown	18 (2%)	7 (3%)
Total	970	211



SPS COVID-19 Data Dashboard (Published each Monday)

SPS COVID-19 DATA DASHBOARD 2021-2022

This data dashboard is published weekly on Mondays (or the first day of the school week when there is a holiday). Case data is updated as of the end of the previous week, Saturday through Friday.

**Weekly reported positive cases of students and/or staff as of
Friday, January 14, 2022**

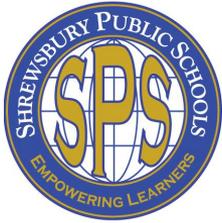
Positive cases reported among SPS students and staff last week = 361 (cumulative total = 1,293)

Positive cases reported where students/staff were physically present in school during their infectious period (requiring contact tracing) = 253 (cumulative total = 722)

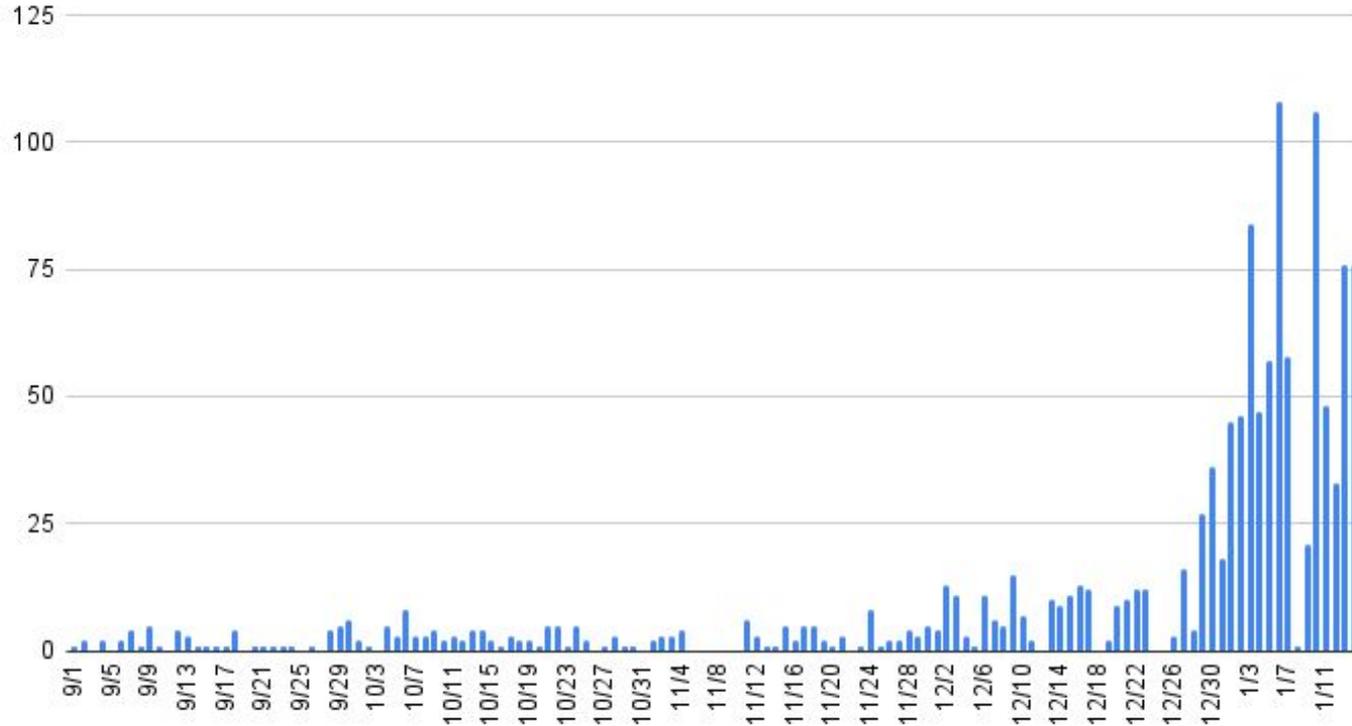
Positive cases determined to be due to *possible in-school transmission = 5 (cumulative total = 25)**

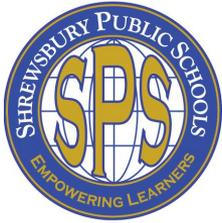
Positive cases determined to be due to *probable in-school transmission = 24 (cumulative total = 67)**

*Cases are defined as "possible" in-school transmission when cases were close contacts, but other factors outside of school also could account for the transmission. Cases are defined as "probable" in-school transmission if the only known contact with a positive case is the school contact.

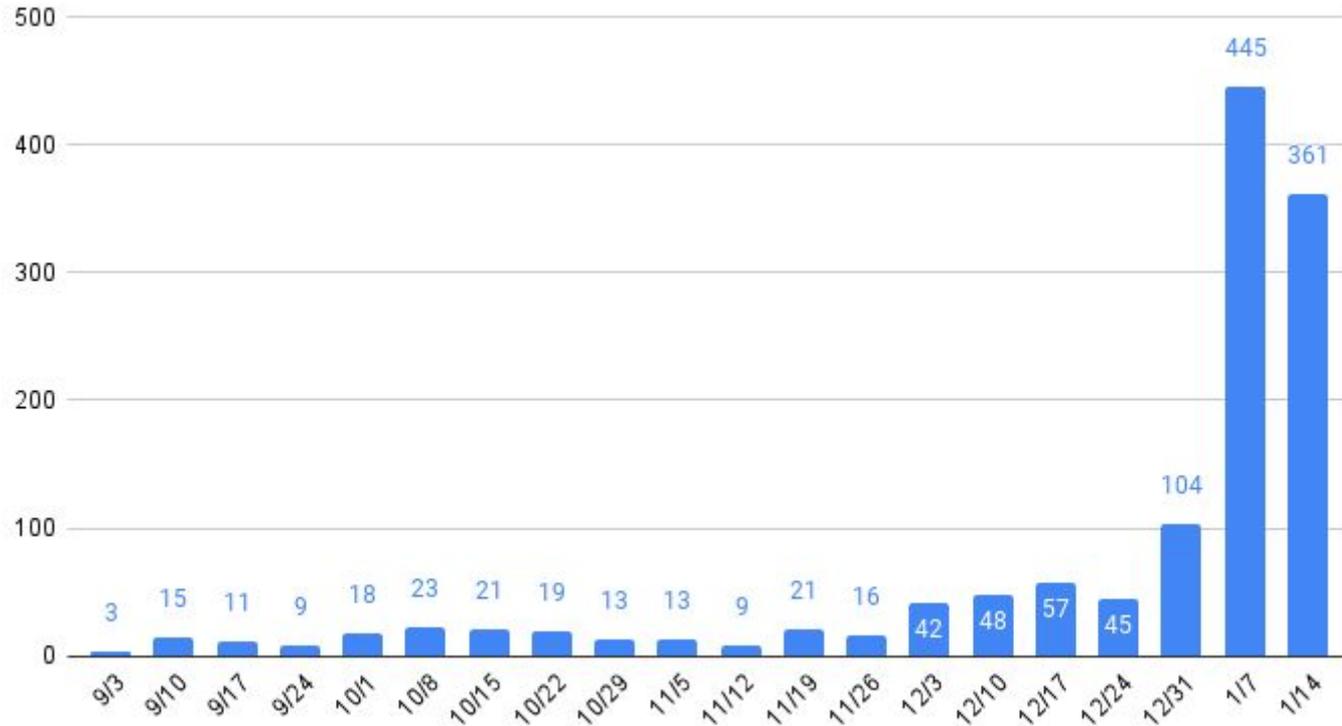


COVID-19 Cases by Day as of January 14, 2022



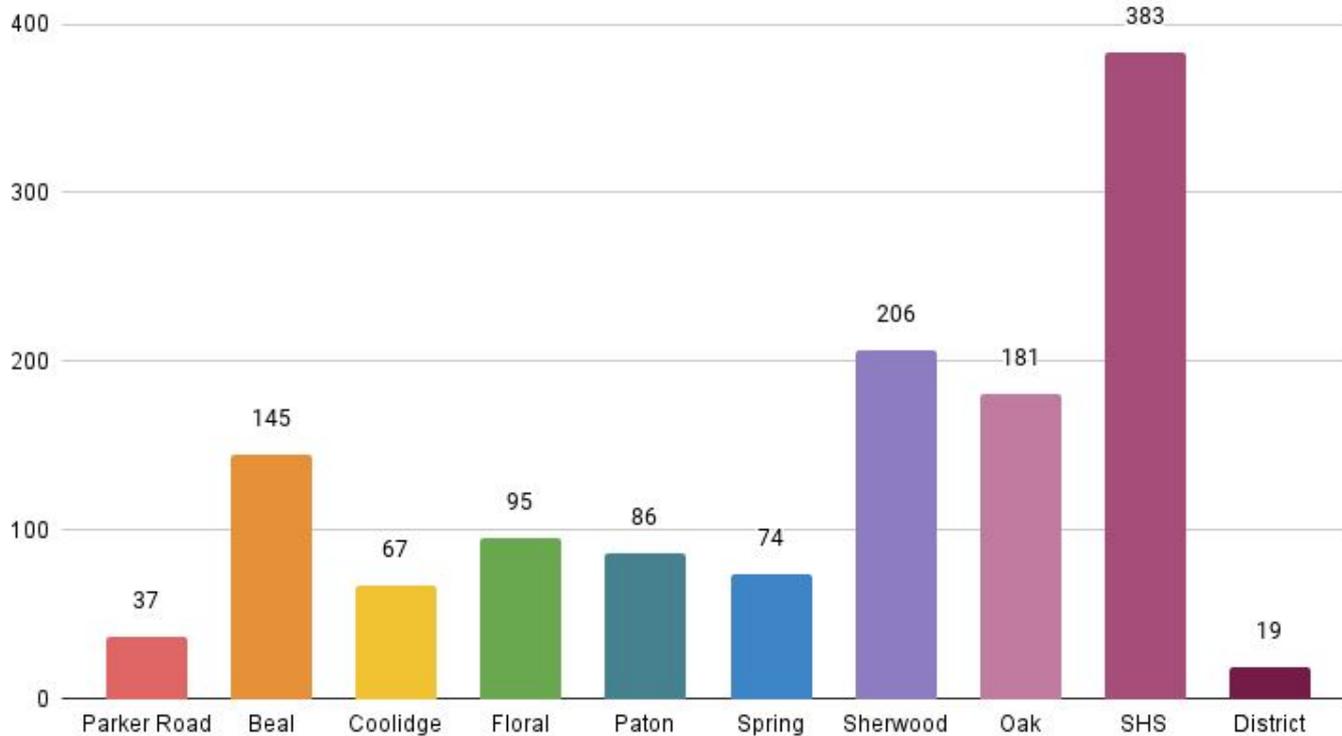


COVID-19 Cases by Week as of Week Ending January 14, 2022



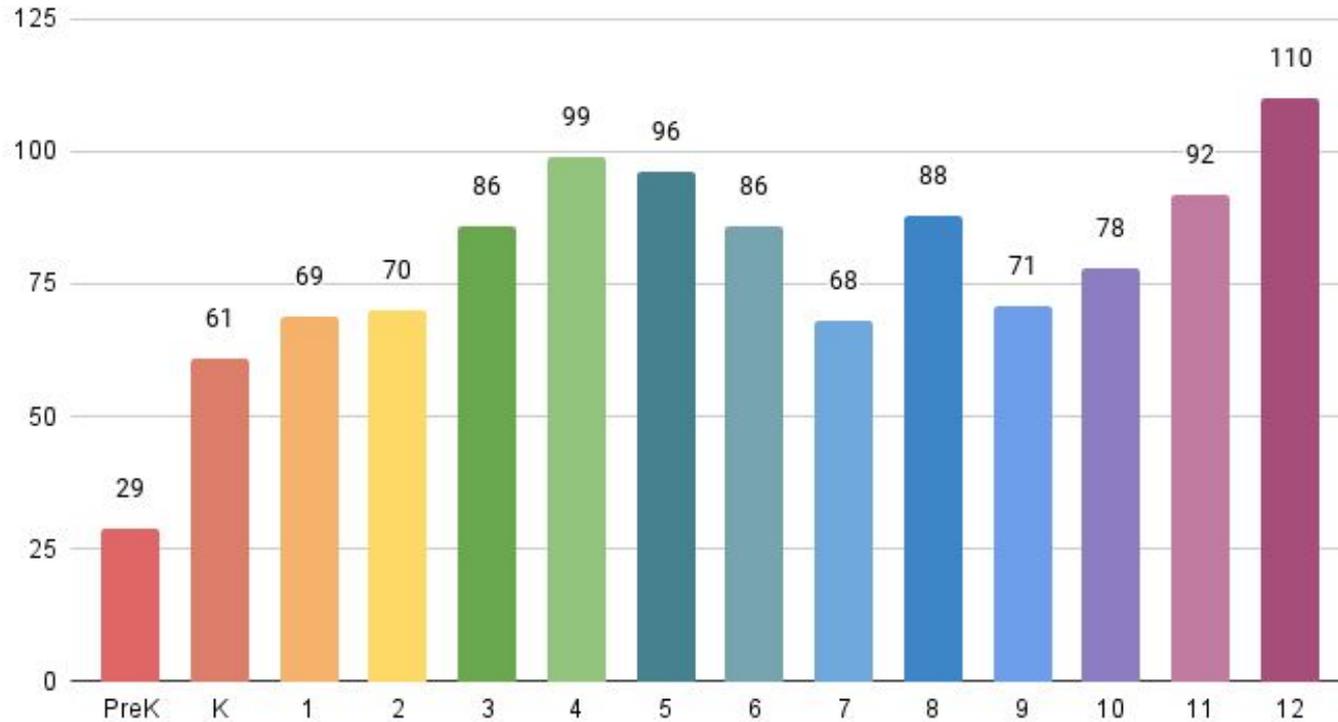


COVID-19 Cases by School as of January 14, 2022



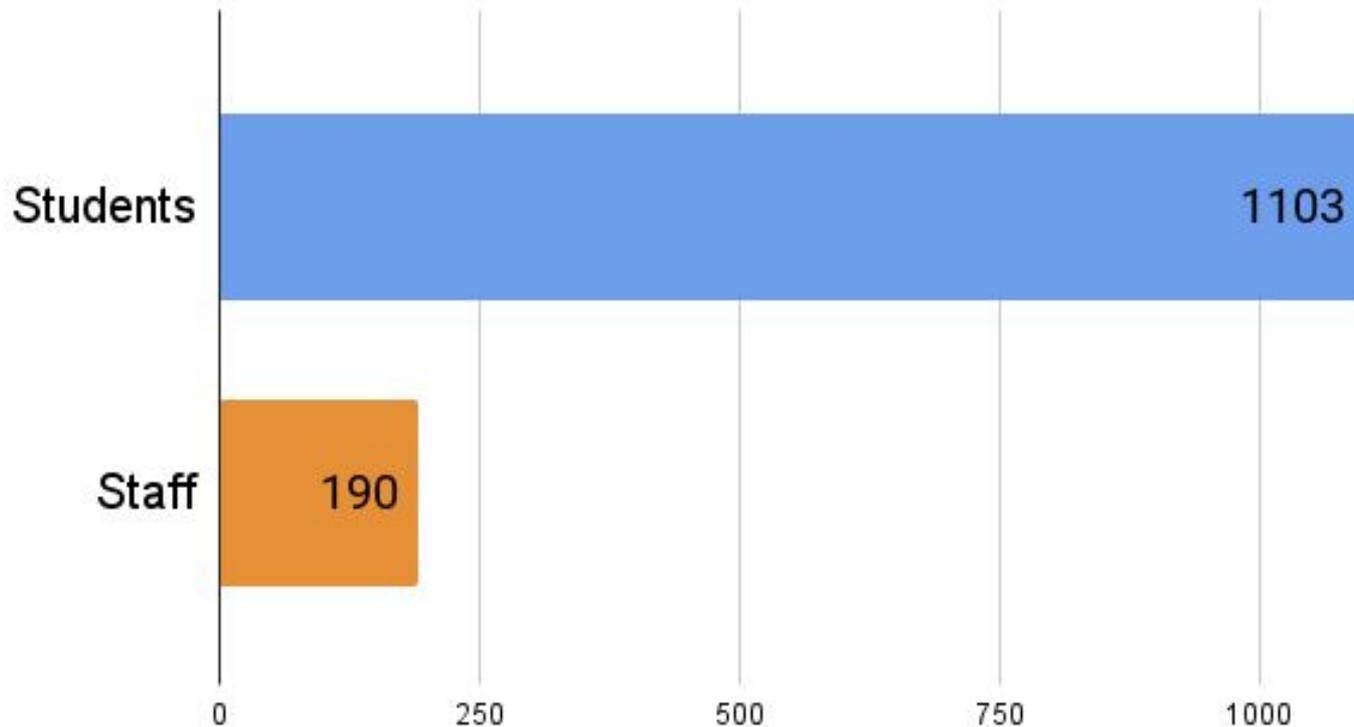


COVID-19 Cases by Grade as of January 14, 2022





COVID-19 Cases as of January 14, 2022





Town of Shrewsbury Vaccination Data by Age *as of January 11, 2022*

Age Group	Individuals with at least one dose	Fully vaccinated individuals	Individuals with booster doses
5-11 Years	2,036 (64%)	1,527 (48%)	N/A
12-15 Years	2,070 (>95%)	1,859 (89%)	72 (3%)
16-19 Years	2,130 (>95%)	1,926 (91%)	791 (37%)



Vaccination Data by Age Across Local Communities *as of January 11, 2022*

Town	Age Group	Percentage of individuals with at least one dose	Percentage of fully vaccinated individuals	Percentage of individuals with booster doses
Shrewsbury	5-11 Years	64%	48%	N/A
	12-15 Years	>95%	89%	3%
	16-19 Years	>95%	91%	37%
Westborough	5-11 Years	90%	74%	N/A
	12-15 Years	>95%	>95%	10%
	16-19 Years	>95%	>95%	56%
Northborough	5-11 Years	81%	74%	N/A
	12-15 Years	>95%	>95%	17%
	16-19 Years	>95%	>95%	57%

Town	Age Group	Percentage of individuals with at least one dose	Percentage of fully vaccinated individuals	Percentage of individuals with booster doses
Southborough	5-11 Years	>95%	93%	N/A
	12-15 Years	>95%	>95%	20%
	16-19 Years	>95%	>95%	65%
Boylston	5-11 Years	59%	49%	N/A
	12-15 Years	90%	84%	11%
	16-19 Years	89%	83%	27%
Grafton	5-11 Years	50%	33%	N/A
	12-15 Years	84%	77%	4%
	16-19 Years	>95%	87%	34%



Test and Stay

- **Over 2,000 individuals have participated in the program**
- **5,166 tests have been administered**
- **44 positive test results (0.85%)**
- **Over 5,100 student learning days have been preserved**



Testing for Individuals with COVID-like Symptoms

- **Use of our centralized testing site has shifted to provide rapid antigen tests for students or staff who are experiencing symptoms**
- **Symptomatic testing began Tuesday 1/18**
- **37 individuals have been approved for testing**
- **State testing consent form must be signed in order to be tested**
- **28 individuals have been tested to date**
- **10 positive results (36%)**

rapidtest@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us



Routine COVID Safety Testing

- **Formerly known as surveillance/pooled testing**
- **Approximately 25% of students and staff are participating**
- **Approximately 23,000 samples have been processed**
- **180 positive test results to date (0.78%)**
- **75 positive test results last week (4.3% of tests submitted 1/11)**



Case Management Update

- **Contact tracing has been paused**
- **School nurses and contact tracing staff are looking at cases in each building and tracing trends**
- **DESE and Governor Baker released a statement regarding a shift to decreased contact tracing and increased testing options for students and staff**
- **At-home test kits will be available late January or early February**
- **Families and staff must “opt-in” to participate**



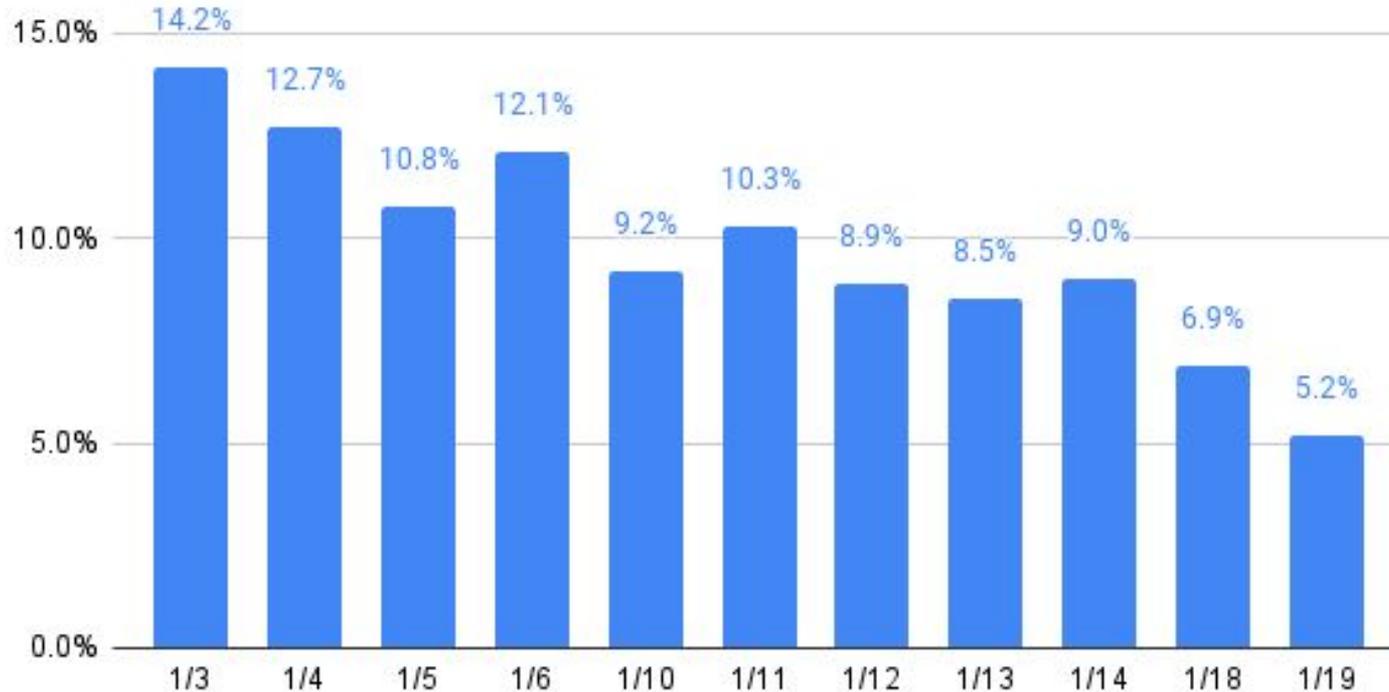
Student Absences

- **After subtracting known vacations, the overall absenteeism rate for students across the district has dropped from an average of 12.46% the first week of January, to an average of 9.2% last week, and to 5.2% today.**



Percentage of Daily Student Absences for January 2022

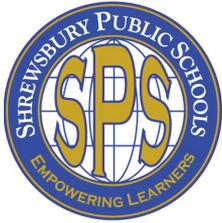
Not including vacation absences



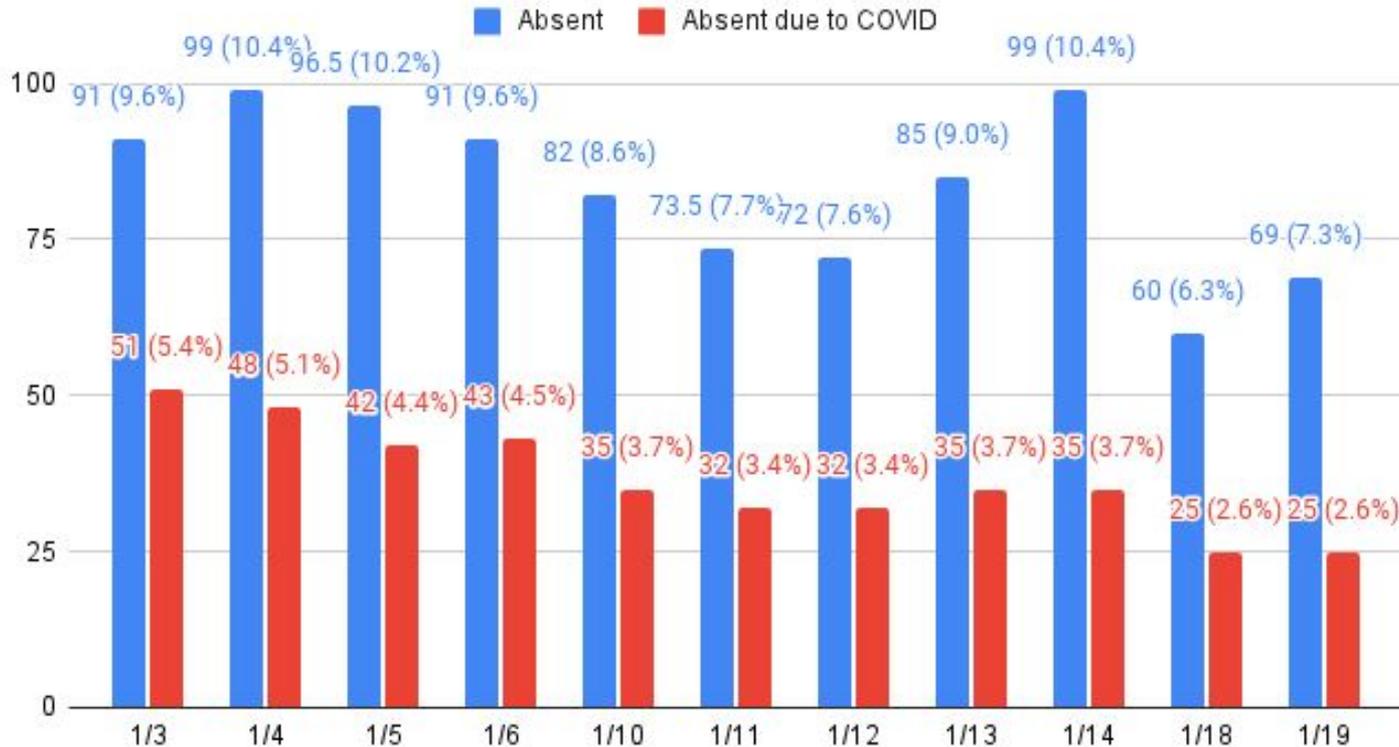


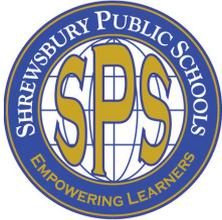
Staff Absences

- **The overall absenteeism rate for staff across the district has dropped from an average of 9.95% during the first week of January, to 8.66% last week, to an average of 6.8% so far this week.**
- **The proportion of staff absent due to having COVID-19 has dropped from about half of all staff absences to a bit more than one third.**



Staff Absences for January 2022





The Importance of Keeping Schools Open

- **We must balance the risk of COVID-19 with the risks to students' mental health, social and emotional well-being, and academic progress**
- **We must be cognizant of the risks that COVID-19 and other health threats such as influenza pose, especially to those who are immunocompromised. Given high levels of vaccination and less chance of poor outcomes for children, the current number of student and staff hospitalized this school year due to COVID-19 is currently 1 (a staff member who was recently hospitalized and who has since been discharged)**
- **The risks associated with the mental health crisis among young people make keeping schools open imperative. We have had dozens of students referred for emergency mental health services, some of whom may not have been identified if they were not in school**



The Importance of Keeping Schools Open

- **Remote learning is a massive disruption to the lives of many of our students' and staff members' families**
- **While schools' primary function is to promote student well-being and learning, they also function as a key part of society's infrastructure for childcare. Closing schools has a huge impact on families' ability to supervise younger children, resulting in staffing problems in other sectors, including the healthcare system**



Primary Goal

Provide full-time, in-school learning for students with minimal disruptions, while using mitigation strategies to minimize the risk of contracting COVID-19.