



Pandemic Response Update

April 7, 2021



Key Messages

- 1) The health & well-being of students, families, & staff is priority #1.
- 2) Our focus for this school year is to develop a safe school environment for our students and staff that prioritizes everyone's well-being and enables high levels of learning for all.
- 3) We are operating based on guidance from public health authorities and the MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education while closely monitoring the latest information from medical experts and the evolving data regarding the pandemic both in Massachusetts and in Shrewsbury.



Current Case Count in District

In-School Hybrid Model Cases

Cases this week to date = 3

Cumulative cases since start of school = 415

Cases traced to possible exposure in school = 8

Cases in Remote Program

Cases this week to date = 0

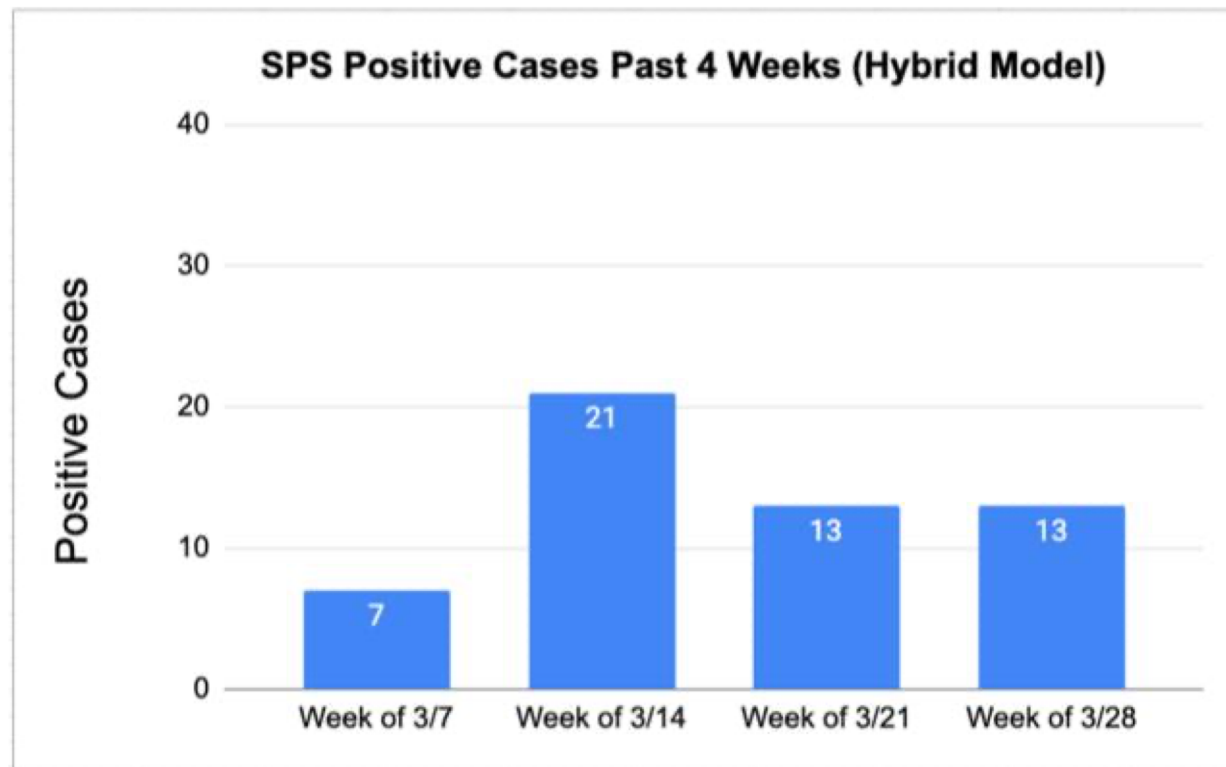
Cumulative cases since start of school = 33



SPS COVID-19 Data Dashboard

Daily cases on weekdays with weekly count on Mondays

<https://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/district/sps-weekly-covid-19-data-dashboard>





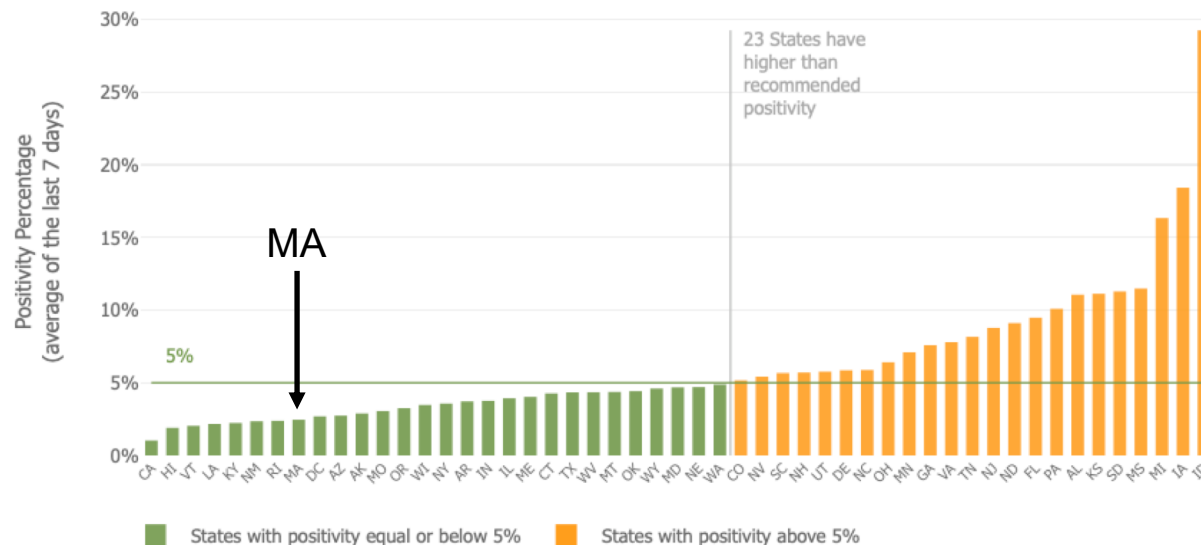
Current Public Health Data

MA 7-Day Positivity Rate = 2.46%

(Up from 2.23% from last report on 3/24)

Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center

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



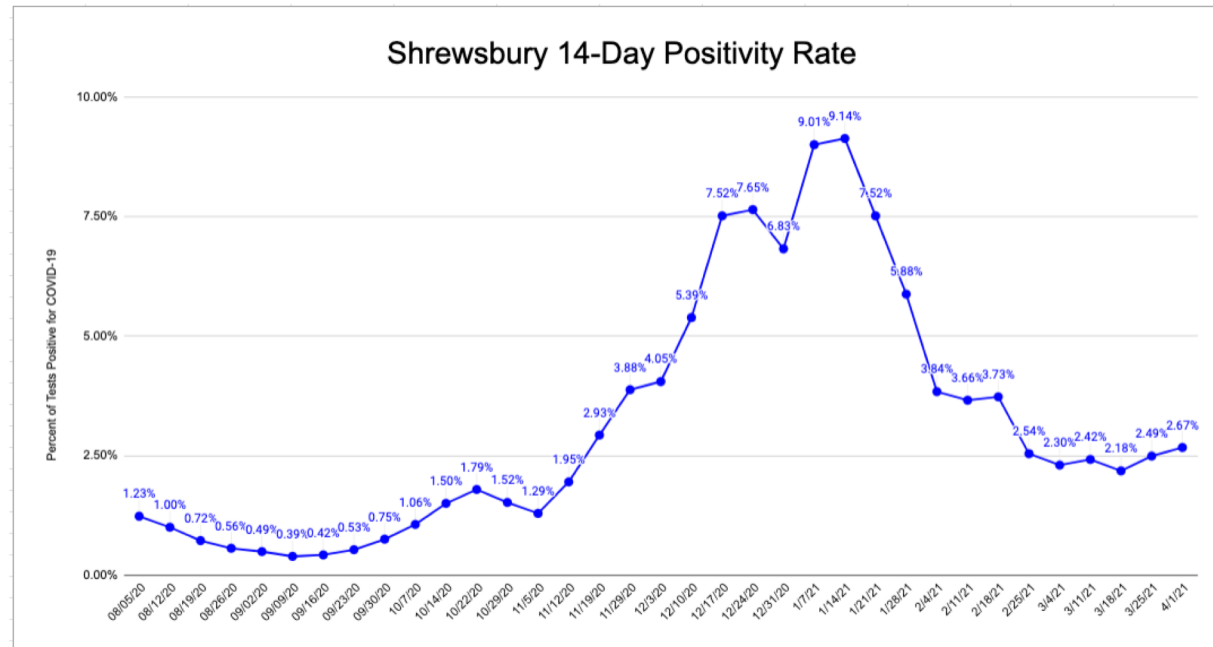


Current Public Health Data

Shrewsbury 14-Day Positive Test Rate

(2.67% vs. 5.0% Benchmark)

As of April 1 (Last Published)

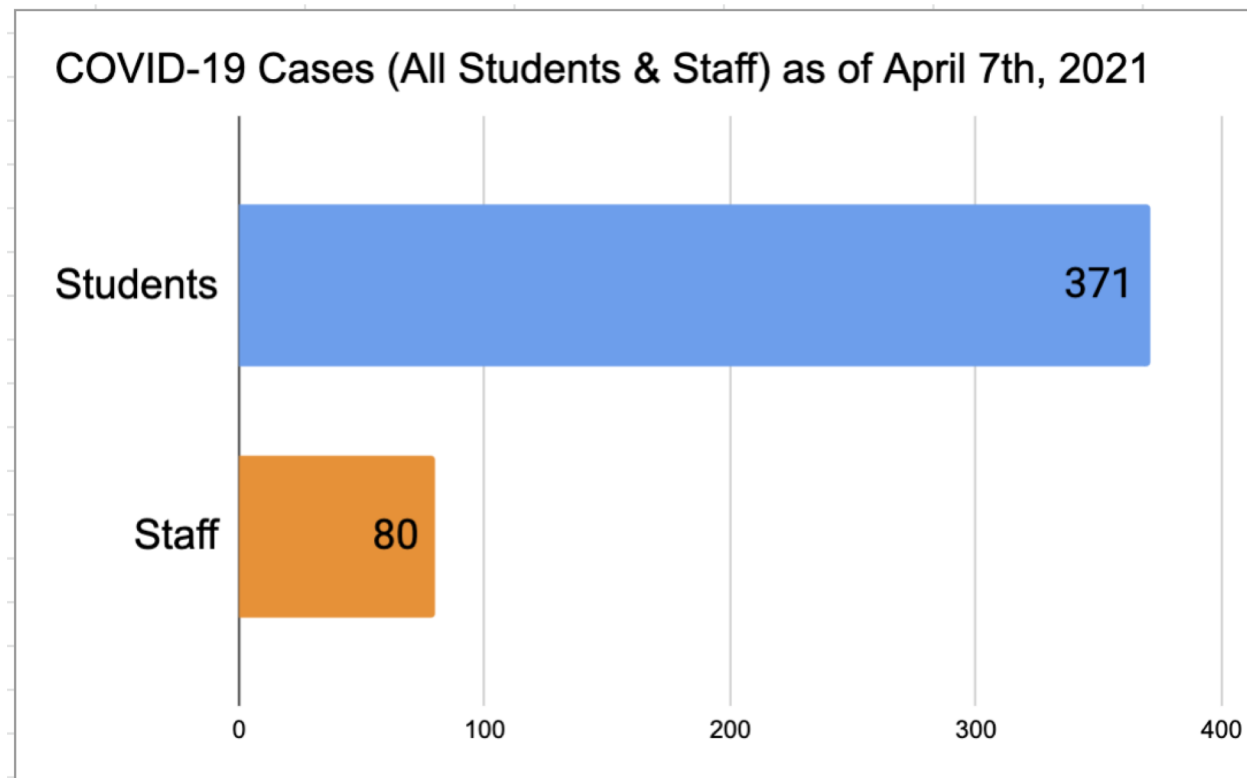


<https://www.mass.gov/doc/weekly-covid-19-public-health-report-march-18-2021/download>



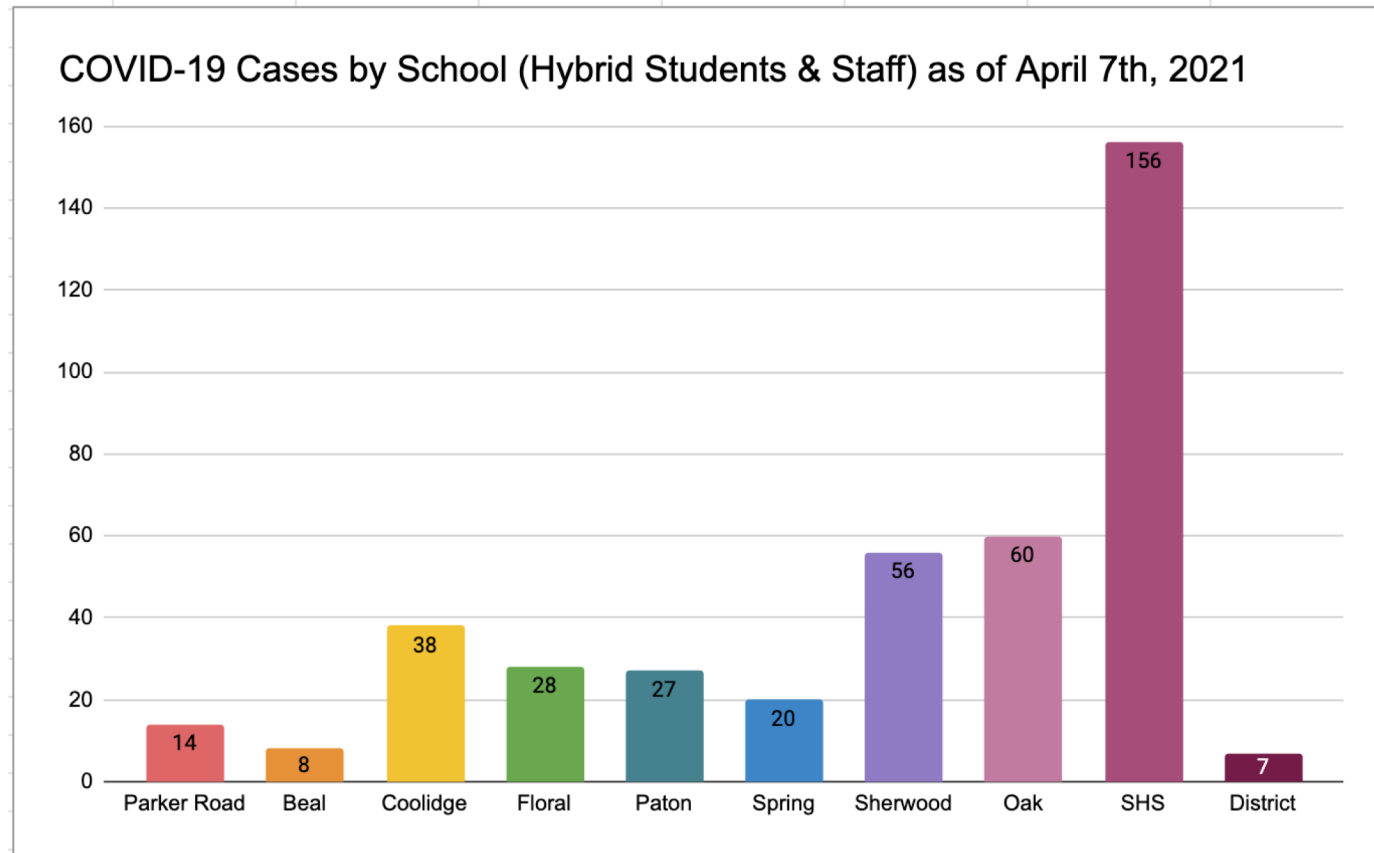
Student & Staff Case Ratio

Students = 82% of Positive Cases
Staff = 18% of Positive Cases



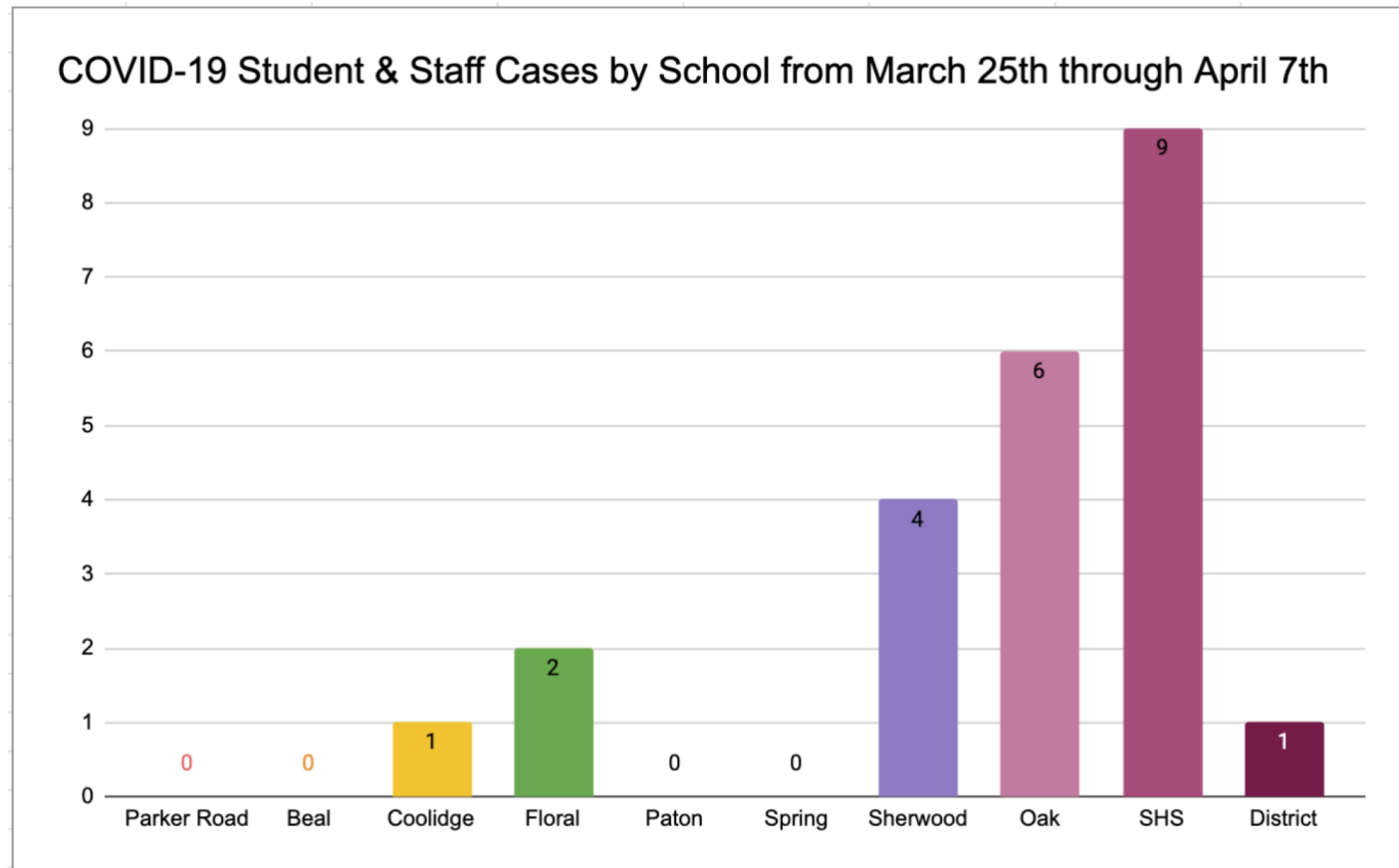


Cases by School (Hybrid Model) *Year to Date*



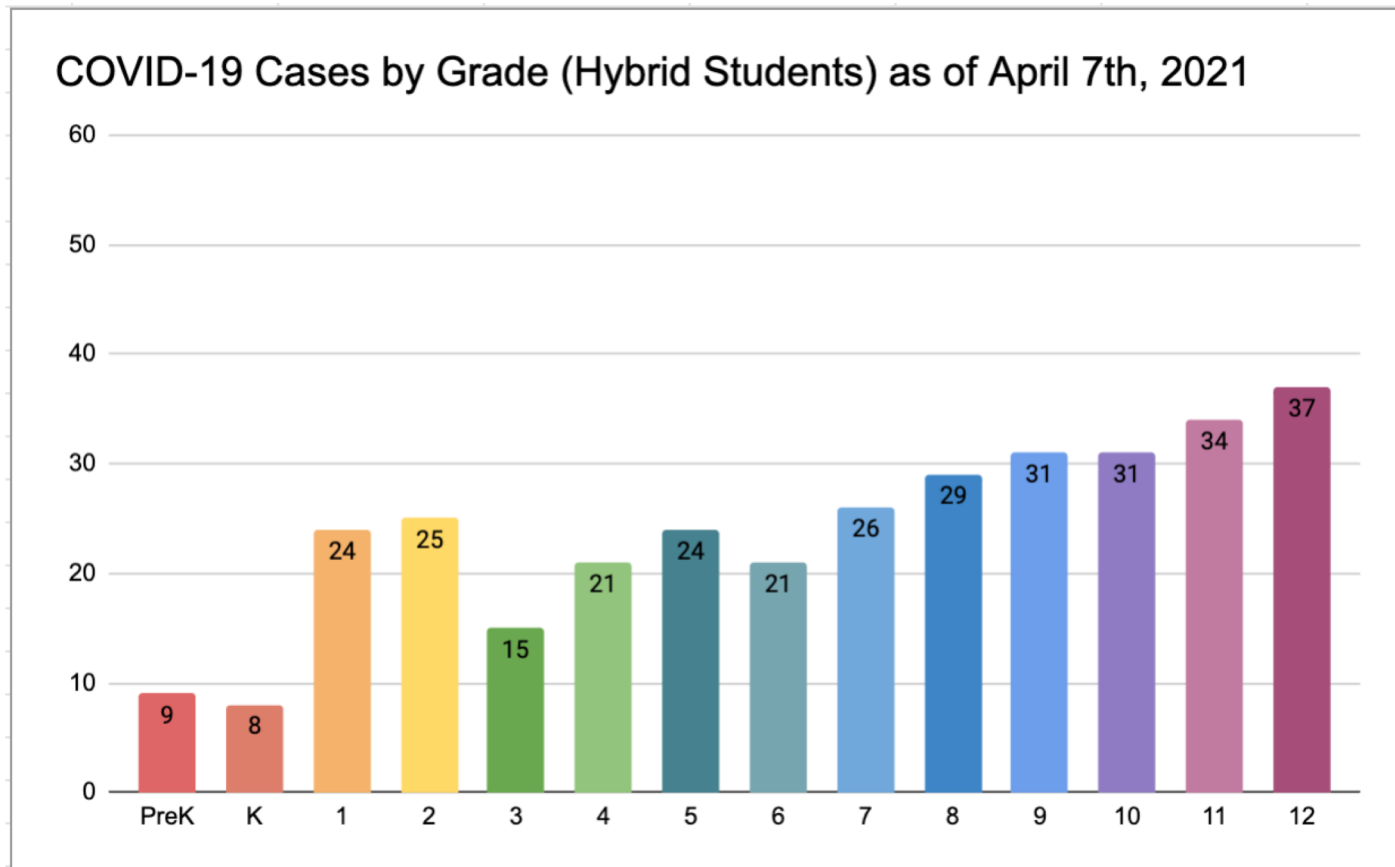


Cases by School (Hybrid Model) *Past Two Weeks*





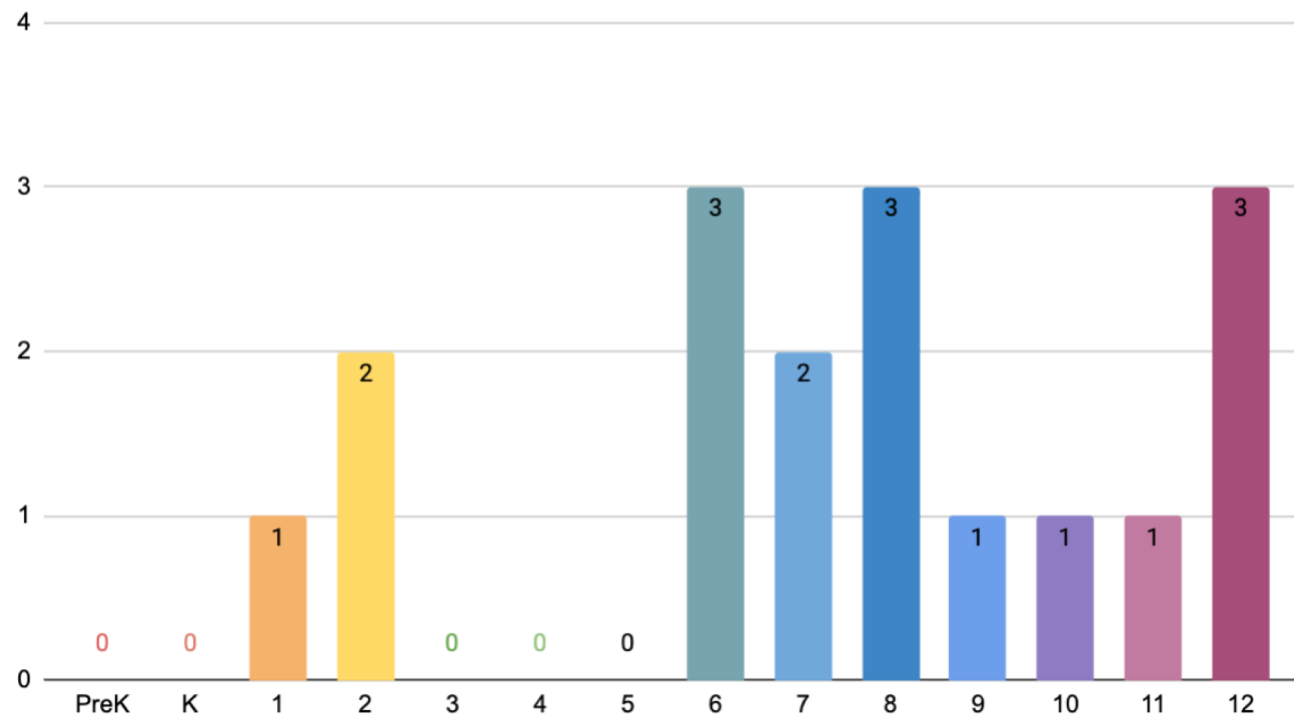
Student Cases by Grade (Hybrid Model) *Year to Date*





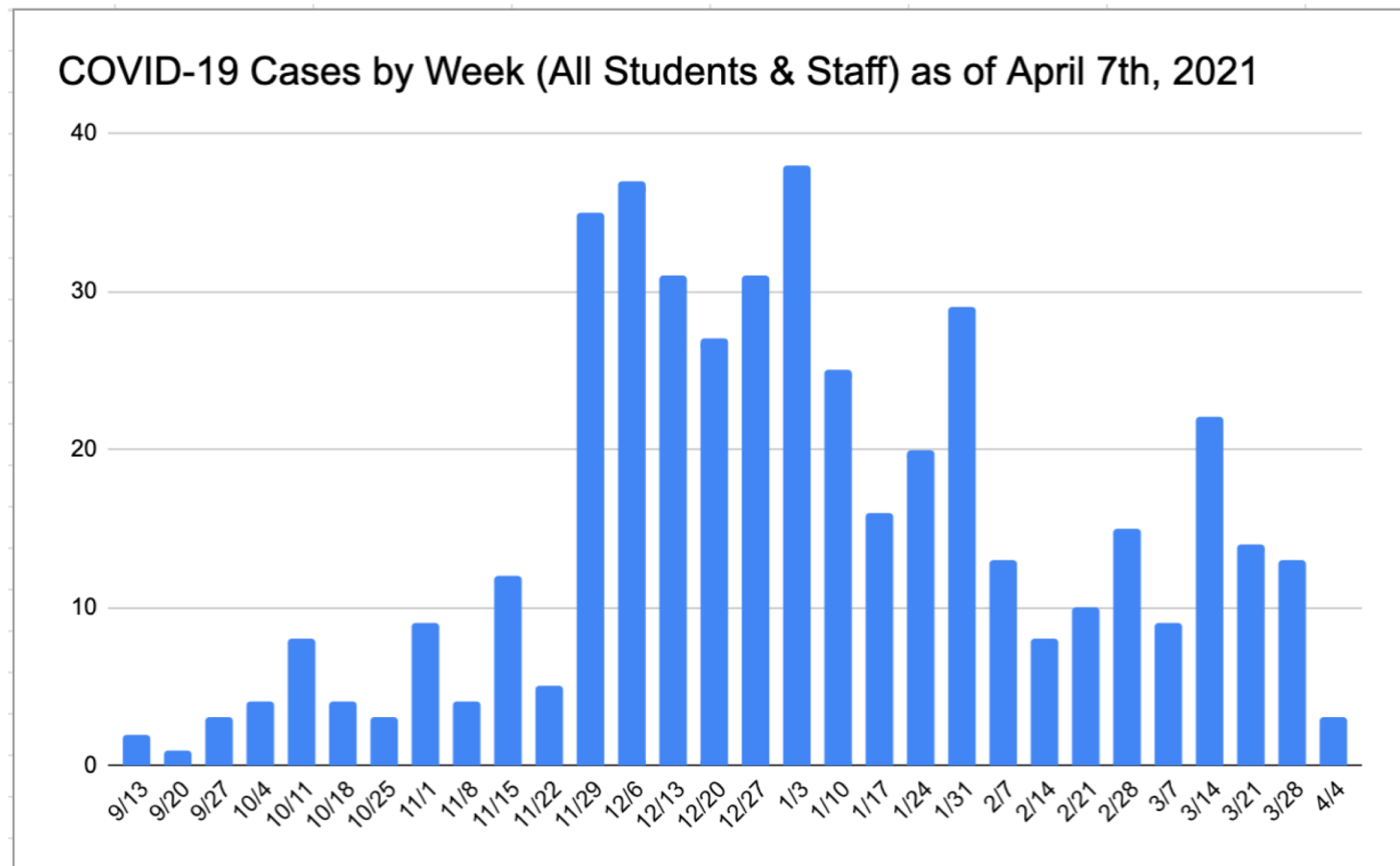
Student Cases by Grade (Hybrid Model) *Past Two Weeks*

COVID-19 Student Cases by Grade from March 25th through April 7th





Positive Cases by Week (Hybrid & Remote)





Shrewsbury Weekly Public Health Data

(As of last report of March 18)

Case Count **3/7-3/20** = 109 (7.79 cases/day)

14-Day Cases per 100,000 = 19.7

14-Day Positivity Rate 2.67%

Yellow Zone

Group	Population		
	Under 10K	10K-50K	Over 50K
Grey	Less than or equal to 10 total cases	Less than or equal to 10 total cases	Less than or equal to 15 total cases
Green	Less than or equal to 15 total cases	<10 avg cases/100k AND >10 total cases	<10 avg cases/100k AND >15 total cases
Yellow	Less than or equal to 25 total cases	>=10 avg cases/100k OR >= 5% pos rate	>=10 avg cases/100k OR >= 4% pos rate
Red	More than 25 total cases	>=10 avg cases/100k AND >=5% pos rate	>=10 avg cases/100k AND >=4% pos rate



Medical Literature Focusing on In-School Transmission Risk

https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Risk-Assessment-and-Testing-Protocols-for-Reducing-SARS-CoV-2-Transmission-in-K-12-Schools_Final-10-14-2020.pdf

Table 1: Modified from “CDC indicators and thresholds for risk of introduction and transmission of COVID-19 in schools” (published September 2020).

Indicators	Lowest risk of transmission in schools	Lower risk of transmission in schools	Moderate risk of transmission in schools	Higher risk of transmission in schools	Highest risk of transmission in schools
Core Indicators					
Number of new county-level cases per 100,000 persons within the last 14 days	<5	5 to <20	20 to <50	50 to ≤ 200	>200
Percentage of county-level RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 14 days	<3%	3% to <5%	5% to <8%	8% to ≤ 10%	>10%
Ability of the school to implement 5 key mitigation strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent and correct use of masks • Social distancing to the largest extent possible • Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette • Cleaning and disinfection • Contact tracing in collaboration with local health department 	Implemented all 5 strategies correctly and consistently	Implemented all 5 strategies correctly but inconsistently	Implemented 3-4 strategies correctly and consistently	Implemented 1-2 strategies correctly and consistently	Implemented no strategies

These are the core indicators CDC issued to inform risk assessment decisions for school reopening. Secondary indicators included hospital and ICU load and local indicators of outbreaks.



Suspected In-School Transmission

- There are now 8 suspected cases of in-school transmission (one additional reported last week at Oak Middle School, first since late January)
- Suspected in-school transmission cases represent **1.9%** of positive cases among students and staff in the hybrid model; in other words, **98.1%** of positive cases in the hybrid model are not due to in-school transmission



Weekly Pooled Testing

- Now occurring at all grade levels
- 9,828 tests since early February with 10 positive results
- 0.1% positivity rate, i.e., 99.9% of individuals tested have been negative



Vaccines for School Staff

- ~700 staff responded to a survey today
- 48% have received 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna or 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson; of these, about half are already 14 days past their last shot and are considered fully vaccinated
- Another 40% have received a first shot of Pfizer or Moderna, and another 5% have their first shot scheduled



Vaccines for School Staff

- Thanks to our community partners!
 - Osco Pharmacy
 - Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance
 - St Vincent's Hospital-Worcester State University Regional Vaccination site



Timeline for Return to Full, In-Person School

Grades K-4:	Monday, April 5 ✓
Grades 5-6:	Monday, April 12 (phase-in)
Grades 7-8:	Monday, April 26 (phase-in)
Grades 9-12:	Monday, May 3



Very Successful Return for Grades K-4





Very Successful Return for Grades K-4





Very Successful Return for Grades K-4

A huge thank you to:

- Our students & families
- Our educators & support staff
- Our principals & district administrators
- Our partner AA Transportation

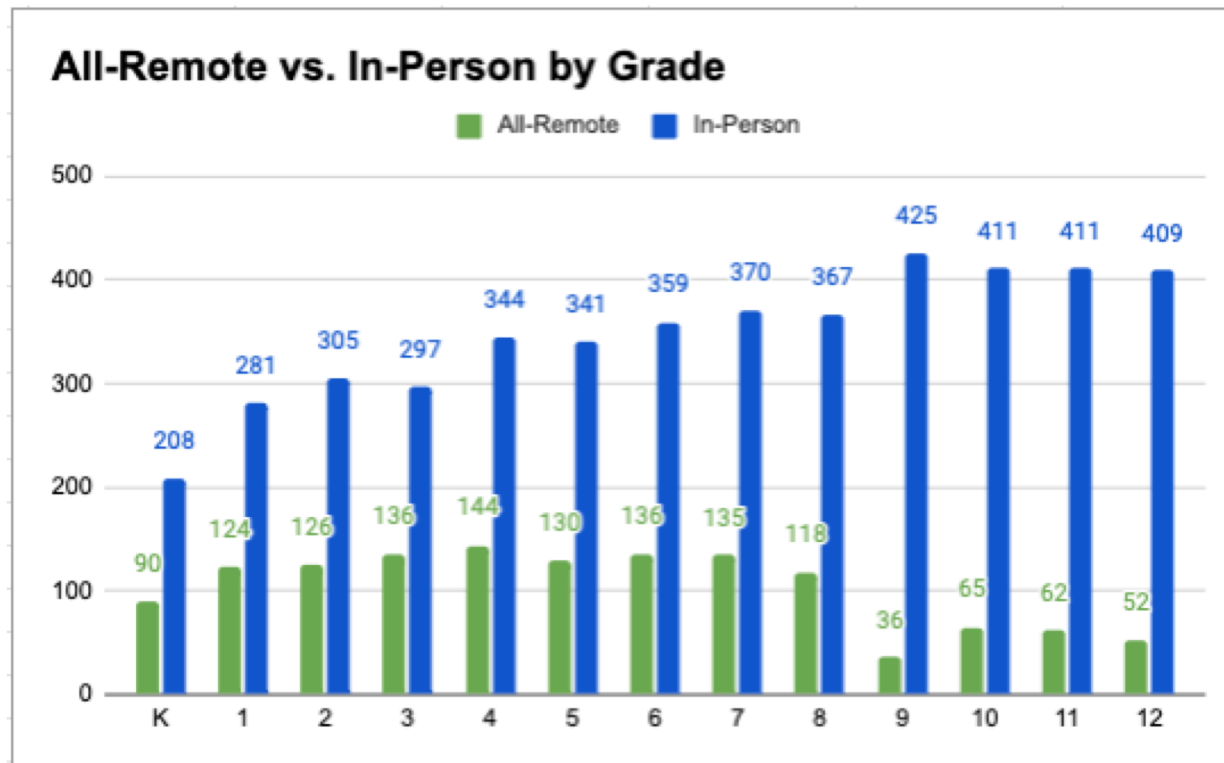


Plan for Return to Full, In-Person School

- We are excited about the many benefits for students returning to five-days per week, all day, in-person instruction
- We respect the decision of those families who are keeping their children in the all-remote program, and we will continue to focus on helping these students succeed with distance learning
- Potential challenges with more quarantining of students when there are cases in school due to 3-foot distancing (close contact definition remains within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more)



Students All-Remote vs. Students In-Person





Students In-Person vs. Students in All-Remote Program

	All-Remote	In-Person
Grades K-4:	30%	70%
Grades 5-8	27%	73%
Grades 9-12	11%	89%



Plan for Return to Full, In-Person School

- Significant logistical challenges based on public health guidance (3 foot distancing in classrooms and 6 foot distancing for lunch/mask breaks, etc. chief among these)
- We have purchased approximately 1,600 desks and 300 tables to enable full return (using COVID grant funds)
- Phase-in approach is necessary for logistics to work



Maintaining Hope for Better Times Ahead; Viewing Our Current Situation with Candor

- **Things are getting better** and will eventually return to a more normal situation; vaccine availability for K-12 staff is bringing more peace of mind
- We continue to follow guidance from experts as we return to full, in-person learning in the safest way possible, while balancing risk
- We will experience major benefits with a phased-in return to full, in-person school; there will be some additional risk of quarantining more students due to close contact rules with students seated 3 feet apart