



School Reopening Update

October 21, 2020



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.



Reasons to be proud

- 1) Our staff has gone above and beyond to make the reopening of schools happen successfully
- 2) Our families have been very supportive of the work we have had to do to reshape how our schools work in order to adapt to the pandemic
- 3) Our students have been terrific in meeting the new expectations we have set out for them



We need the community's help to stop the spread of COVID-19

It is crucial to follow public health guidance:

- Mask up!
- Keep your distance
- Wash/sanitize your hands frequently
- Use common sense outside of school
(socializing, travel, etc.)



Current Case Count in District

In-School Hybrid Model Cases

Cases this calendar week = 4

Cumulative cases since start of school = 19

Cases traced to exposure in school = 0

Cases in Remote Program

Cases this calendar week = 0

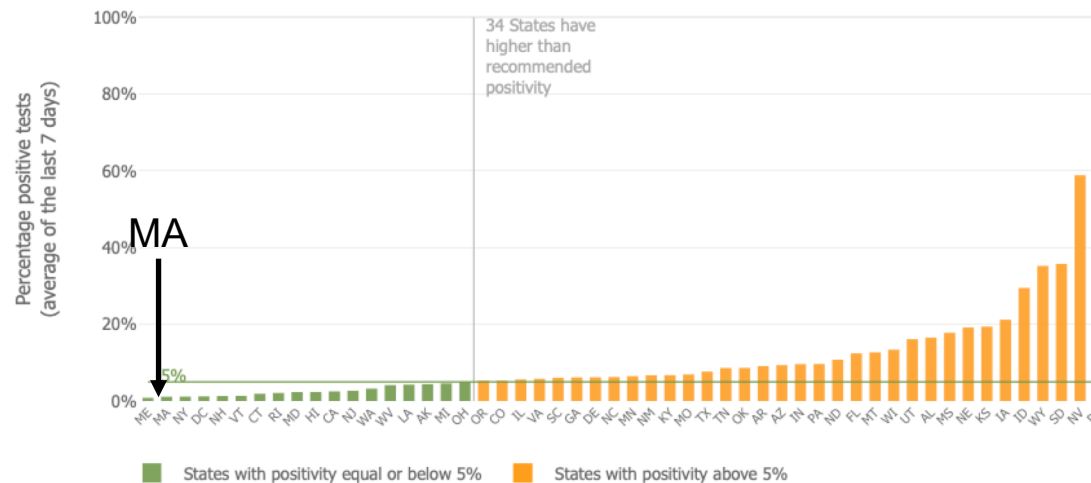
Cumulative cases since start of school = 3



(Up from **1.02%** two weeks ago)

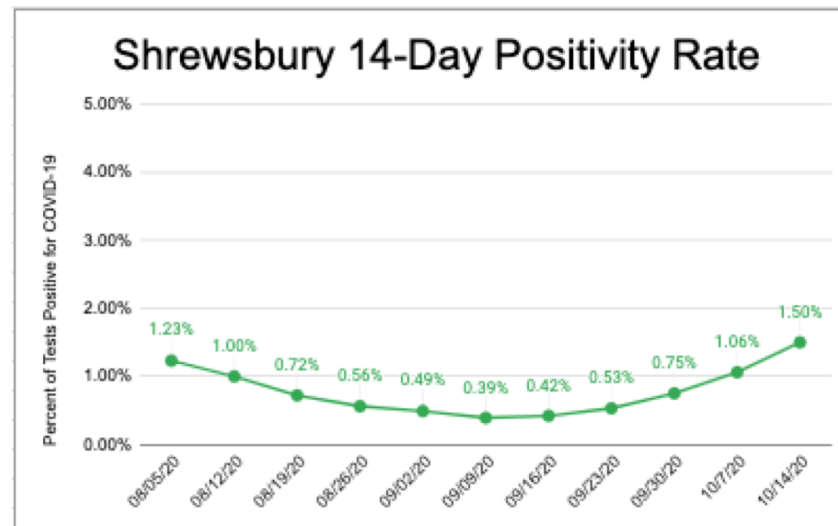
Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center

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





Current Public Health Data Shrewsbury 14-Day Positive Test Rate (vs. 5.0% Benchmark) As of October 14 (Last Published)



<https://www.mass.gov/doc/weekly-covid-19-public-health-report-october-14-2020/download>



Last Published State Public Health Data (As of October 14)

Shrewsbury 14-Day Cases per 100,000 = 8.0
Case Count Sep 27 – Oct 10 = 43 (3.1 cases/day)

Yellow (8) or **Red** (>8)? (State may adjust retroactively)

With new color-coded metric from DPH / COVID-19 Command, DESE is issuing additional guidance for selecting a learning model

New color-coded metric*	DESE expectation for learning model
RED Average daily cases per 100,000 is greater than 8	Remote
YELLOW Average daily cases per 100,000 is between 4 - 8	Hybrid OR Remote (if extenuating circumstances)
GREEN Average daily cases per 100,000 is less than 4	Full-time in-person OR Hybrid (if extenuating circumstances)
UNSHADED Fewer than 5 total cases over the past 14 days. Generally, this is for communities with small populations and very few cases.	

*Measured as a 14-day rolling average and will be reported weekly as part of the online DPH dashboard



State Public Health Data Weekly Report To Be Published on Thursdays (Starting Oct 22)

Notice

***The Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report, including the city/town data and map, will be posted on Thursdays, beginning 10/22.**



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.

Update to Decision-Making Process for Determining Change in Educational Program (i.e., Potential for Moving to Remote Learning): Looking at Multiple Indicators

From the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (October 2, 2020):

“The Department of Public Health (DPH) releases [weekly, color-coded health metric](#) for all municipalities in the Commonwealth. With each weekly update of the color-coded health metrics, we have seen municipalities falling in and out of the “red” and/or “yellow” designations. For this reason, we are reminding that you that **it is critically important that school districts do not make decisions based on a single report from DPH. Instead, we recommend that school districts wait for color changes in either direction in three consecutive weekly reports before considering a change to an instructional model (remote, hybrid, in-person).**”

Update to Decision-Making Process for Determining Change in Educational Program (i.e., Potential for Moving to Remote Learning): Looking at Multiple Indicators

From the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (October 2, 2020):

“This three-week time period of reports will represent four weeks of data and will be more reflective of a trend than one report. Furthermore, please remember that these color-coded designations are based on a single indicator (number of cases per 100,000 residents). In addition to this color-coded metric, we encourage districts and schools to work with their local boards of health to use all available information regarding COVID-19 trends in making these decisions. This could also include local test positivity rates and whether cases are increasing or decreasing in a municipality.”

Update to Decision-Making Process for Determining Change in Educational Program (i.e., Potential for Moving to Remote Learning):

Key Factor:
Whether Transmission Is Happening In Schools



Shrewsbury Public Schools COVID-19 Data Dashboard – Week of October 11-17, 2020

Positive Cases This Week in Hybrid Model = 6
Cases This Week Traced to Exposure in School = 0

Positive Cases Cumulative in Hybrid Model = 15
Cumulative Cases Traced to Exposure in School = 0



General Updates

- 1) Parent conference day is Tuesday, November 3
- 2) Different approach to “meet the teacher” instead of traditional curriculum nights (conferences; virtual open houses; videos)
- 3) Considerations for schedule for November 23 & 24
 - Suggestion of two “Wednesday” schedules to make up for missed Wednesdays on November 11 & November 25 and keeping curriculum aligned between cohorts



School Department Unemployment Fraud

Claims Received	158 (150 different people)
(January 1, 2020-October 19, 2020)	

Fraudulent Claims	57
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School Department Unemployment Fraud

Messages to Impacted Staff

Report the claim as fraudulent on the unemployment website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/report-unemployment-benefits-fraud> and follow all of the steps to report the fraudulent claim, which include (see site for more information):

- 1) Contact the IRS and Social Security
- 2) Report fraud to all three credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Transunion, Experian)
- 3) File a police report
- 4) Call the state's fraud line at 1 800 354 9927
- 5) Go to: www.identitytheft.gov
- 6) Change your personal and work-related passwords as soon as possible



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