



School Reopening Update

October 28, 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.)
- Stay home if you don't feel well



Phase I – Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Point of Care COVID-19 Testing for K-12 Schools

- Informational webinar was held today
- Federal government is distributing test kits to states (~2 million to MA)
- Rapid antigen test, therefore would require follow up with a PCR test
- Tests are free to districts, need to consider other costs such as PPE, time
- CLIA certificate, doctor's order and staff training required
- Reporting to Department of Public Health and DESE required
- Survey to indicate interest due by Friday 10/30



Current Case Count in District

In-School Hybrid Model Cases

Cases this week to date = 2

Cumulative cases since start of school = 21

Cases traced to exposure in school = 0

Cases in Remote Program

Cases this calendar week = 0

Cumulative cases since start of school = 3



SPS COVID-19 Data Dashboard

Published weekly on Mondays

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

SPS WEEKLY COVID-19 DATA DASHBOARD

Shrewsbury Public Schools

COVID-19 Data Dashboard – Week of October 18-24, 2020

Positive Cases This Week in Hybrid Model = 4 Positive Cases Cumulative in Hybrid Model = 19
Cases This Week Traced to Exposure in School = 0 Cumulative Cases Traced to Exposure in School = 0

SCHOOL	POSITIVE CASES THIS WEEK	CUMULATIVE POSITIVE CASES
Parker Road Preschool	1	2
Beal Early Childhood Center	0	0
Calvin Coolidge School	0	2
Floral Street School	0	1
Walter J. Paton School	1	2
Spring Street School	0	1
Sherwood Middle School	0	2
Oak Middle School	1	2
Shrewsbury High School	1	7
TOTALS	4	19

Positive Cases This Week in Remote Model = 0 Positive Cases Cumulative in Remote Model = 3

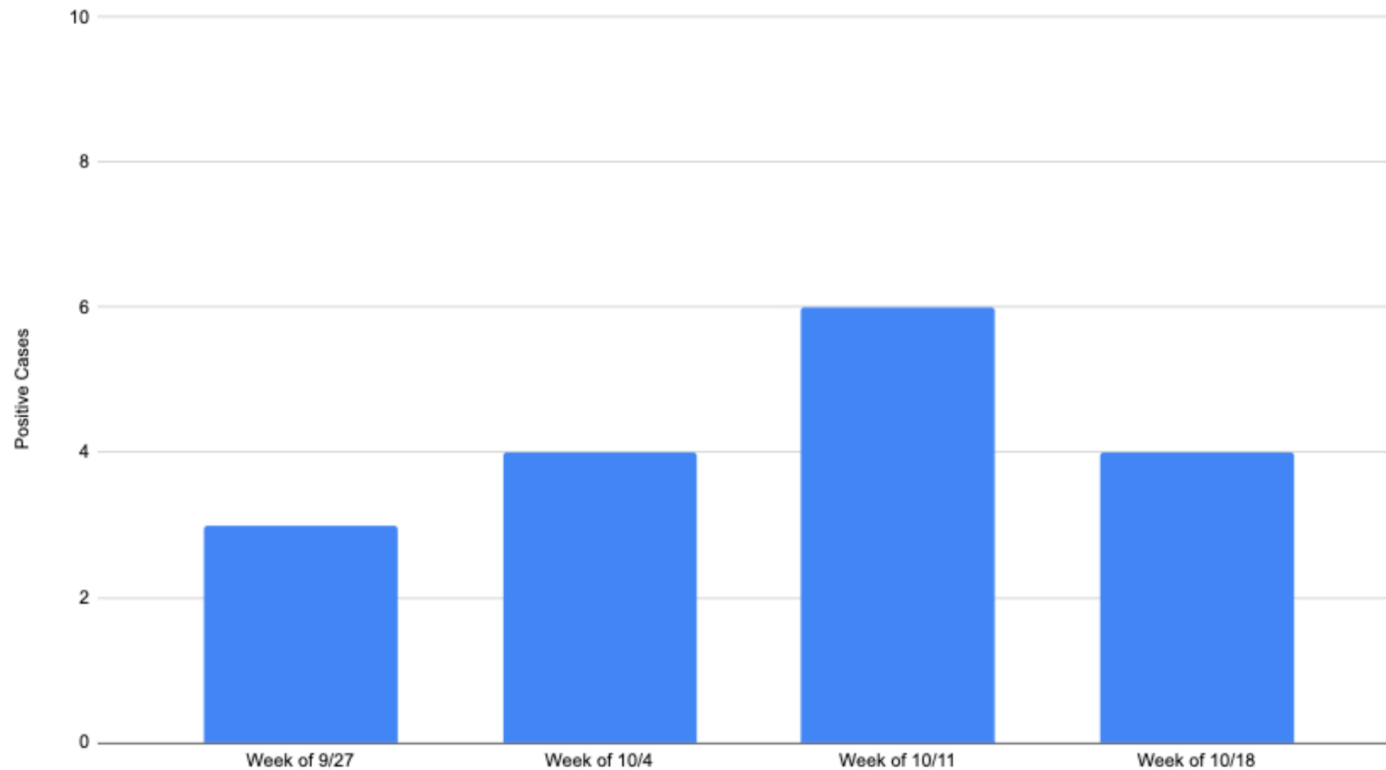


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SPS Positive Cases Past 4 Weeks (Hybrid Model)





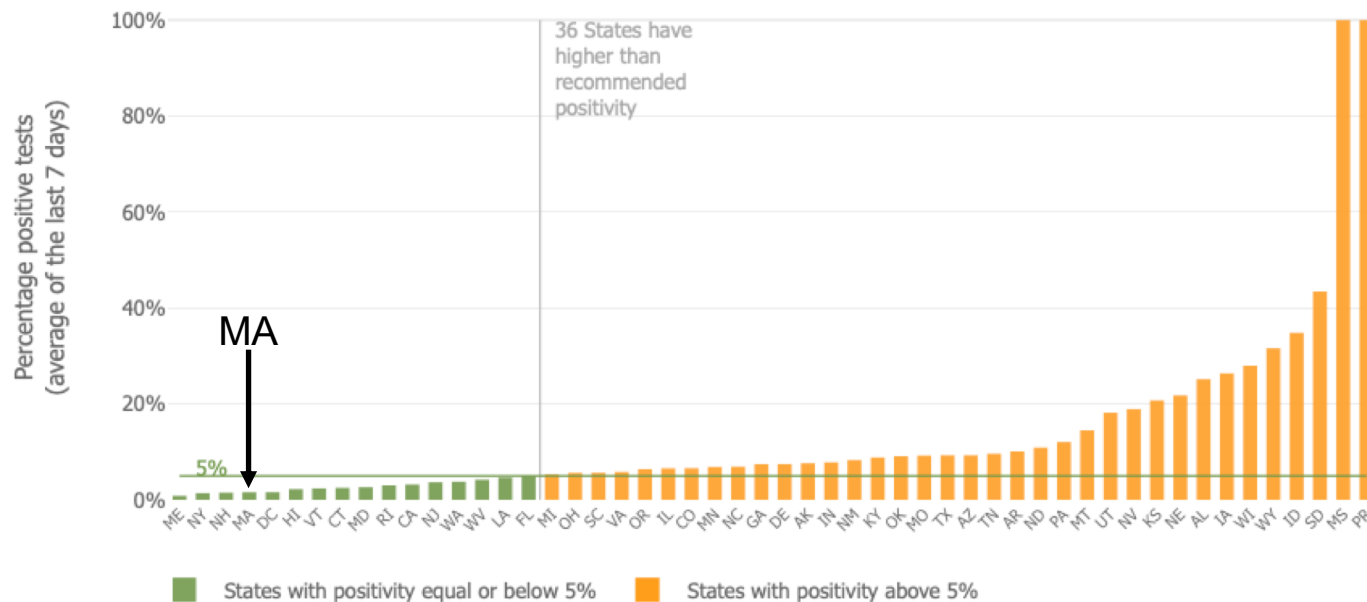
Current Public Health Data

MA 7-Day Positivity Rate = 1.59%

(Up from 1.13% one week ago)

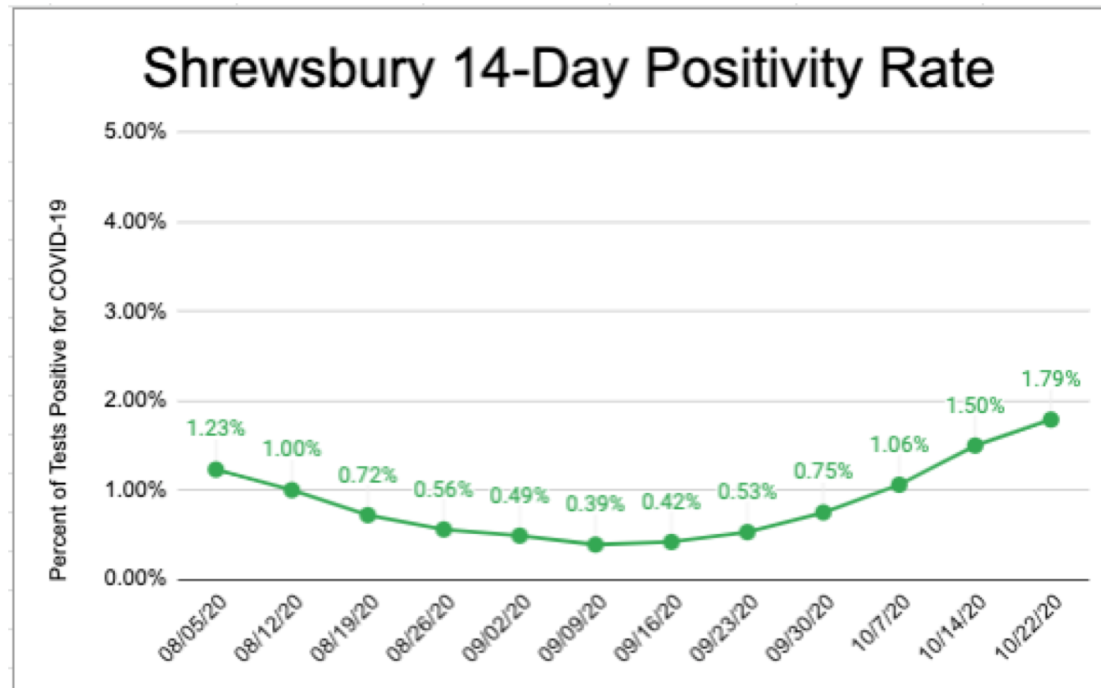
Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center

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





Current Public Health Data Shrewsbury 14-Day Positive Test Rate (vs. 5.0% Benchmark) As of October 22 (Last Published)



<https://www.mass.gov/doc/weekly-covid-19-public-health-report-october-22-2020/download>



State Weekly Public Health Data

(As of last report of October 22)

Shrewsbury

Case Count Oct 4 – Oct 17 = 53 (3.8 cases/day)
14-Day Cases per 100,000 = 9.6: Red Zone

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

***Note: State corrected report to yellow (originally misreported as red)**

October 29 Report: Red or Yellow?

We will likely again be right on the line between the two.
Cases in town have been trending downward.



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):
Determine Whether There is Transmission in Schools**

From the MA Department of Public Health (October 21, 2020):

“...guidance calls for districts to monitor three weeks of reports before making changes to learning plans for schools. **In addition, districts and schools currently open for in-person instruction are encouraged to remain open even if their local community is designated as red, so long as there is no evidence of COVID-19 transmission in the schools.**”

**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 In-School Hybrid Model Cases

Cumulative cases since start of school = 21

Cases traced to exposure in school = 0

Consulting with medical experts:

Our guest this evening is

Andrea Ciaranello, MD, MPH



Infectious Disease Physician at Massachusetts General Hospital

Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School