



Needham Board of Health



REVISED AGENDA

Thursday January 14, 2021

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 832-2451-1839

Under Governor Charlie Baker's emergency "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, S20", issued March 12, 2020 and in effect until termination of the emergency, meetings of public bodies may be conducted virtually provided that adequate access is provided to the public. The Needham Board of Health will hold this meeting virtually on November 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. No public participation is anticipated for this meeting.

To listen and view this virtual meeting on a phone, computer, laptop, or tablet, download the "Zoom Cloud Meeting" app in any app store or at www.zoom.us. At the above date and time, click on "Join a Meeting" and enter the meeting ID **832-2451-1839** or click the link below to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83224511839?pwd=UEJjb0lGQ0hN1bS9leEYy3b4YWVSUT09>

- **9:00 to 9:05 – Welcome & Review of Minutes (December 10th)**
- **9:05 to 9:30 – Staff Reports (December)**
- **9:30 to 10:30 – COVID-19 Update and Discussion**
 - Overview of Needham Situation
 - Contact Tracing Efforts to Date
 - Coordination with Needham Public Schools
 - Coordination with CTC, Other partners
 - COVID-19 Enforcement Activities
 - COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts
- **10:30 to 11:00 – Discussion & Vote on CY 2021 and 2022 Board of Health Goals**
- **Other Items – Set BOH 2021 Winter and Spring meeting schedule**
- **Adjournment**

(Please note that all times are approximate)



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Date: December 10, 2020

Location: Remote via Zoom per Governor Charles Baker's COVID-19 Executive Order 3/12/2020

Members: Kathleen Ward Brown, ScD, Chair
Edward Cosgrove, PhD, Member
Stephen Epstein, MD, MPP, Member
Robert A. Partridge, MD, MPH, Vice Chair

Absent: Christina S. Mathews, MPH, Member

Staff: Timothy M. McDonald, Director of Needham Department of Health and Human Services; Tara Gurge, Assistant Director; Carol Read; Diana Acosta; Tiffany Zike, Assistant Director; Taleb Abdelrahim; Zendilli Depina; Karen Shannon; Hanna Burnett, Michael Lethin, Maryanne Dinell, Angela MacDonnell, Dawn Stiller, Elizabeth Masterson, Lynn Schoeff

Guests: DJ Wilson, Massachusetts Municipal Association; Barbara Singer, Needham Public Schools

Dr. Brown called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

The meeting is being conducted remotely using Zoom consistent with Governor Baker's March 12 order regarding to COVID-19. The materials for this meeting were circulated previously and are available on the Town website. All votes will be voice votes by roll call.

Dr. Brown asked for a review of the minutes from the November 12 meeting. Dr. Epstein's remark about posting data on Facebook should be amended to, "Dr. Epstein said that he would tentatively post..."

Dr. Cosgrove moved to accept the minutes as amended. Dr. Partridge seconded the motion. The vote to accept the minutes was 4-0.

Tobacco regulation

The meeting began with an extensive discussion about the Needham tobacco regulation. Topics included modifying the regulation with changes including, retiring three or four permits; adjusting the fee schedule; changing fines and penalties; tightening the restriction on flavored tobacco; reflecting current state penalties; training for vendors.

Tobacco hearing

The hearing on changes to the tobacco regulation was opened at 9:22. There were no attendees.

Mr. McDonald and Ms. Gurge will modify the tobacco regulation per Board of Health discussion and will present it for Board vote at the next meeting on January 14, 2021.

Dr. Brown summarized the changes for the purpose of voting at this meeting. The changes included adjusting the Needham regulation to match the state law; not including section T1, a-e; inserting section 2.

Dr. Epstein made a motion to retire three tobacco permits and to accept the changes described by Dr. Brown. Dr. Partridge seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4 – 0.

Mr. McDonald will post a legal notice of the regulation changes in the newspaper and he will submit the changes to the Town Clerk. A discussion about the proposed revisions, including section T1, a-e, will be scheduled for a Board of Health meeting in 2021.

Staff reports:**Environmental Health – Tara Gurge and Diana Acosta**

Ms. Gurge reported that Paige Lambert, Monica Pancare and Ms. Acosta have completed their training on Standard 2 of the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards, a program of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Pamela Ross Kung, a consultant, provided the training. Ms. Gurge reported that the Division has applied for two more FDA grants. The inspections have all been completed.

Ms. Gurge also reported that Sweet Basil and Capella's would benefit from additional training on cooling procedures. The Town will fund a month's worth of consulting and training regarding cooling.

Needham Pool and Racquet Club is working with Environmental Health staff to ensure that a composting toilet is in compliance and that the wading pool replacement meets current pool code standards.

Ms. Acosta has been working on permits and has already received about 130. The online system is working well. Most of the annual inspections and permits are already done. Businesses, including restaurants, have adjusted well to online permitting.

Food complaints have decreased while Covid complaints have been increasing.

Traveling Meals – Maryann Dinell

The Needham Community Council, along with Temple Beth Shalom, will provide Christmas dinner, which will be delivered early Christmas Eve.

Public Health Nursing – Tiffany Zike

Ms. Zike thanked Elizabeth Masterson, a student nurse from Boston College, who worked on data and on vaccination planning.

Ms. Zike reported that the nurses finished flu clinics, including a couple that had been added at Needham Housing Authority (NHA). Only about 14 people took advantage of the clinics at NHA, but a precedent has been set in this important relationship.

The Domestic Violence Action Committee started up again with local partners. The committee recently had the Silent Witness display at Town Hall. The committee decided to donate \$6,000; \$1,000 to families in need for Christmas, and \$5,000 went to food gift cards so the families could have a holiday dinner in place of the usual dinner provided by the group.

Public Health Nursing has been doing a great deal of preparation for Covid vaccination clinics, since the Division may get very little notice before having to get a clinic running.

In communicable diseases, there was one campylobacter and one salmonella. The way the Covid data reports are generated by the State is improving. The number of confirmed cases tripled from October to November.

Although flu clinics have ended the nurses are now providing in-office appointments for flu shots for students.

The nurses are working with the social workers to encourage people to take advantage of the Gift of Warmth program. Ms. Zike expressed appreciation for the Community Council for their donation to this program.

Substance Use Prevention – Karen Shannon

SALSA youth were very active in November. They produced worked on two public service announcements. One was on medication disposal and the other was a Covid holiday message released before Thanksgiving. The Covid message was posted on Facebook where it received over 700 views.

They were also invited to do a presentation at the 84 Youth Power Summit, a statewide conference for teens involved with tobacco prevention and anti-tobacco advocacy.

Ms. Shannon is participating in the online virtual certification for Youth Mental Health First Aid to bring the course back to Needham. The training will be offered for the community in January and more trainings after that.

The Health and Human Services Racial Equity Committee, with members from all three divisions, continues to meet every two weeks to look at how we can embrace racial equity in our work and policies.

Ms. Shannon introduced Angela MacDonnell who started last month on the vaping grant. She is working on curriculum for 6th and 9th grades. The high school cessation program has already started.

Board of Health goals

Dr. Brown, Dr. Epstein, and Dr. Partridge requested several edits. Mr. McDonald will incorporate those changes and submit for a vote in January.

COVID-19 update

Mr. McDonald introduced Ms. Barbara Singer, the Director of School Health Services.

Ms. Zike reviewed the recent case data which includes the total confirmed cases in Needham for this fiscal year (572) and the total for probable cases (95). Ms. Zike went on to discuss the increases in cases by age and clusters outside of households. The average numbers of daily cases and percent positivity are all going up, although the positivity percentage is artificially low since it is based on the number of tests rather than the number of people.

The public health nurses are getting to the point where the number of cases to follow and track is becoming unmanageable. It takes a great deal of time and work and Ms. Zike said that it may soon be necessary to use a surge protocol. In the past Needham has used the Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC) to help with the large number of cases. However, the CTC is already running on surge protocol which means that they send initial text messages to people who test positive but only follow up if the test has been conducted within the past three days. The Needham surge protocol is to refer cases that are within three days to the CTC and take on cases where the test result is from four days or more. But, the numbers of the four-to-seven-day cases are also growing.

Ms. Singer reported that the collaboration between the School Department and Public Health Division has been great. Particularly beneficial is sharing a data sheet with clearance dates.

There is new quarantine guidance from the CDC, which reduces the recommended quarantine period from 14 days to 10 days. Discussion followed about whether Needham should follow the new guidance, about what guidelines the School Department follows, and about how confusing these changes are for the public. There are also some differences between CDC guidance (a person may “test out” of quarantine after 10 days, and the MA DPH guidance (a person may test out after 8 days). Mr. McDonald will see about setting up a meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss quarantine guidelines.

Ms. Zike reviewed the weekend surge protocol for Needham. Nurses alternate weekend on-call coverage and make school cases the priority. If cases with less than three-day lab results are identified on a weekend, the nurses will follow up on Mondays if workload allows or refer them to the CTC. Cases with the longer lab result time lag will be followed by Needham. The website is being updated to provide the clearest information to Needham residents. A new epidemiologist will start work on Monday, December 21, to do deeper analysis of the data. There are also three per diem nurses who are working on contact tracing.

There was a discussion about the challenges of contact tracing: people who do not cooperate with contact tracing; people who do not answer their phones and thus require letters; and about how to improve compliance. There are not enough staff working on the state level to keep up with the volume of work, and other towns do not have the capacity to follow up with Needham students who live in other communities.

The role of the Needham Public Health Division in vaccination will be similar to the way flu vaccines are managed (vaccination clinics run by the division). However, it is not clear in which phase of the effort the division will be engaged.

The Board discussed the need for another meeting before the next scheduled meeting, given the urgency of the pandemic. Mr. McDonald and Dr. Brown will work to find a time.

Dr. Partridge made a motion to adjourn at 11:00. Dr. Cosgrove seconded that motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Next meetings

- January 14, 2021

Note: this meeting is available to view at [Board of Health 12/10/2020 - YouTube](#)



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



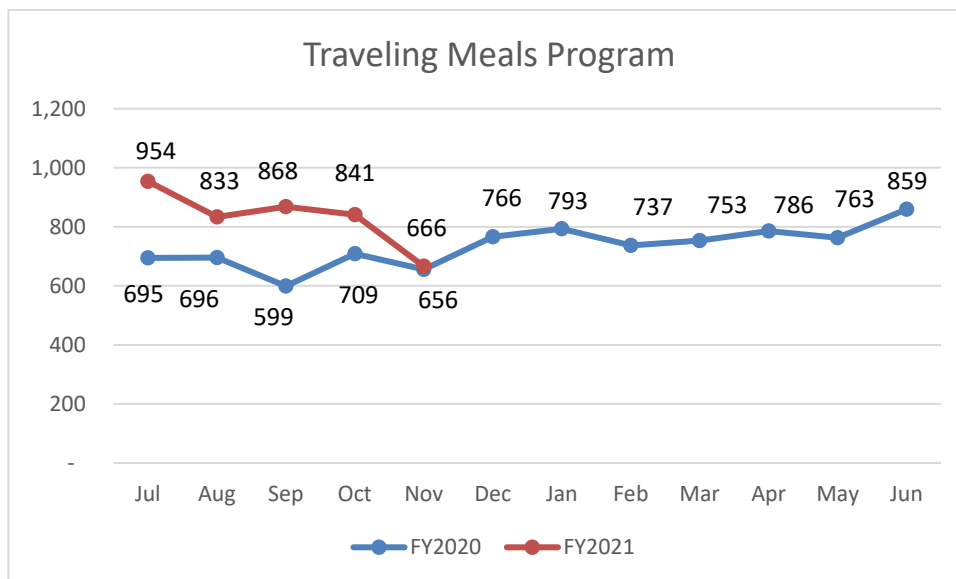
Unit: Traveling Meals Program

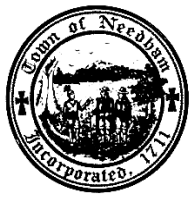
Monthly Report for December 2020

Staff member: *Maryanne Dinell, Program Coordinator*

Activities

Activity	Notes
<i>COVID 19 –precautions continue by summer staff as they deliver meals to homebound Needham residents in need of food.</i>	<i>Meal delivery for month completed by 20-22 volunteers. 1 Consumer passed away- age related/Covid</i>
<i>703 Meals delivered in December, 2020. One snow day, Town offices closed. Meals were delivered the day before.</i> <i>43 Consumers currently enrolled for the month. 31 Springwell 12 Private Pay</i> <i>2 Consumers no longer on Program 1 Springwell consumer 1 Private pay</i>	<i>Needham Community Council volunteers delivered Christmas Day meals to 32 of the Traveling Meals Clients.</i> <i>Into hospital Able to care for self with in home services.</i>





Needham Public Health Division

December 2020

Assist. Health Director - Tara Gurge

Health Agents - Diana Acosta and Monica Pancare



Unit: Environmental Health

Date: 1/14/2021

Staff members: Tara Gurge, Diana Acosta, and Monica Pancare

Intern: Paige Lambert

Activities and Accomplishments

Activity	Notes									
Town Online Permitting System	Diana is continuing to work with Terry Wolfson from IT Department in developing additional online permit applications on ViewPoint Cloud. Tara and Diana continue to take part in bimonthly zoom permit meetings with IT. Waste Hauler permit is next to be released.									
Annual Permit Renewals	All permit types have been available for renewal. - <u>Bodywork Establishment</u> - 3 issued - <u>Bodywork Practitioners</u> – 6 issued - <u>Disposal of Sharps</u> –5 issued (1 new applicant) - <u>Food Permits</u> – 72 issued - <u>Hotel Permits</u> –2 Issued - <u>Indoor Pools</u> – 6 issued - <u>Septage/Grease/Medical Hauler</u> – 9 Issued - <u>Septic Installer</u> – 1 pending exam - <u>Tobacco Permits</u> – 2 pending									
Food Consultants needed for 2 food establishments	Consulting services for Sweet Basils have begun. Cappella’s services are pending scheduling, to take place in the next month or so.									
Residence Inn Hoarding Emergency Housing Insp.	Received call from Needham Police about a hoarding concern at a long-term rental unit at the Residence Inn. Tara conducted an emergency housing inspection with Building Commissioner, David Roche. Many violations noted on site. Certified order letter sent to occupant and occupant’s representative. Unit will need to be cleaned out and disinfected, and a follow-up housing inspection conducted, prior to re-occupancy. Working with Riverside Community Care and Springwell Elder Care, along with local Aging Services Division social workers, to ensure this occupant receives the necessary services needed prior to discharge. (In process.)									
New State COVID Guidance	Latest State guidance/COVID Updates - <u>Roll back to Phase III, Step I:</u> Effective December 13, all communities had to roll back to Phase 3, Step 1 of Massachusetts’ re-opening plan. Beginning on December 26, 2020, Massachusetts implemented temporary capacity limits to help stop the spread of COVID-19 as cases and hospitalizations continue to rise. Businesses must adhere to the following capacity limitations. The revised limits below supersede existing limits in the Phase 3, Step 1 Sector-Specific Protocols. <table><tr><th>Sector</th><th>Revised Capacity Limits[†]</th><th>Notes</th></tr><tr><td>Gatherings (adjusting Order No. 57)</td><td>10 persons indoors 25 persons outdoors</td><td>applies to both private homes and event venues and public spaces</td></tr><tr><td>Restaurants</td><td>25% of seating capacity</td><td>(a) workers/staff excluded from occupancy count; (b) applies separately to indoor and outdoor capacity</td></tr></table>	Sector	Revised Capacity Limits [†]	Notes	Gatherings (adjusting Order No. 57)	10 persons indoors 25 persons outdoors	applies to both private homes and event venues and public spaces	Restaurants	25% of seating capacity	(a) workers/staff excluded from occupancy count; (b) applies separately to indoor and outdoor capacity
Sector	Revised Capacity Limits [†]	Notes								
Gatherings (adjusting Order No. 57)	10 persons indoors 25 persons outdoors	applies to both private homes and event venues and public spaces								
Restaurants	25% of seating capacity	(a) workers/staff excluded from occupancy count; (b) applies separately to indoor and outdoor capacity								

	Close Contact Personal Services	25%	workers/staff excluded from occupancy count
	Indoor and Outdoor Events	10 persons indoors 25 persons outdoors	workers/staff excluded from occupancy count
	Office Spaces	25%	
	Places of Worship	25%	workers/staff excluded from occupancy count
	Retail Businesses	25%	workers/staff excluded from occupancy count
	Golf Facilities	25%	applies only to indoor spaces
	Libraries	25%	
	Operators of Lodgings	25%	applies only to common areas
	Fitness Centers and Health Clubs	25%	
†General Provision: Where no licensed or permitted capacity allowance is on record and for any enclosed space within a larger facility, occupancy shall be limited to no more than 5 persons per 1,000 square feet. (For actual order, click here for more information.) <u>Other Phase III, Step I restaurant and venue updates that were emailed out to our permitted establishments:</u> The Administration also announced new guidelines for restaurants and other venues with seated dining, including: • Patrons must wear masks at all times except when eating and drinking • Restaurants must seat no more than six patrons per table • Restaurants must impose a 90-minute time limit on tables • Musical performances at restaurants will no longer be permitted • Food court seating must be closed in malls • Customers are encouraged to dine only with members of the same household.			

Other Public Health Division activities this month: (See attached report.)

Activities

Activity	Notes
COVID – 19 Response	As of March 17, 2020, Environmental Health Staff have been working remotely from home. <u>On Monday June 1st</u>, staff allowed to work back in the office on a limited basis. - Call forwarding was activated on office phones so calls can be received via cell phone. - Continue to follow-up on complaints received. - Communicating with Food Establishments via email re: COVID-19 updates. - Continued to work towards conducting routine full-service food inspection schedules this month. Ensuring restaurants are in compliance with protocols (In process.) - Continued to review business protocols as requested. - Listening to twice weekly Local Public Health Webinars held by the MA Department of Public Health on Tues. and Friday. - Reviewing restaurant change in seating proposals as requested, including around bar areas, to ensure compliance with updated state guidelines. - Worked with Needham Community Council on safe meal prep and delivery COVID-19 protocols for their holiday meal delivery program. Also ensured that they coordinated with the Traveling Meals program, to ensure all recipients in need were included. - Env. Team to work with the Town on reviewing event permit applications (even if they don't involve food) as they come in to confirm that proper COVID protocols are in place. (On-going.) - Env. Team brought in the loop on Tent Permits that are issued by the Building Dept., so we can contact the owner of the property to review current COVID-19 protocols in order for them to hold a safe and compliant event. - Worked with the Needham YMCA, located at #863 Great Plain Ave., in reviewing their proposed Workout Tent protocols.
COVID -19 Complaints/Follow-ups	6/5 – Complaints/follow-ups received for: - <u>Walgreen's</u> – Customer concerned that only 2 registers were open with 25 customers in the waiting area. Concerns with social distancing. Diana followed up with the manager. - <u>Servente Bakery</u> – Report from resident about 2 staff members not wearing the proper masks. Tara spoke to owner about complaint. Owner will remind staff about proper mask wearing requirements, and the owner (who has a medical exemption) also stated that she will look into the cost of installing a plexiglass divider by her register. - <u>A New Leaf</u> – Report from resident about a staff member not wearing the proper mask. Tara called and spoke to owner. He pulled mask down briefly to speak to his co-worker. He will ensure mask stays over his nose and mouth. - <u>Starbucks</u> – Customer reported many people in the waiting area and lack of social distancing by customers. Contacted store manager about submitting a plan which included adding stickers to the floor to help limit occupancy. - <u>General</u> – Letter sent in by “We the People” objecting the enforcement of Governor Baker's orders - <u>Kosta's</u> – Report received that 5 staff members were working without a mask. Diana immediately conducted a site visit and observed all staff members were wearing masks properly.
Body Works establishment inspections	5 – Annual Body Works establishment inspections conducted at: – B In Touch – Baan Thai Spa – Boston Rolfer – Healing Hands – Danielle Doyle Yoga (New)

Demo Reviews/ Approvals	5 - Demolition signoffs: – 23 Dwight Rd – 768 Chestnut St – 768 Chestnut St, Unit A – 768 Chestnut St, Unit B – 59 Ardmore Rd
Disposal of Sharps inspections	5 - Annual Disposal of Sharps inspections conducted at: – Chinese Acupuncture and Herbal Medical – Blue Lotus – Zdorovie Adult Day Care – Needham Wellness Center – Carewell Urgent Care (new)
Food – New Food Permit (Updates)	1 – Food Establishment pending pre-operation inspection process: - <u>Thai Story Restaurant (formerly known as Eat Well)</u> – Still in process. 2 – Plan Review Items received from- - <u>Fooda</u> – Has proposed to take over old PTC cafeteria area, located at #140 Kendrick St. Plan review approved. - <u>Cookie Monstah</u> – Received inquiry from Ice Cream establishment to take over Stacy's Juice Bar vacant spot. (Plan review in process.)
Food Complaints	0/0 – Food Complaints/Follow-ups
Housing Complaints/ Follow-ups –	1/1 – Housing Complaints/Follow-ups conducted at: – <u>Residence Inn</u> – Call received from Needham Police to conduct an emergency housing inspection due to hoarded and very unsanitary conditions observed in unit. Tara conducted an inspection of the unit with the Needham Building Commissioner, hotel manager and the occupant's lawyer/representative. Unit found to be in deplorable condition and deemed unfit. Certified letter sent to occupant and her representative. Unit will need to be cleaned out and disinfected, and a follow-up housing inspection conducted, prior to re-occupancy. Working to secure the much-needed services for this occupant for personal and home health care services, along with Traveling Meals and Springwell and Riverside, prior to discharge.
Nuisance – Complaints/ Follow-ups	2/2– Nuisance Complaints/Follow-ups conducted for: - <u>Carewell Urgent Care</u>– Report received that there was medical waste being thrown in the shared dumpster enclosure. This led to Carewell needing a Disposal of Sharps Permit. They use Stericycle as the medical waste hauler. All sharps are packaged and kept stored in a secured area. Pickups occur monthly. - <u>#200 Reservoir St.</u> - Report from Town Manager's office about receiving a concern from abutting commercial property owner about junk and spent items in the back yard, that might trigger a violation of Town's Nuisance Junk By Law. Tara conducted a site visit. Contacted property owner about concern. (Still in process.)
Hotel inspections	2 – Annual Hotel inspections conducted at: – Homewood Suites – Residence Inn
Indoor Pool inspections conducted	6 – Annual Indoor Pool inspections conducted at: - Goldfish Swim School - Charles River YMCA - Homewood Suites - Residence Inn - Wingate - North Hill

Pool Plan Review	Wading Pool plans received from Needham Pool and Racquet Club - Wading Pool is being replaced. In process of review. Structural plans submitted and finalizing mechanical plans. Verifying systems can be upgraded to meet current MA Pool and Building Code standards. UPDATE- Still confirming pool fencing and self-closing gate requirements on newly updated pool. ADA ramp to be installed for handicap accessibility. Updated plans still in the process of being submitted for review. (Approval pending.)
Planning Board special permit reviews	0 – Planning Board reviews conducted.
Septic – Addition to a Commercial Property on a Septic	1 – Addition to a Commercial Property on a Septic System plan review conducted for: #1545 Central Avenue (Needham Pool and Racquet) – The NPRC is in the process of submitting an application for review in order to accommodate the newly proposed Paddle Tennis courts. A proposal is in the process of being submitted for the use of a composting toilet. UPDATE – Additional details needed for toilet maintenance and venting. Also a hand washing sink was required to be installed (rather than a hand sanitizer dispenser.) Working with applicant on submitting the additional details needed prior to our approval. (Plan approval pending.)
Septic – Deed Restriction	1 – Septic Deed Restriction required for: #40 Windsor Rd. - To limit the number of bedrooms to five. Submitted to the Registry of Deeds.
Septic – Plan Review/Approval	1 – Septic Plan review conducted and plan approval issued for: #40 Windsor Rd. - Additional requirements needed to be noted on the plan. Revised plan submitted to us for review. Approval sent.
Septic – Soil Testing/Perc Test	1 – Soil Testing conducted at: #11 Gatewood Rd.
Well Applications/ Plan Reviews / Final inspections	1 - Irrigation Final Well completion report received for: #24 Park Ave. - Final inspection conducted by Water and Sewer Dept. Exterior well signage still pending. Need to observe sign prior to issuance of well permit to allow the well to open for use. (Still pending.)
Zoning Board of Appeals plan review	1 – Zoning Board of Appeals plan review conducted for: #21 Utica Rd. - Comments sent.

FY 21 Priority FBI Risk Violations Chart (By Date)

Restaurant	Insp. Date	Priority Violation	Description
Fuji Steakhouse	12/3/2020	2-301.14 When to Wash - Sushi bar <i>Code: Food Employees shall clean their hands and exposed portions of their arms immediately before engaging in food preparation including working with exposed food, clean equipment and utensils, and unwrapped single service and single-use articles and: (A) After touching bare human body parts other than clean hands and clean, exposed portions of arms; (B) After using the toilet room; (C) After caring for or handling service ANIMALS or aquatic animals as specified in section 2 403.11(B); (D)</i>	Staff member did not properly wash hands. Observed staff member rinse hands with no soap before donning gloves to prepare cucumbers. Also, observed wiping hands on apron without handwashing after and redonned gloves. Training regarding all aspects of handwashing is mandated.

Fuji Steakhouse	12/3/2020	<i>Except as specified in section 2-401.11(B), after coughing, sneezing, using a handkerchief or disposable tissue, using tobacco, eating, or drinking; (E) After handling soiled equipment or utensils; (F) During food preparation, as often as necessary to remove soil and contamination and to prevent cross contamination when changing tasks; (G) When switching between working with raw food and working with RTE food, (H) Before donning gloves to initiate a task that involves working with food; and (I) After engaging in other activities that contaminate the hands.</i> 3-301.11 (B) Preventing Contamination from Hands - Sushi bar - Code: <i>Except when washing fruits and vegetables, food employees may not contact exposed, ready-to-eat food with their bare hands and shall use suitable utensils such as deli tissue, spatulas, tongs, single-use gloves or dispensing equipment.</i> Corrected on Site -3-302.11 (A)(1) Raw Animal Foods Separated from RTE - Sushi bar - Code: <i>Food shall be protected from cross contamination by: (1) Separating raw animal foods during storage preparation, holding and display from: (a) Raw RTE food including other raw animal food such as fish for sushi or molluscan shellfish or other raw RTE food such as fruits and vegetables, and (b) cooked RTE food.</i> 3-302.11 (A)(2) Raw Animal Foods Separated from each other - Walk in cooler - Code: <i>Foods shall be protected from cross contamination by: Except when combined as ingredients, separating types of raw animal foods from each other such as beef, fish, lamb, pork and poultry during storage, preparation, holding, and display by: (a) Using separate equipment for each type, or (b) Arranging each type of food in equipment so that cross contamination of one type with another is prevented and (c) preparing each type of food at different times or in separate areas.</i>	Staff member handling raw cucumbers with no barrier. Did not wash hands until instructed. Discarded food handled with bare hands. Cut cucumbers found inside fish roe containers. Food Voluntarily discarded. May not reuse raw fish containers for other food. Containers are not multi use. Raw beef stored on shelf over raw sweet potato box. Sweet potatoes moved to another shelf away from meat. Vinegar solution being used on site is 4.5% acidity.
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Fuji Steakhouse	12/3/2020	8-103.12 (A) Confirmation with Approved Procedures/HACCP - Sushi bar <i>- Code: If the RA grants a variance as specified in section 8 103.10, or a HACCP plan is otherwise required as specified under section 8 201.13, the permit holder shall comply with the HACCP plans and procedures that are submitted as specified under section 8-201.14 and approved as a basis for the modification or waiver.</i>	HACCP procedure indicated that 4.2% solution was to be used in the recipe. Recipe calls for 1.5 quarts (48 oz) of vinegar solution to be used. Staff was using 40 oz to acidify rice. Using 40 oz cause the rice pH to be 4.2. Plan indicates rice must be below 4.2. Added additional 8 oz which brought pH to 4.1. Must follow recipe exactly as written In HACCP plan. Any revision to recipe mandates new lab analysis for the rice. Sushi chef tested rice from previous day and result showed 4.2. Must submit products for updated lab analysis. May not use rice overnight until approved by health department. No record was kept for pH or meter calibration since 11/6/2020.
Restaurant Depot	12/5/2020	Corrected on Site -3-304.11 Food Contact with Soiled Items - Seafood - <i>Code: Food shall only contact surfaces of: equipment and utensils that are cleaned and sanitized; single service and single-use articles; or linens, such as cloth napkins that are used to line a container for the service of foods AND are replaced each time the container is refilled for a new consumer.</i> 4-703.11 (C) Methods-Hot Water and Chemical - Seafood - <i>Code: After being cleaned, equipment food contact surfaces and utensils shall be sanitized in: (C) Chemical manual or mechanical operations, including the application of SANITIZING chemicals by immersion, manual swabbing, brushing, or pressure spraying methods, using a solution as specified under § 4501.114. Contact times shall be consistent with those on EPA registered label use instructions by providing: (1) Except as specified under Subparagraph (C)(2) of this section, a contact time of at least 10 seconds for a chlorine solution specified under paragraph 4 501.114(A), (2) A contact time of at least 7 seconds for a chlorine solution of 50 MG/L that has a pH of 10 or less and a temperature of at least 38°C (100°F) or a pH of 8 or less and a temperature of at least 24°C (75°F), (3) A contact time of at least 30 seconds for other chemical sanitizing solutions, or</i> 3-306.11 Food Display - Seafood - <i>Code: Except for nuts in the shell and whole, raw fruits and vegetables that are intended for hulling, peeling, or washing by the consumer before consumption, food on display shall be protected from contamination by the use of packaging; counter, service line, or salad bar food guards; display cases; or other effective means.</i>	Red snapper fish on soiled floor. Product voluntarily discarded. The 3 compartment sink did not have sanitizer solution, and the sink had ice in the sanitizer bay of the sink. The middle sink was in use to wash black trays. This is not the correct procedure for manual ware washing. Train staff properly on set up Upon arrival raw TCS seafood was not protected by sneeze guards. Product was repackaged in plastic bags and put on ice. Repair or replace sneeze guards for self service display. Do not expose TCS foods unless wrapped and protected.

Category	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	FY'21	FY '20	FY' 19	FY' 18	FY' 17
Biotech registrations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
Bodywork Estab. Insp.	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	14	11	6
Bodywork Estab. Permits	0	0	0	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	9	9	6	4
Bodywork Pract. Permits	0	0	0	0	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	23	21	22	13
COVID 19 Complaints	17	20	16	17	27	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	103	0	0	0	0
COVID 19 Follow Ups	17	20	19	15	26	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	102	0	0	0	0
Demo reviews	8	6	2	5	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	73	104	105	112
Domestic Animal permits	6	8	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	1	21	19	17
Domestic Animal Inspections	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	22	3	16
Food Service Routine insp.	5	10	10	14	11	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	149	200	225	198
Food Service Pre-oper. Insp.	3	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	48	12	32	37
Retail Food Routine insp. Or 6 month check in	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	33	46	60	69
Residential Kitchen Routine insp.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	6	8	7
Mobile Routine insp.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	17	13	15
Food Service Re-insp.	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	21	28	53	51
Food Establishment Annual/Seasonal Permits	1	1	0	0	33	89	0	0	0	0	0	0	124	155	140	171	177
Temp. food permits	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	67	134	163	158
Temp. food inspections	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	37	29	62
Farmers Market permits	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	14	14	14	7
Farmers Market insp.	19	23	28	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	158	229	127	33
Food Complaints	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	49	18	20	13
Follow-ups food complaints	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	48	21	21	17
Food Service Plan Reviews	3	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	14	20	42	33
Food Service Admin. Hearings	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0
Grease/ Septage Hauler Permits	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	20	21	24	24
Housing (Chap II Housing) Annual routine inspection	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	14	14
Housing Follow-up insp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4
Housing New Complaint	3	6	4	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	41	22	22	7
Housing Follow-ups	4	5	5	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	56	28	24	11
Hotel Annual inspection	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	3	3
Hotel Follow-ups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0
Nuisance Complaints	9	4	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	34	55	42	30
Nuisance Follow-ups	10	7	2	3	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	55	69	42	45
Pool inspections	3	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	13	20	12	13
Pool Follow up inspections	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	12	7	8
Pool permits	4	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	11	19	12	9
Pool plan reviews	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	44	19
Pool variances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	7	6
Septic Abandonment	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	21	9	5	18
Addition to a home on a septic plan rev/approval	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	2	2	5
Septic Install. Insp.	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	13	21	28	43
Septic COC for repairs	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	3	1	0
Septic COC for complete septic system	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	3	3
Septic Info. requests	10	7	6	8	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	61	62	51	62
Septic Soil/Perc Test.	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	6
Septic Const. permits	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	6	5	8
Septic Installer permits	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	8	9	11
Septic Installer Tests	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	3	6

Category	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	FY'21	FY '20	FY' 19	FY' 18	FY' 17
Septic Deed Restrict.	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	3	7
Septic Plan reviews	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	9	23	14
Disposal of Sharps permits	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	7	9	9
Disposal of Sharps Inspections	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	7	7	
Planning Board Subdivision Sp Permit Plan reviews/Insp. d	2	0	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	4	1	1	0
Subdivision Bond Releases	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Special Permit/Zoning	1	1	2	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	17	34	15	12
Tobacco permits	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	10	11	12
Tobacco Routine insp	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	14	18	25
Tobacco Follow-up insp.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	3	3	6
Tobacco Compliance checks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30	41	34
Tobacco complaints	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	2
Tobacco Compl. follow-ups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	2
Trash Hauler permits	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	17	14	26
Medical Waste Hauler permits	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	2
Well - Plan Reviews, Permission to drill letters, Insp.	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	6	2	7
Well Permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



Date: December 29, 2020

Staff member: Lynn Schoeff

Activities and Accomplishments for December 2020

Activity	Notes
Research and writing	Began shaping and organizing the Annual Report for all three divisions within Health and Human Services. Board of Health minutes Worked with Finance Department and NPHD budget analyst to develop a grant tracking system.
Policy development and review	Continued research for racial and health equity policy

Other:

Interviewed candidates for the reporting secretary position. The new recording secretary will begin in January.

Summary overview for December:

Work in December again focused on research and writing, COVID response, racial and health equity policies.



NEEDHAM **PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**



Unit: Substance Use Prevention

Date: December 2020

Staff: Karen Shannon, Karen Mullen, and Monica De Winter

Activities and Accomplishments

Activity	Notes
Vaping Grant	Meeting held 12/1 with Vaping Grant Partners, Needham Public Schools and Needham Youth & Family Services to evaluate next steps in promoting the cessation program. NHS School Nurse had first student participate in initial cessation session. Student was referred by NHS Guidance Counselor. Grant Coordinator, Angi MacDonnell sent initial recommendations for vaping educational units to NPS Director of Wellness.
SPAN meetings	SPAN Quarterly Meeting, 12/8, presentation of Youth Photo Voice Project by Zendilli Depina; 21 in attendance. Youth Action Team Mtg. 12/14 Parent Action Team Mtg. 12/17 Community Action Team Mtg. 12/17
SALSA	SALSA initiatives this month: - o Vaping Awareness Team- ▪ The 84 Movement- "Racial Justice & Health Equity" training: NHS SALSA leader co-presented to over 150 MA teens - o Pollard/High Rock Wellness team- ▪ Planning presentations for grade 6 Wellness Classes (approx. 400 6th graders) - o Social Media Team- Launched new SALSA twitter account - o COVID-19 Awareness Team- Launched NHS poster campaign - o Distracted Driving Awareness Team- Researched & recommended AAA curriculum **The 84 is a statewide movement of youth fighting tobacco in Massachusetts. The 84 represents the 84% of Massachusetts youth who did NOT smoke when the movement began. Now, 93.4% of youth do NOT smoke.
SPAN Website	Upgrades and reformatting of website were nearly completed by graphic design consultant. Work includes new pages for Resources, SALSA and Seeking Help. SALSA student programs and links will "live" on the SPAN website, offering a landing spot to showcase their work and provide resources to youth and the community.
Social Media	NPHD Twitter content: developed 4 tweets for the Needham Public Health Division twitter page. Topic content: SALSA program accomplishments.



NEEDHAM **PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**



Mental Health First Aid for Youth	Karen S. and Katy Colthart will be conducting the first virtual instruction of the Mental Health First Aid for Youth on Sunday, January 10, 2021. This month the JCC Big Brother/Big Sister program provided the names of 12 individuals who responded to this training opportunity. They are now registered for the free, 6-hour course and are required to complete a 2-hour pre-work assignment before the instructor-led portion on January 10.
HHS Racial Equity Committee	Meetings held on 12/3 and 12/17.
Parent Al-anon group	Meetings held every Monday evening. New membership has increased, averaging 1 – 3 additional attendees per meeting..
Trainings and Conferences	• Ohio Adult Allies Summit Conference – 12/2, Karen S., Karen M. • Anti-Racist Imperative for Public Health Data – 12/3, Karen S. • Operation Parent, “Talking with Your Teens about Underage Drinking” webinar, 12/8, Karen M. • BSAS: Synthetic Drugs, Vaping and Youth Substance Use Treatment- 12/15, Karen S. • BILH Speaker Series – 12/7, Karen S. • BSAS Annual Prevention Conference- <i>Acknowledging the Impact of Racism on Community Health and Prevention</i>:- 12/8 - 10, Karen M. Monica DeW. and Karen S. • NWH Town Forum – 12/21, Karen S. • FCD “Conversation Starters” webinar, Karen M. •

Summary for Month of December 2020: Focus this month has included the SPAN Quarterly Meeting held on 12/8 which featured a presentation by Zendilli Depina on the Youth Photo Voice Project. Planning continued for contract services including evaluation services, and training for coalition members and youth development.



Emergency Management Support Monthly Report December 2020

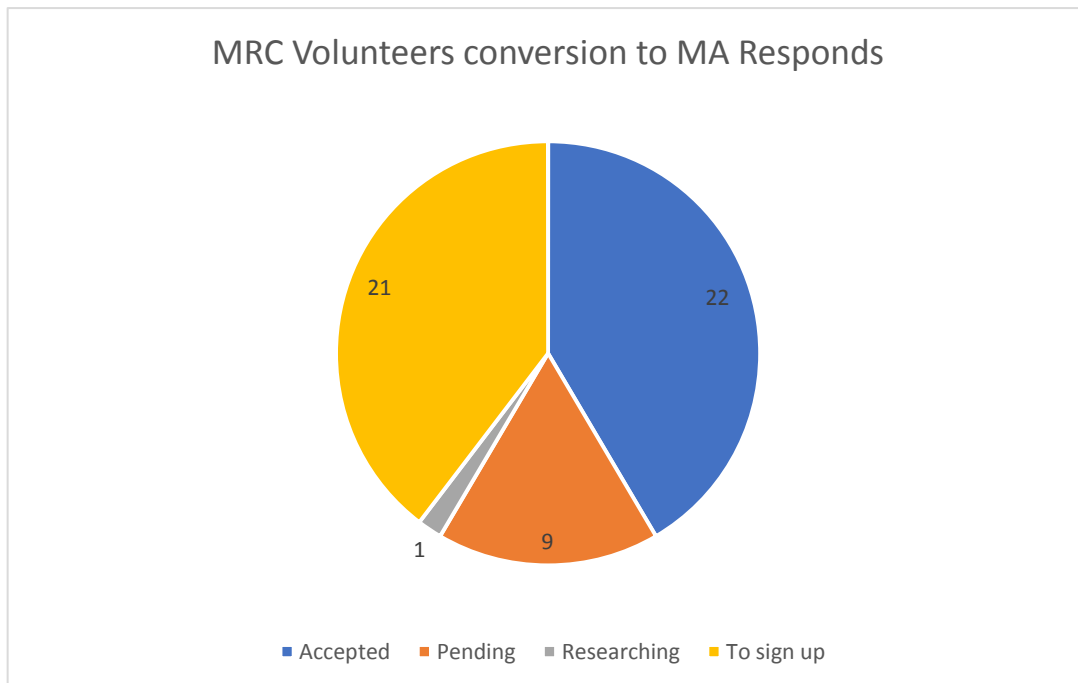


Prepared by: Taleb Abdelrahim

This monthly report is to provide an update on what I have been doing under supervision and help of Tiffany Zike.

Summary of work:

1. Completed and submitted required Budget Period (BP2) EDS Drill Forms.
2. Assist with COVID Vaccine planning:
 - Host an MRC volunteers meeting via Zoom to have discussion about COVID vaccine planning, MRC tasks during clinics, etc.
 - Meeting with key players
 - Regional (NC-8) vaccinations meetings
3. MA Responds transitioning.
 - 53 volunteers between both database (7 new volunteers that have signed up since transition began to MA Responds)



4. Next, continue working on MA Responds transitioning and COVID Vaccine planning.



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



Unit: Public Health Nursing

Month: December 2020

Staff member: Tiffany Zike, Hanna Burnett, Mary Fountaine

Activities and Accomplishments

Activity	Notes
COVID-19 Communicable disease investigation	Primary and Secondary disease investigation and contact tracing. We saw a significant increase in cases in November for contact tracing.
Vaccine preparation	Planning for clinics and hope to start them with First responders in January. Preparing for our use of EDS.
Monitoring town of Needham Staff	Continue to be point of contact for Town of Needham staff with COVID. Working closely with Dept heads and HR to identify and monitor staff isolation and quarantine dates.

Summary overview for the month:

The nursing department continues with weekly Maven trainings and DPH calls. Mary has been working with Per Diem Nurses on training for contact tracing. We saw an even larger increase in cases through December. We have been planning for Emergency Dispensing Sites and getting ready to work with regional partners on vaccine distribution. We have seen a great increase in Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) applications. We held a MRC training in December with education about the vaccine and Public Health's plan to distribute.



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



COMMUNICABLE DISEASES:	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	Apr	MAY	JUN	T21	T20
Amebiasis				1									1	1
Chickungunya													0	1
BABESIOSIS	2	1											3	4
CAMPYLOBACTER	2	1	2		1	1							7	15
COVID 19 Confirmed	33	9	23	44	127	321							557	327
Confirmed Adjusted	34	10	27	44	133								248	331
COVID Probable	13	5	1	8	8	26							61	37
Probable Adjusted	23	9	1	1	7								41	
COVID Contacts	16	27	34	73	247	264							661	242
CPVID Suspect	1	8	5	18	5	9							46	15
CRYPTOSPORIDIUM	0					1							1	0
Cyclosporiasis	0												0	5
HGA	1	1											2	6
Enterovirus	0												0	1
GIARDIASIS													0	4
Haemophilus Influenza						1							1	0
HEPATITIS B	2			1		1							4	3
HEPATITIS C					1	2							3	8
HGA	1	1											2	6
Influenza						1							1	51
Invasive Bacterial Infection				1									1	1
Legionellosis													0	2
Listeriosis													0	0
LYME	4	9	5	8	1	1							28	38
MEASLES													0	0
MENINGITIS													0	1
Meningitis(Aseptic)													0	0
Mumps													0	2
Noro Virus													0	2
PERTUSSIS													0	2
RMSF(Rocky Mt Spotted Fever)													0	1
SALMONELLA					1								1	1
SHIGA TOXIN													0	0
SHIGELLOSIS	1												1	0
STREP Group B		1											1	2
STREP (GAS)													0	3
STREP PNEUMONIAE													0	0
TUBERCULOSIS	0	0											0	0
Latent TB													0	0
Varicella													0	4
Vibrio													0	0



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



West Nile virus														0	0
TOTAL DISEASES														1671	522
Revoked/Suspect Diseases Investigated					1									1	6
Contact Investigation														0	0

ANIMAL TO HUMAN BITES	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	Apr	MAY	JUN	T21	T20
DOG	1	5	1	1	0								8	8
CAT													0	1
BAT	1	1	1										3	4
SKUNK													0	0
RACCOON		1											1	0
other													0	0
TOTAL BITES													12	13

IMMUNIZATIONS	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	FY21	FY20
B12			1	1	1	1							4	14
Flu (Seasonal)			288	877	45	11							1221	787
Hep B													0	0
Polio													0	0
TDap													0	10
Varicella													0	1

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	FY21	FY20
Food Pantry													0	10
Friends													0	10
Gift of Warmth				(1) 316.60	(2) 657.67	(10) \$4,874.73							\$5,849.00	8(\$2114)
Good Neighbor													0	1
Park & Rec													0	3
Self Help													0	15
Donations:														
Residents: \$200.00														



COVID Update

Select Board

January 12, 2021

Three metrics inform when we should reopen/close schools

1. **Average Daily Cases** in Needham and surrounding areas
Needham has a 37.4 average that is trending up
2. **Positivity Rates** (14-day average) below 5% using state, county, and relative rate of change in the average:
Needham's rate is 3.45% and trending up
3. **NSP Health & Safety Protocols Adherence** including prevalence of student mask wearing, social distancing, hygiene/hand washing and meeting standards for proper ventilation of schools and classrooms.

Local, County, and State Level Data published 1/7/21

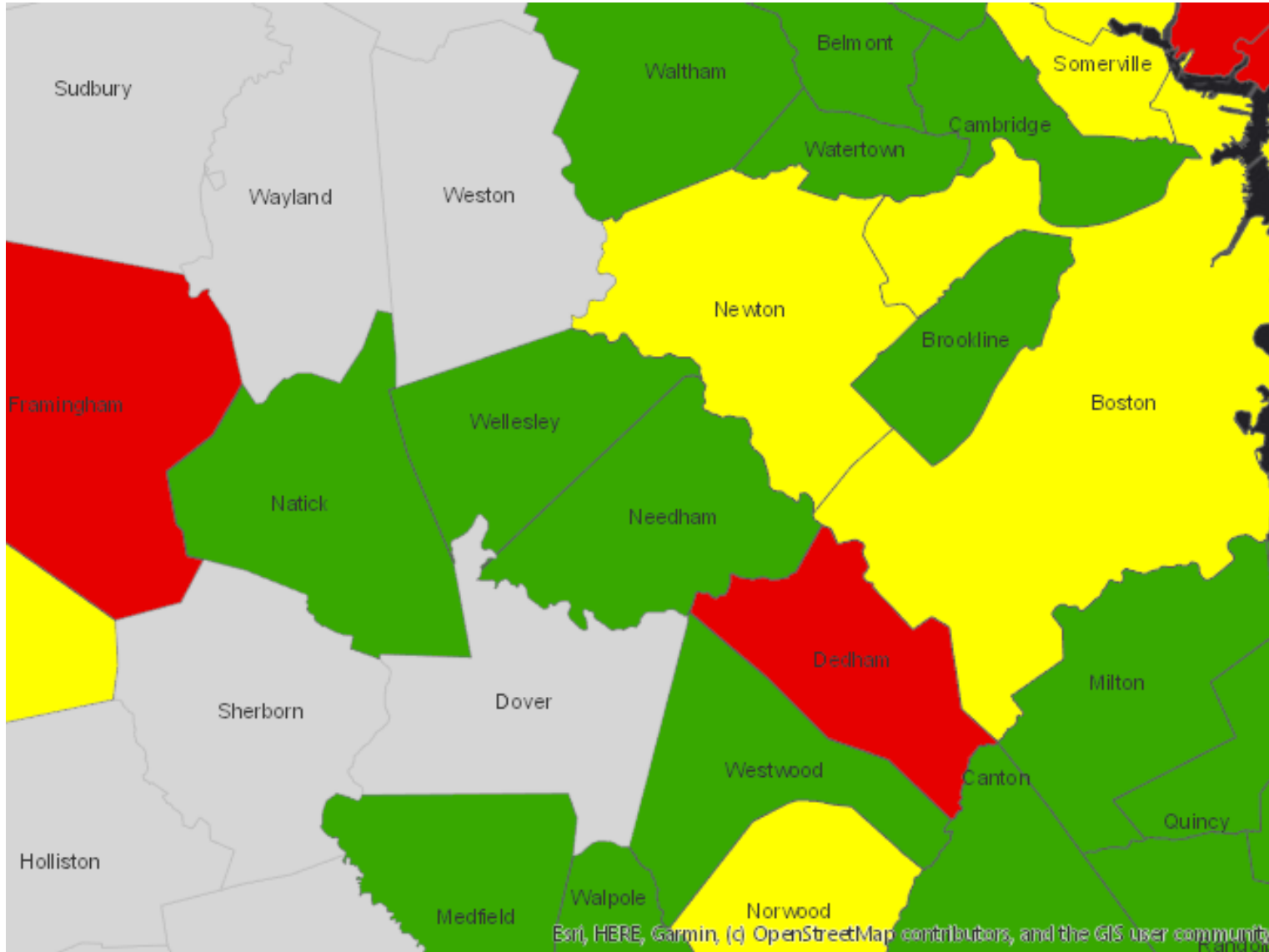
Data from 12/20 to 1/2

Area and Risk Level		Avg. Daily Incident Rate per 100K <i>(last 14 days)</i>	Percent Positive Tests <i>(last 14 days)</i>
Massachusetts	●	61.1 ↗	7.71% ↗
Needham	●	37.4 ↗	3.45% ↗
Middlesex County	●	52.6 ↗	6.15% ↗
Framingham	●	56.3 ↘	7.61% ↗
Newton	●	29.4 ↗	3.08% ↗
Norfolk County	●	50.8 ↗	6.70% ↗
Dedham	●	47.5 ↘	5.95% ↗
Norwood	●	59.3 ↘	7.45% ↗
Suffolk County	●	64.4 ↗	6.70% ↗
Boston	●	57.4 ↗	5.94% ↗

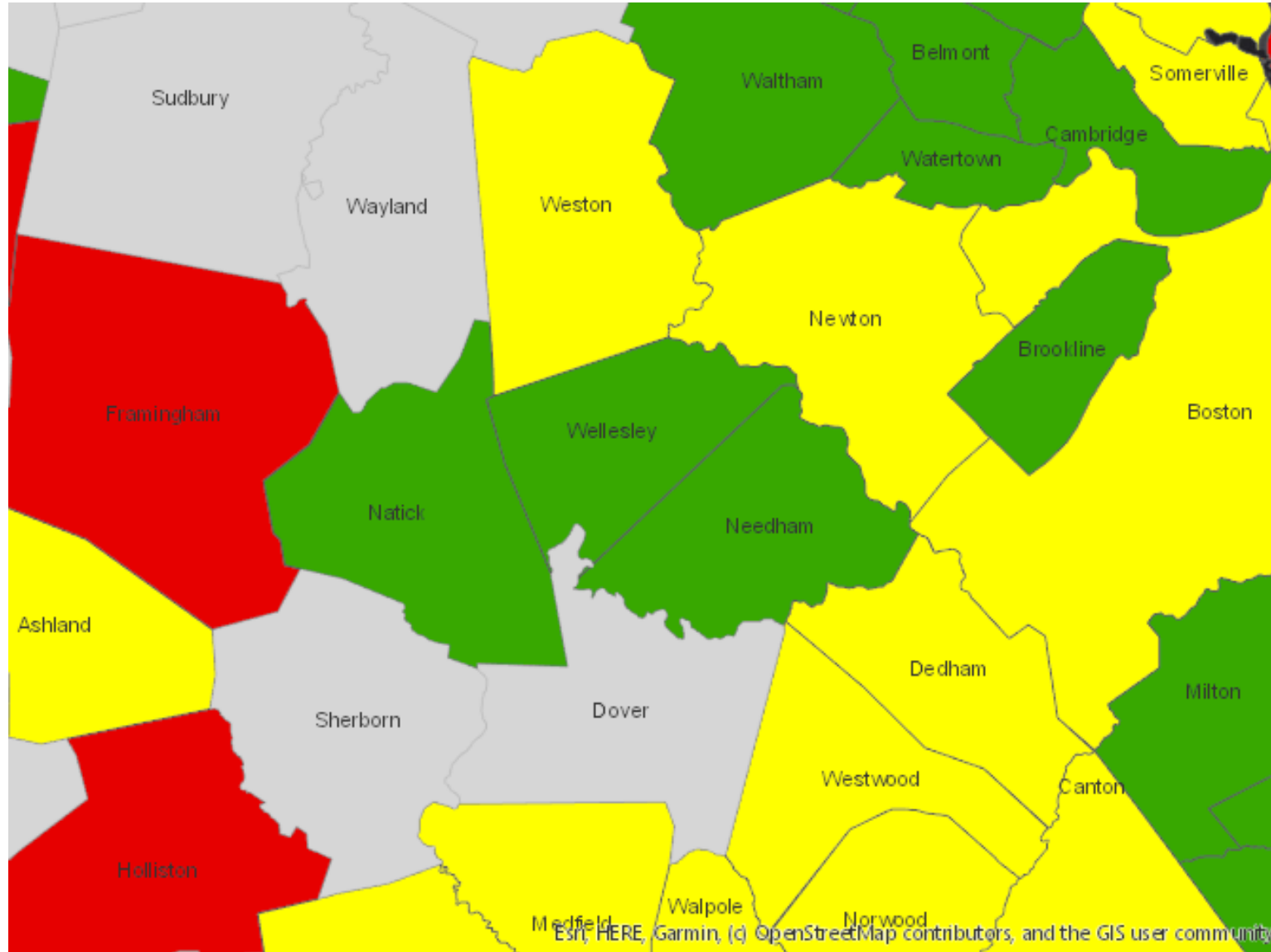
New State Criteria for Community Risk, effective 11/6/20

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

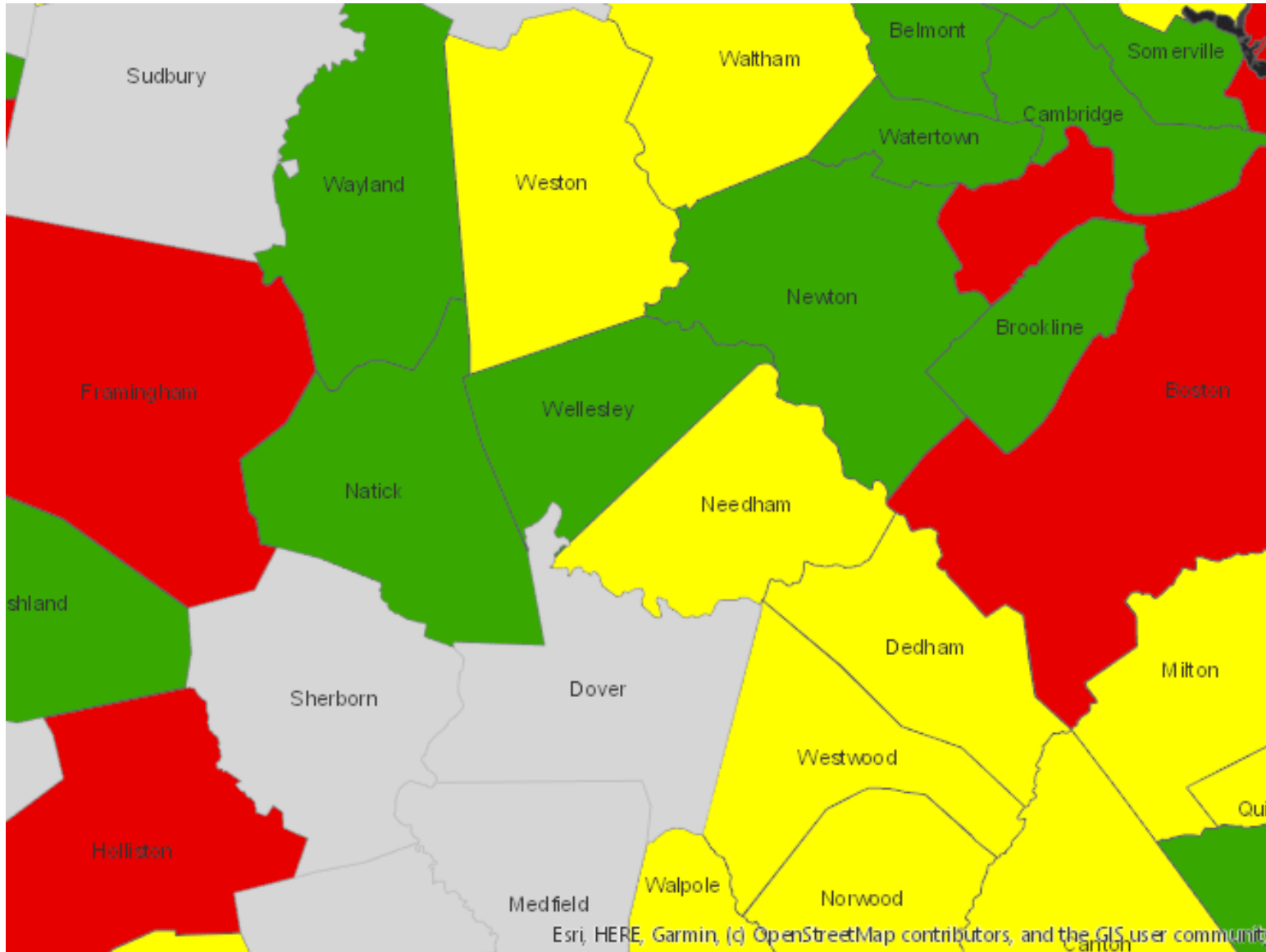
At a Glance – Needham and Surrounding Areas – Data Published 9/16/20



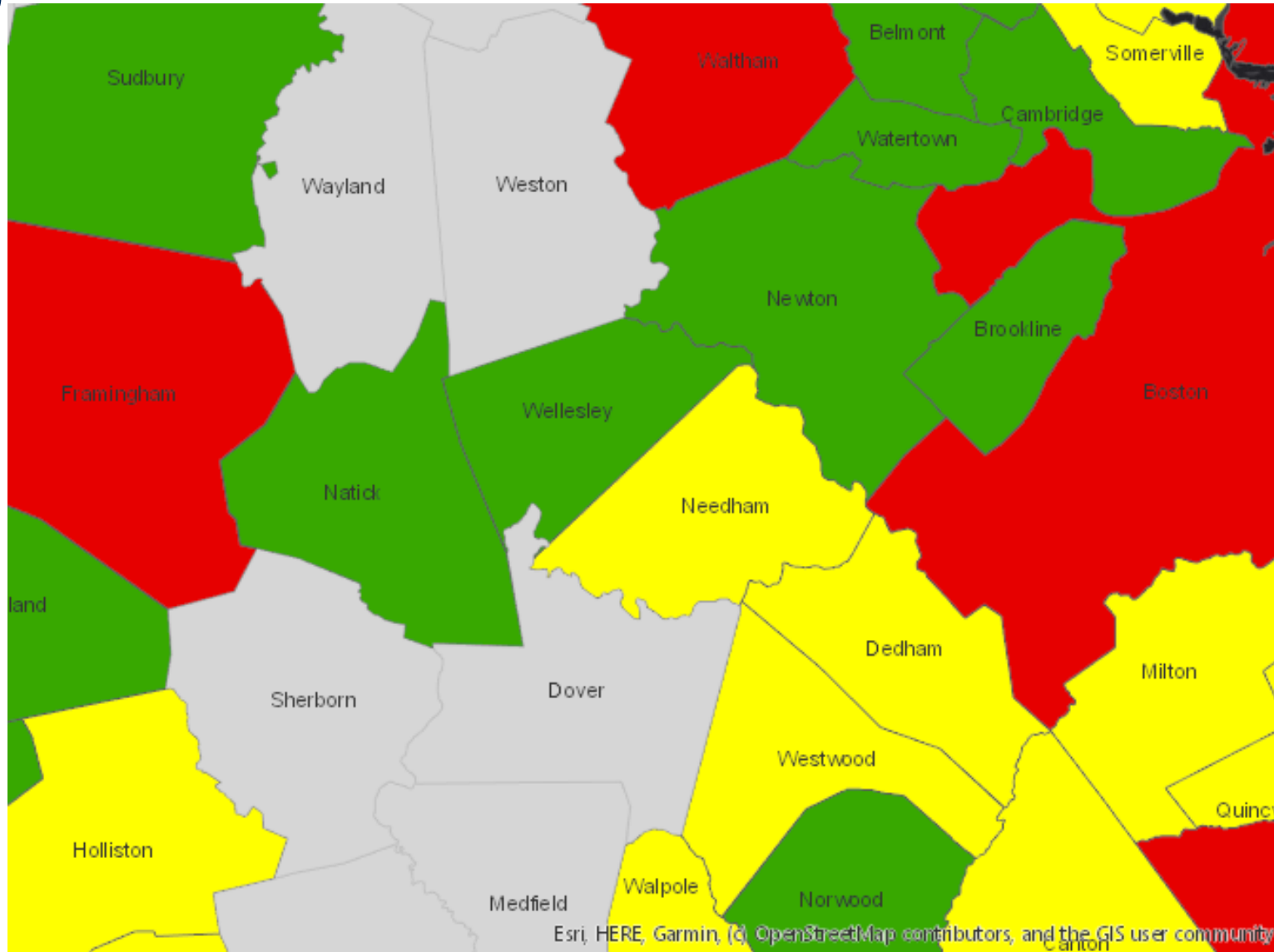
At a Glance – Needham and Surrounding Areas – Data Published 9/23/20



At a Glance – Needham and Surrounding Areas – Data Published 9/30/20



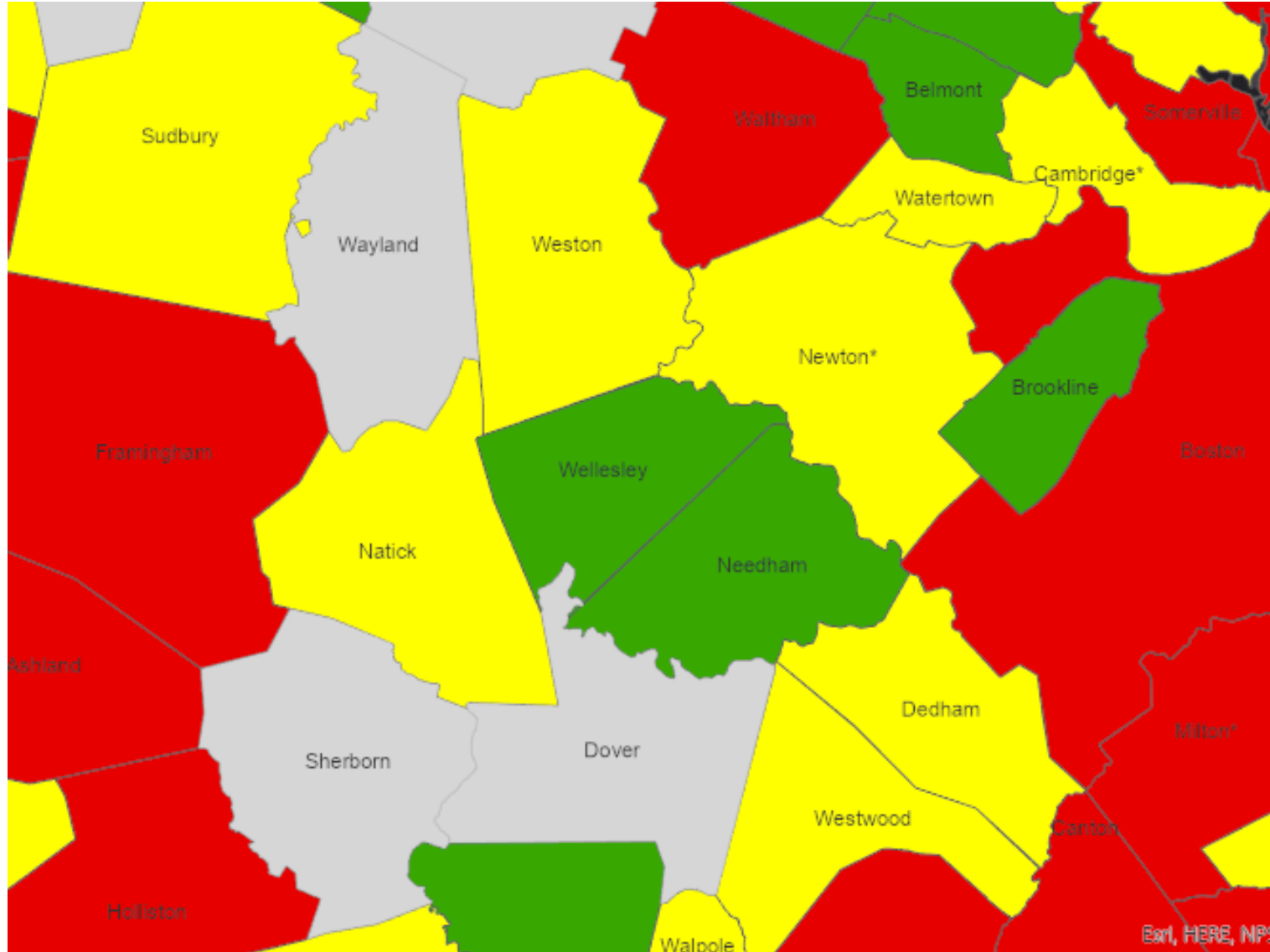
At a Glance – Needham and Surrounding Areas – Data Published 10/07/20



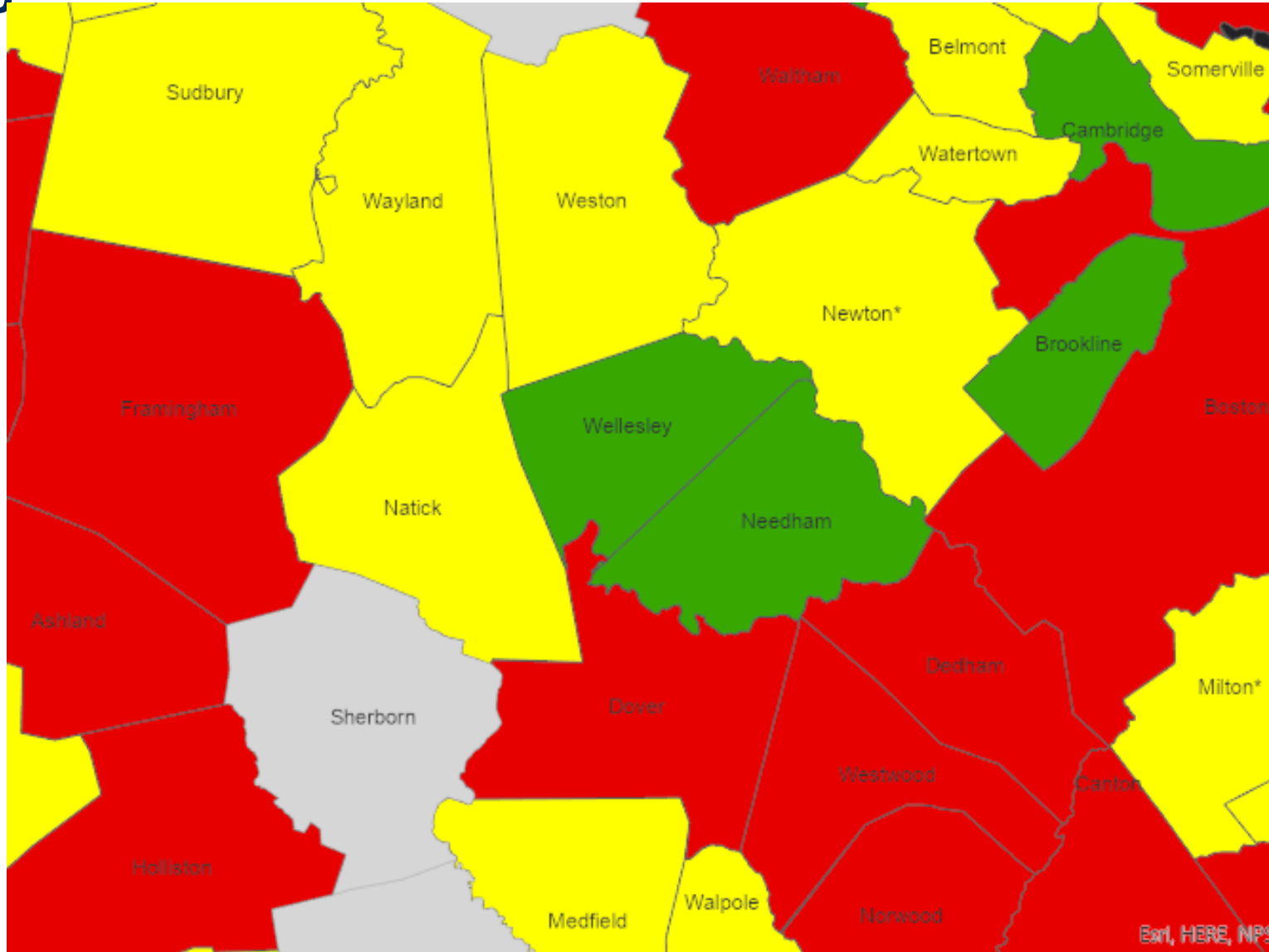
10/14/20



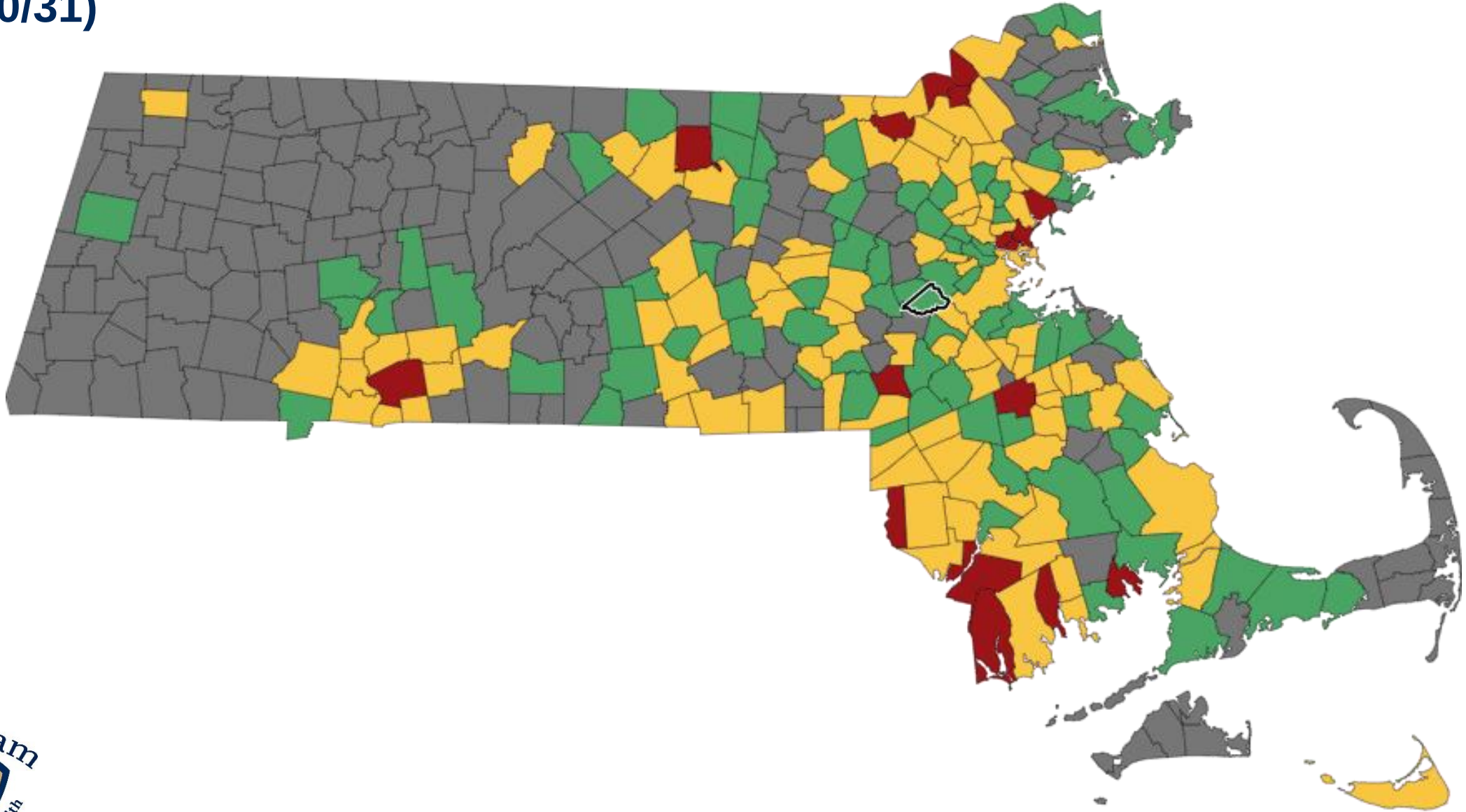
At a Glance – Needham and Surrounding Areas – Data Published 10/22/20



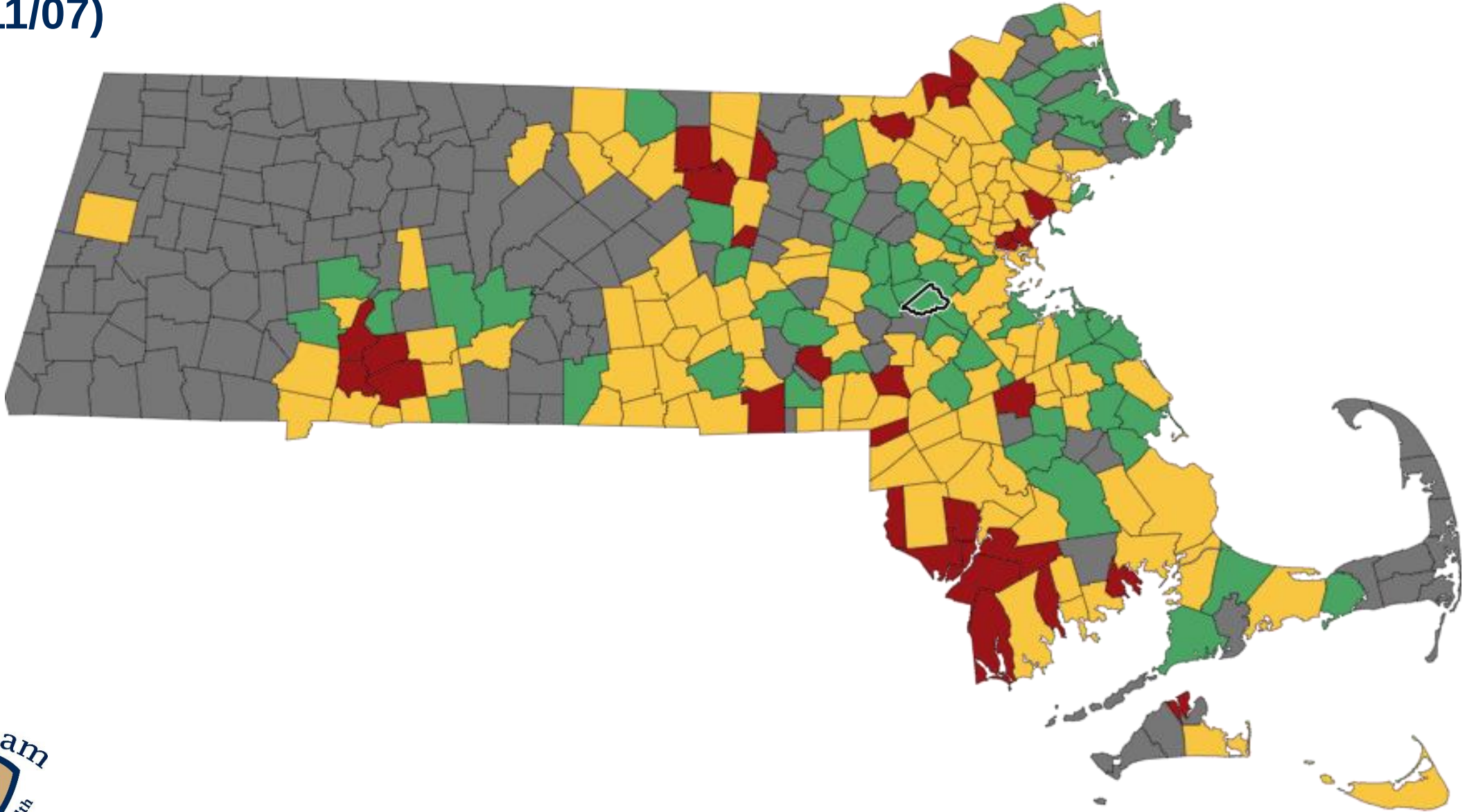
At a Glance – Needham and Surrounding Areas – Data Published 10/29/20



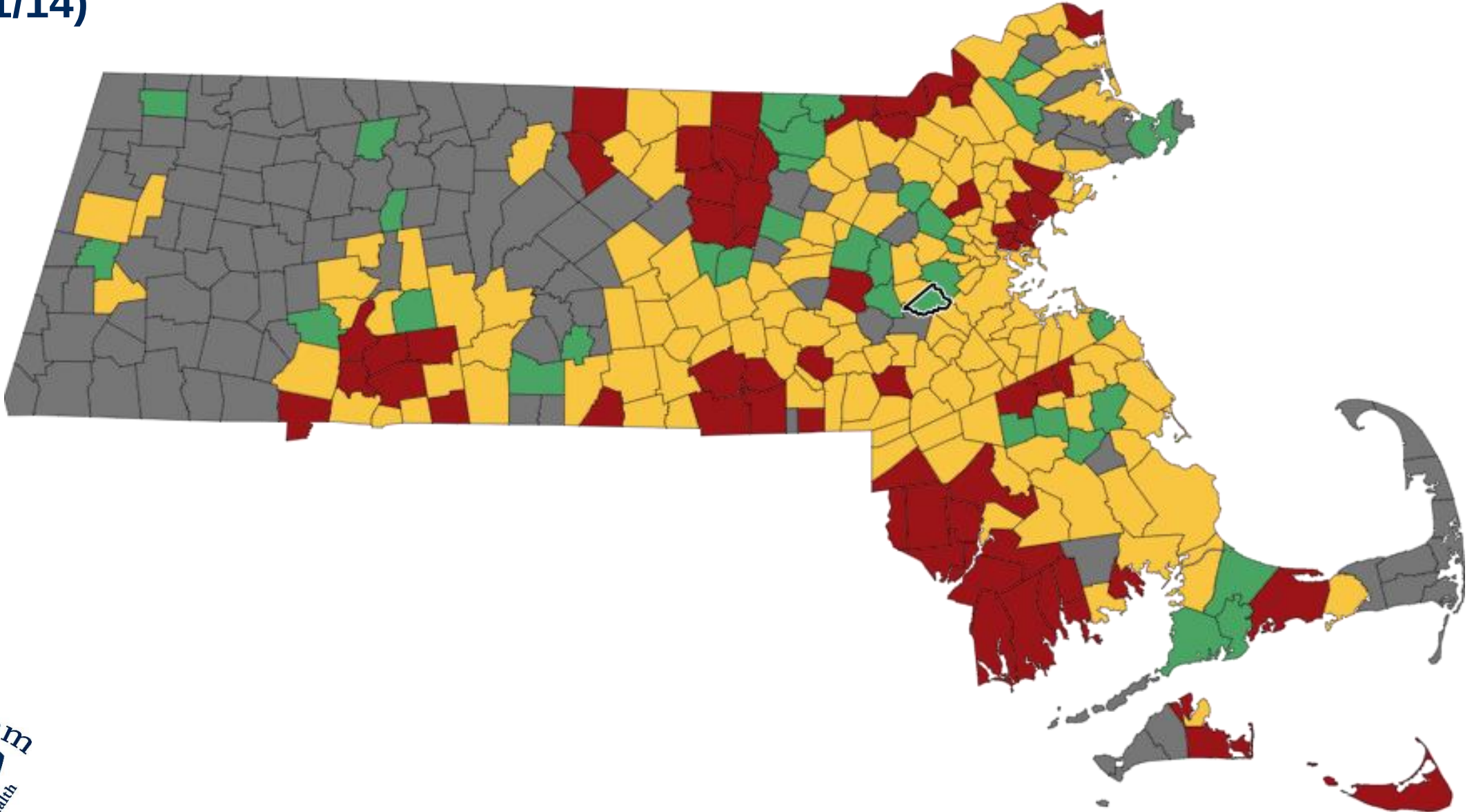
Statewide Risk Map– Data Published 11/5/20 (drawn from 10/18 to 10/31)



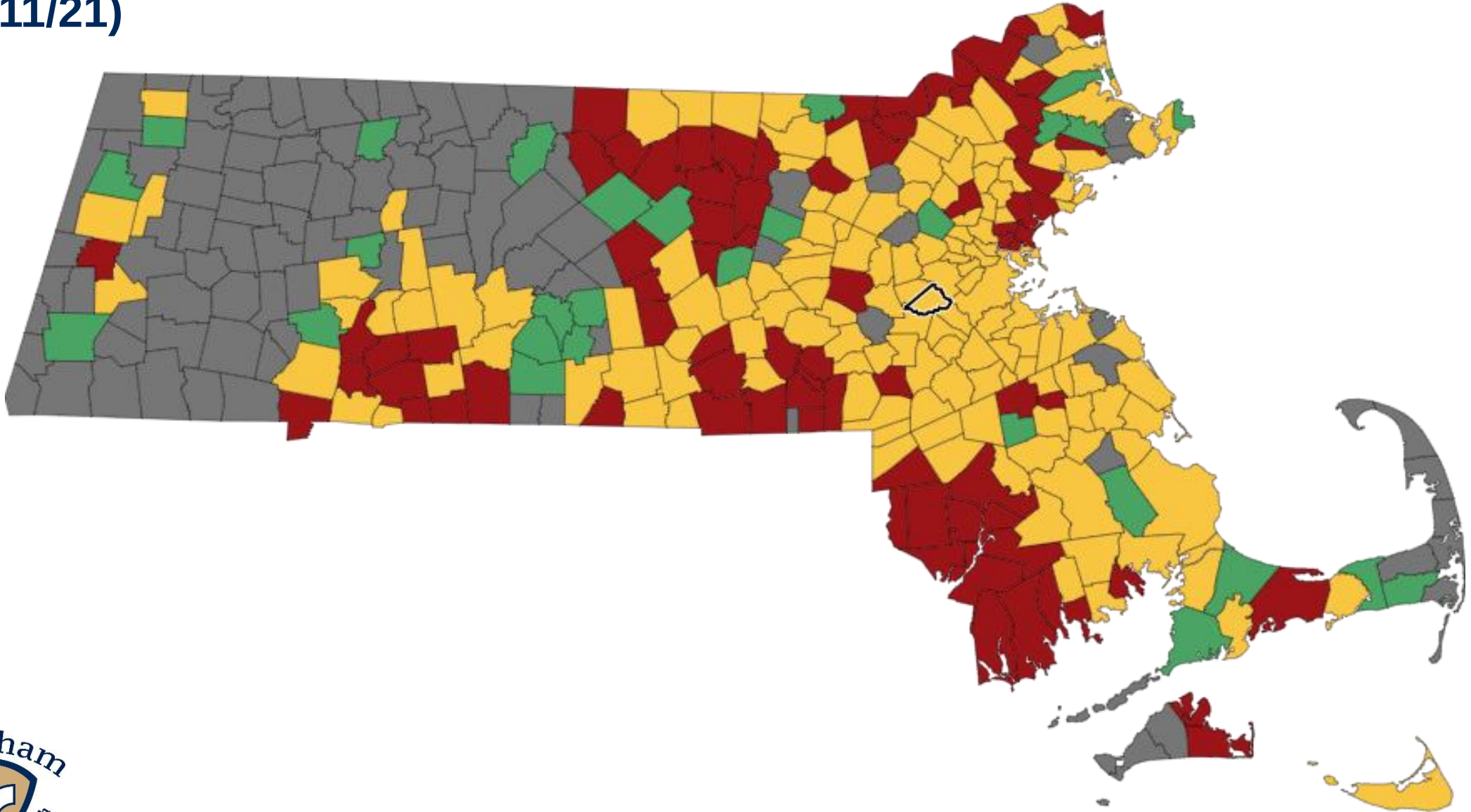
Statewide Risk Map– Data Published 11/12/20 (drawn from 10/25 to 11/07)



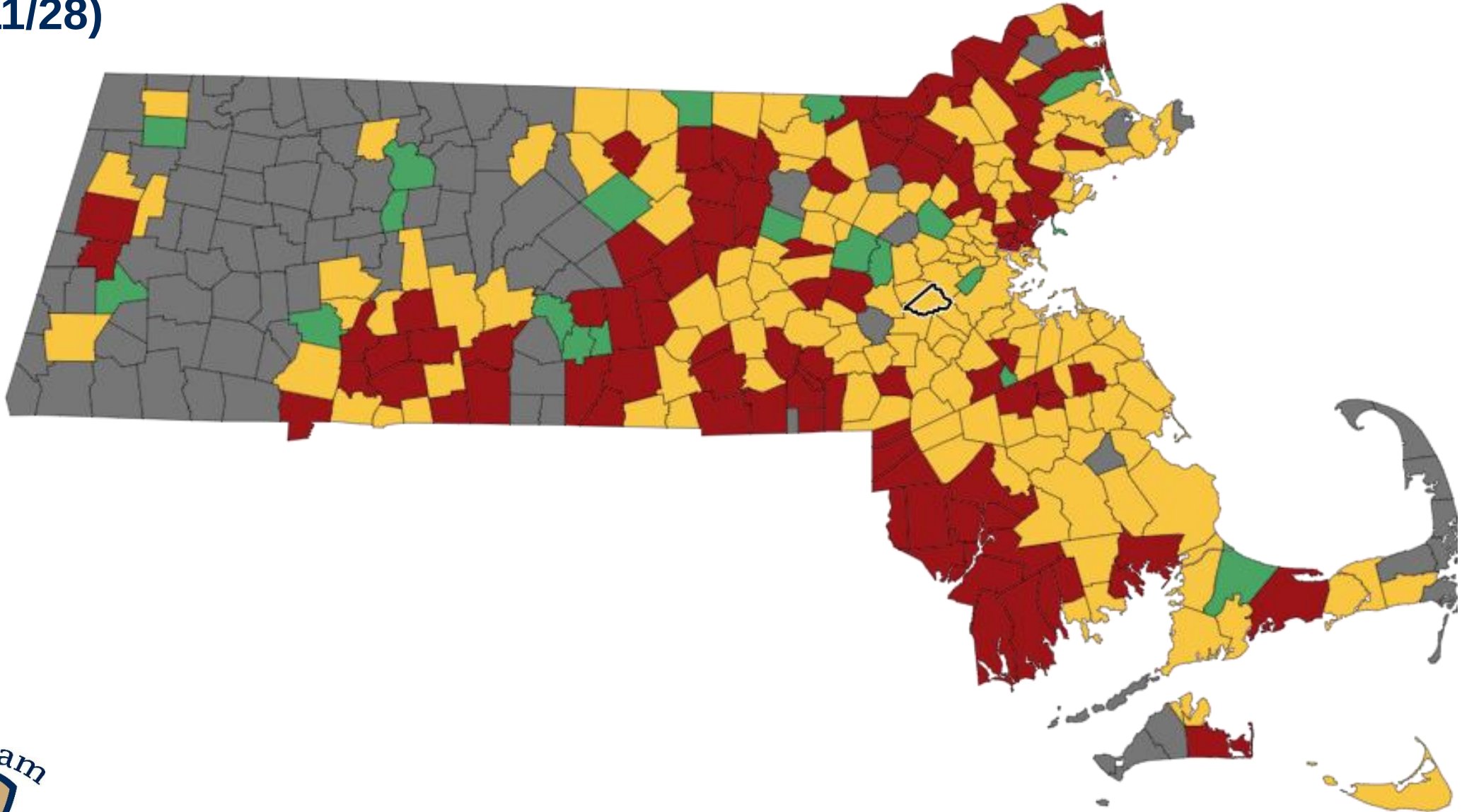
Statewide Risk Map– Data Published 11/19/20 (drawn from 11/01 to 11/14)



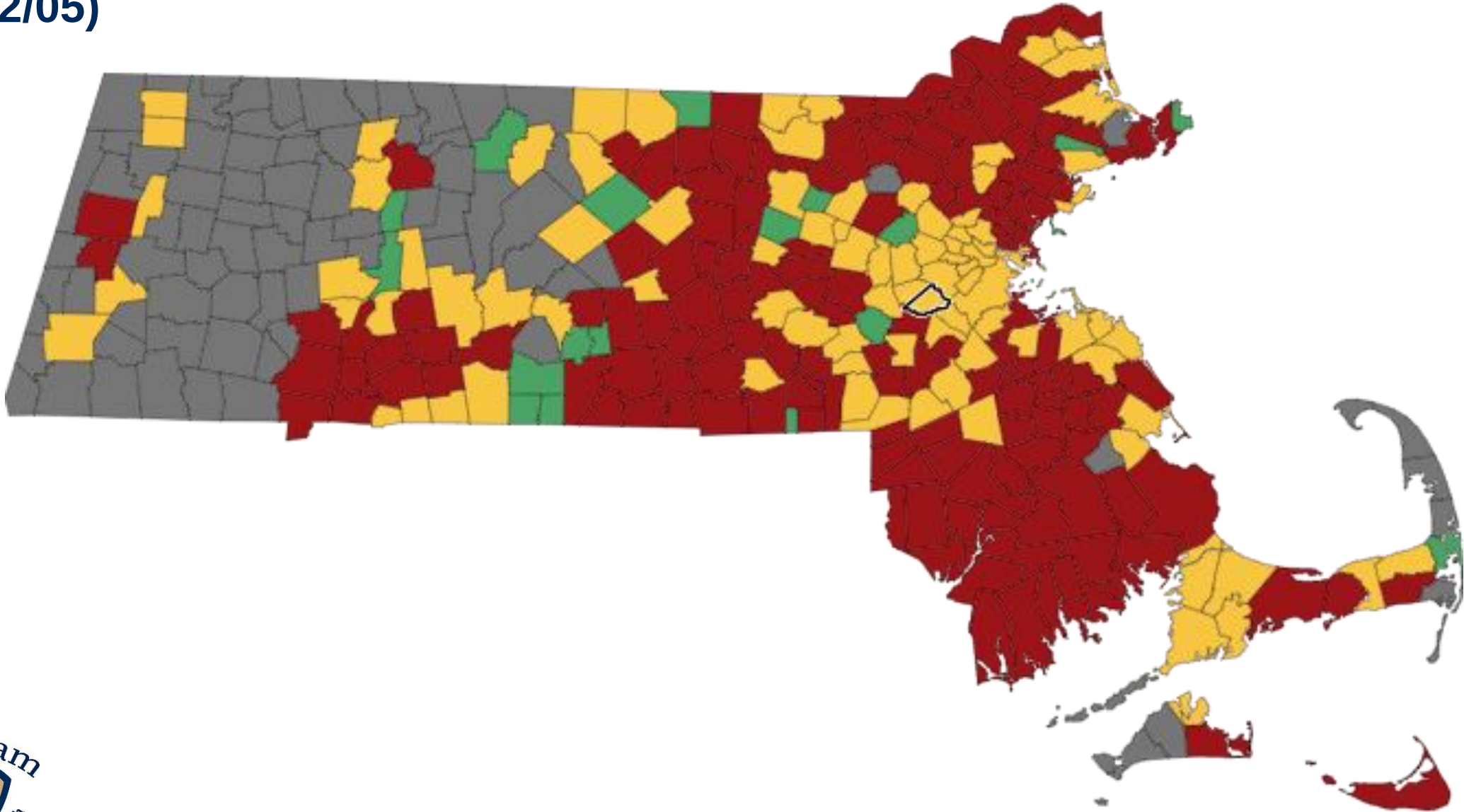
Statewide Risk Map– Data Published 11/26/20 (drawn from 11/08 to 11/21)



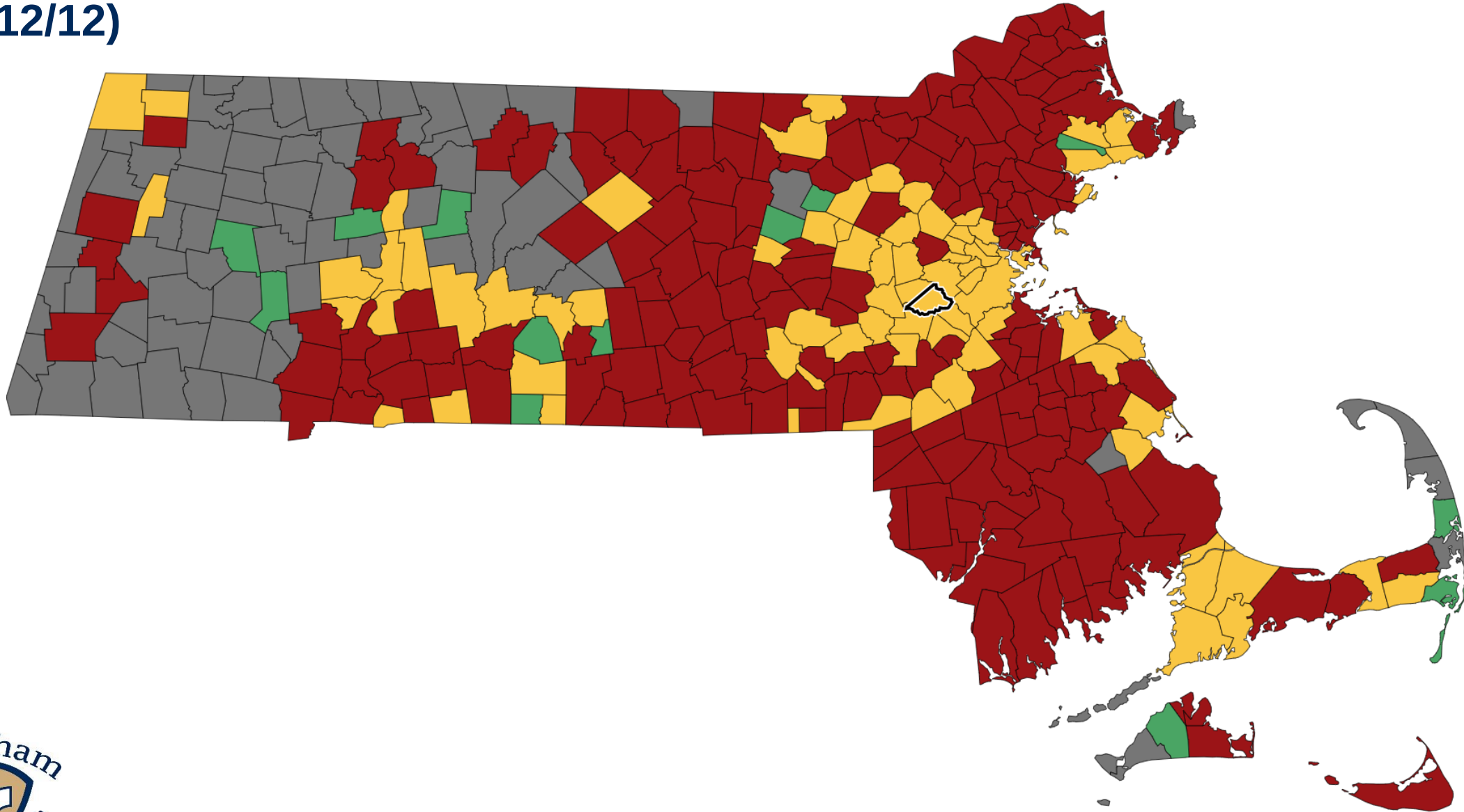
Statewide Risk Map– Data Published 12/03/20 (drawn from 11/15 to 11/28)



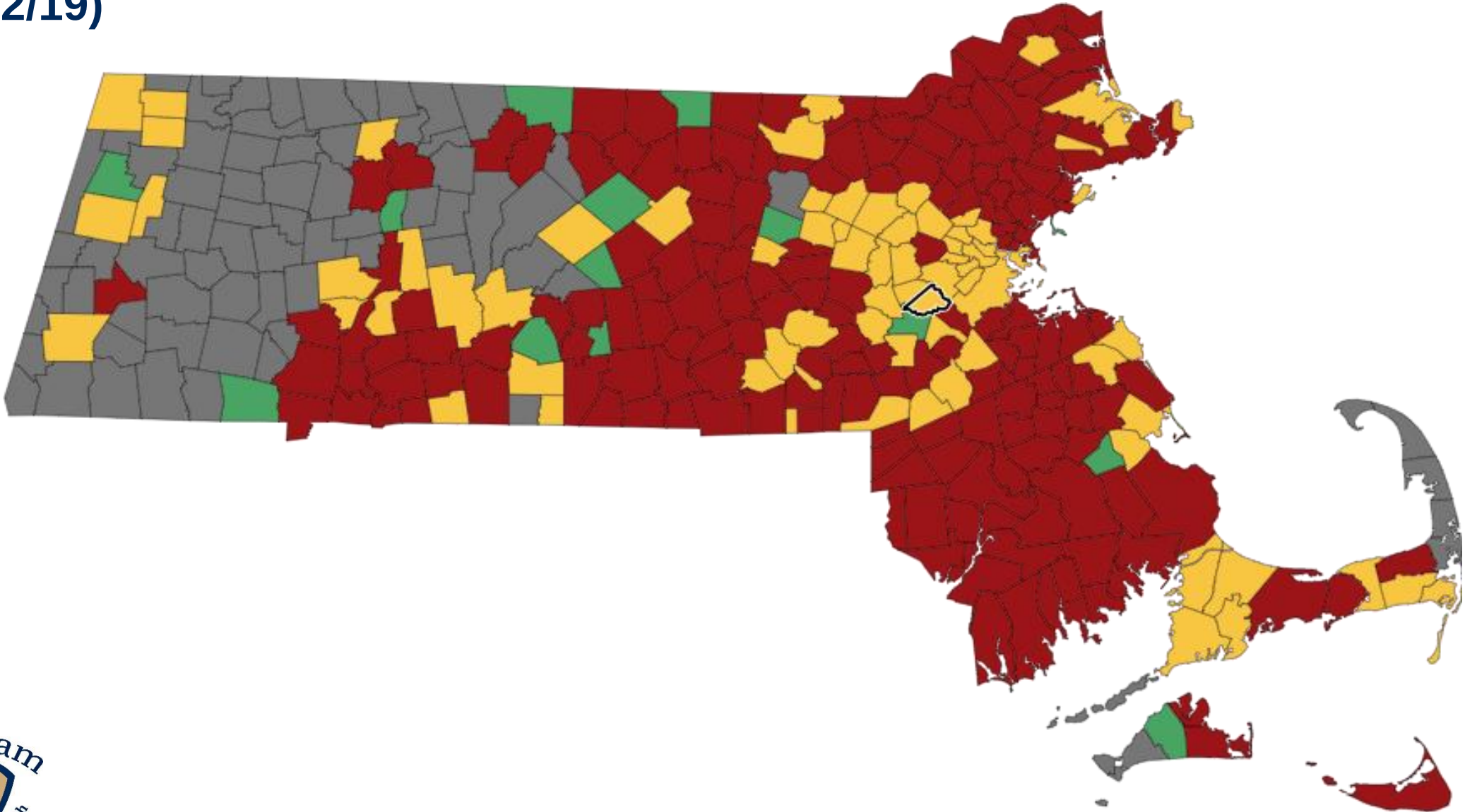
Statewide Risk Map– Data Published 12/10/20 (drawn from 11/22 to 12/05)



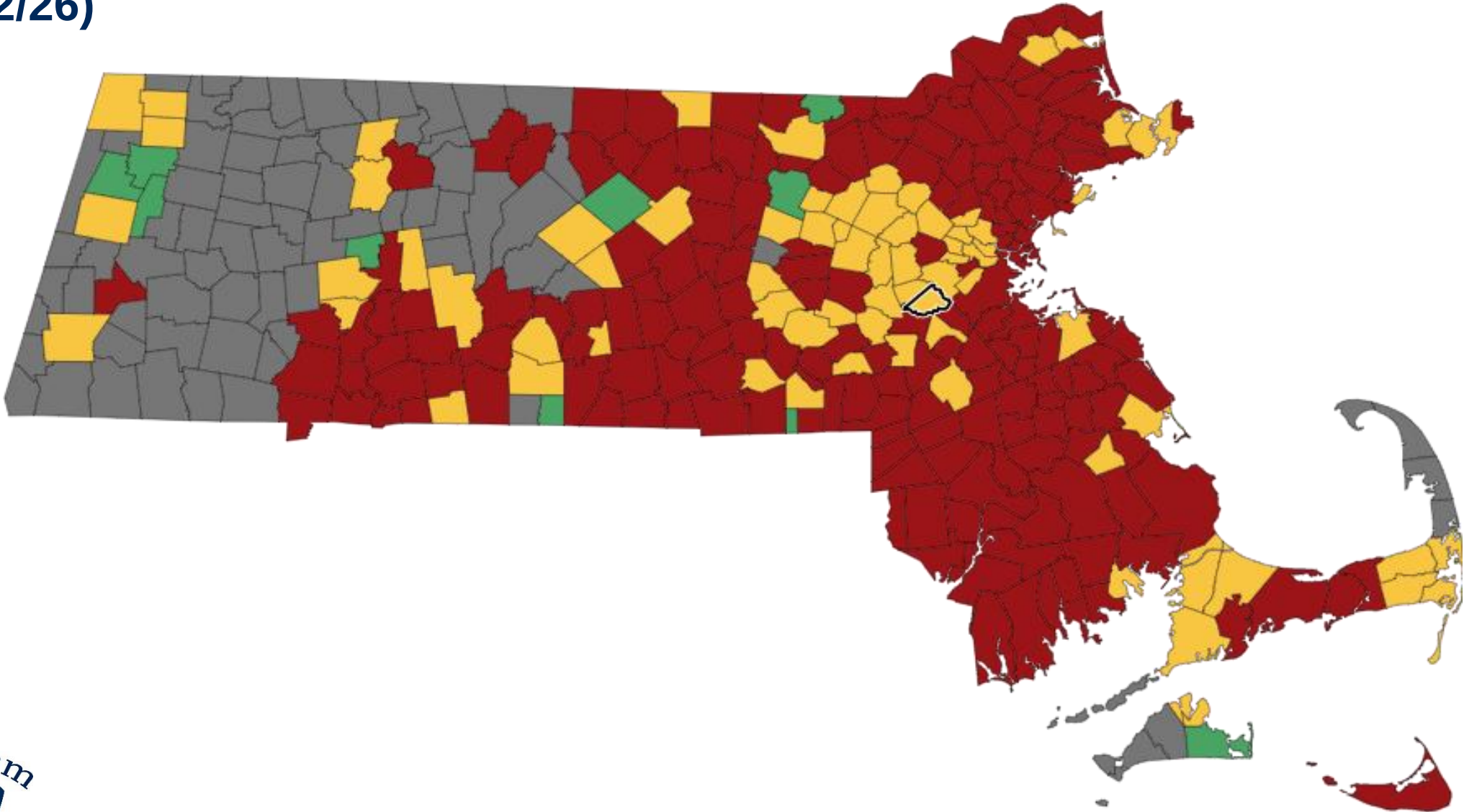
Statewide Risk Map– Data Published 12/17/20 (drawn from 11/29 to 12/12)



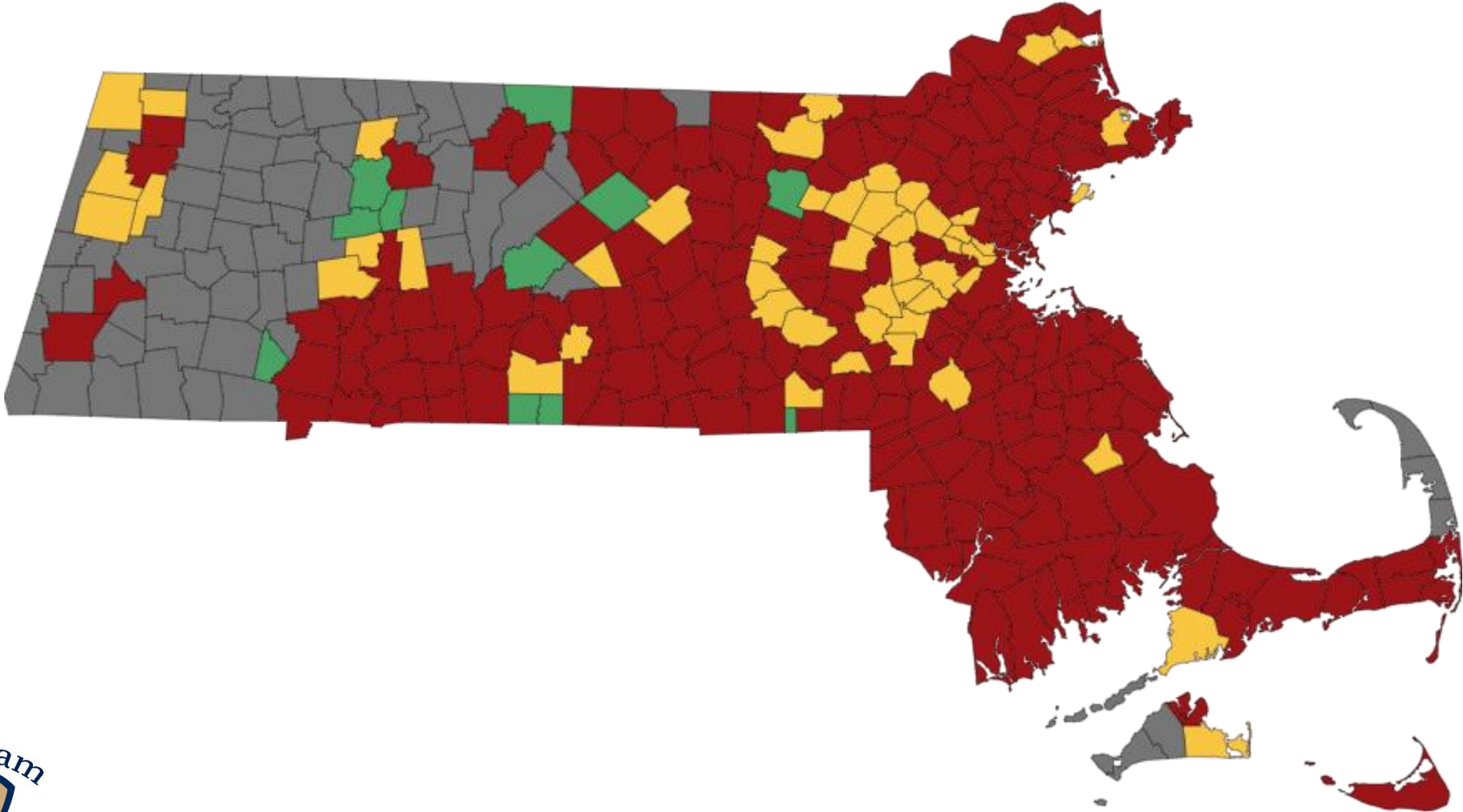
Statewide Risk Map– Data Published 12/24/20 (drawn from 12/06 to 12/19)



Statewide Risk Map– Data Published 12/31/20 (drawn from 12/13 to 12/26)

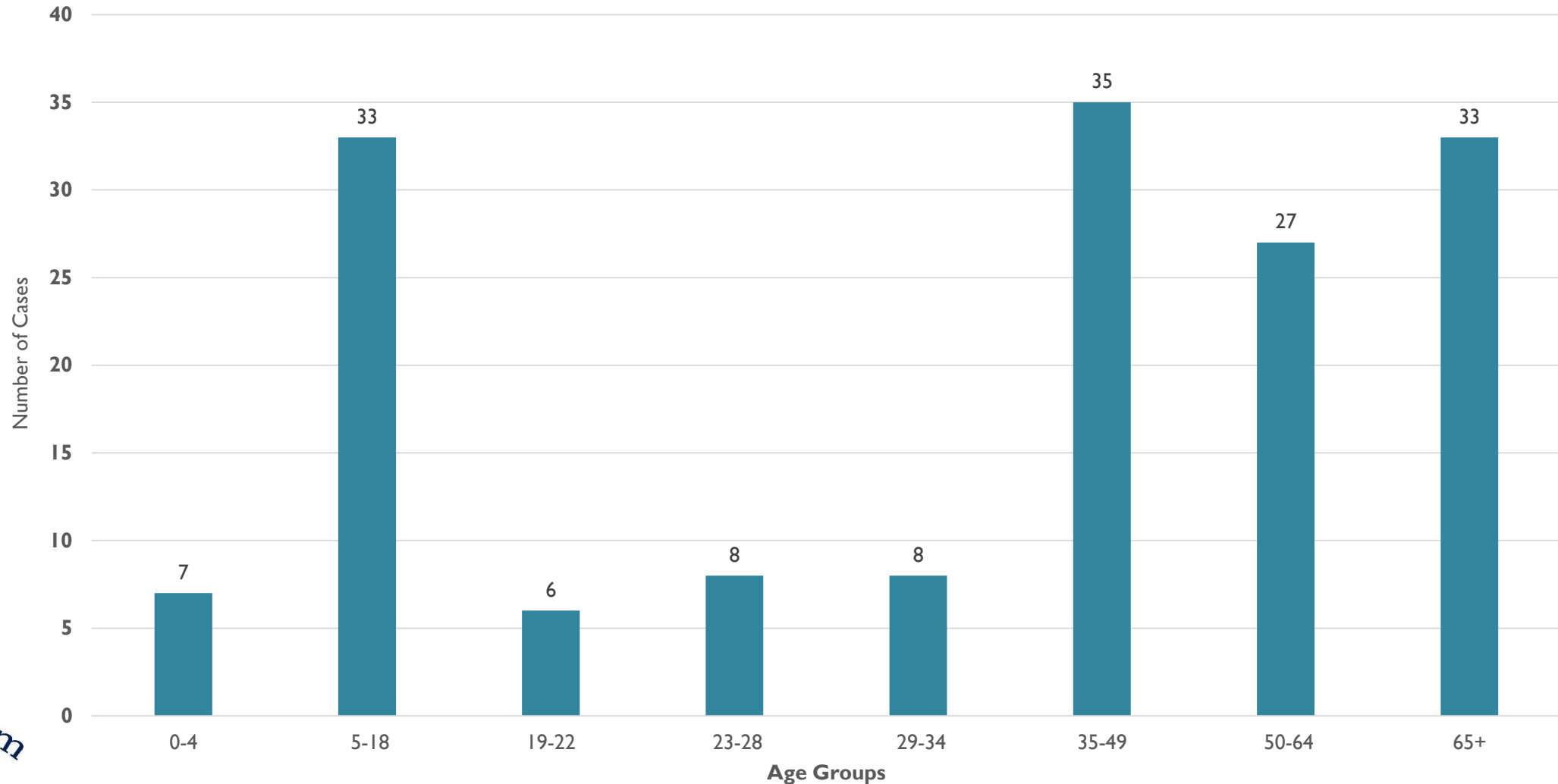


Statewide Risk Map– Data Published 1/7/21 (drawn from 12/20 to 1/2)



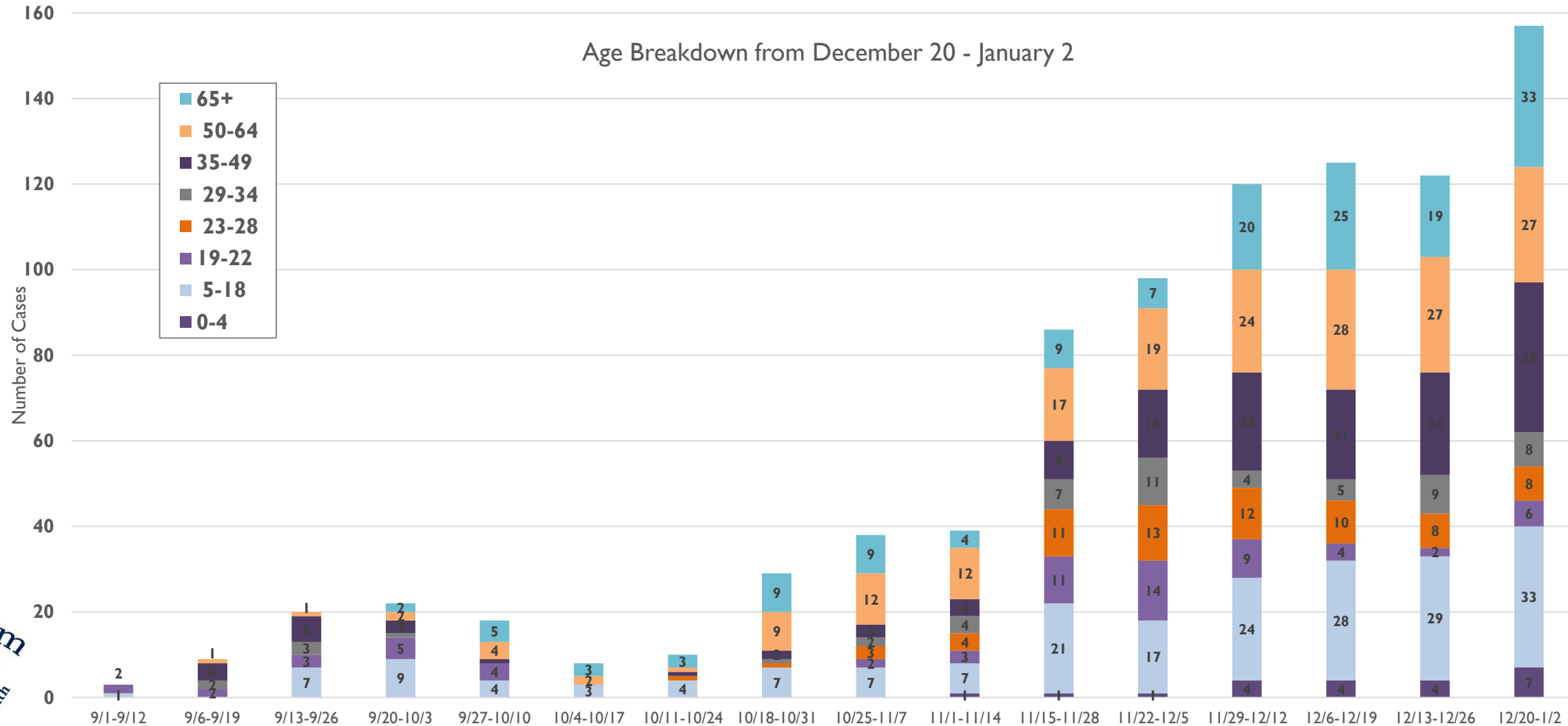
Age Breakdown: December 20 – January 2

Data published 1/07/21



Age Breakdown: Academic Year To Date

Data published 1/07/21

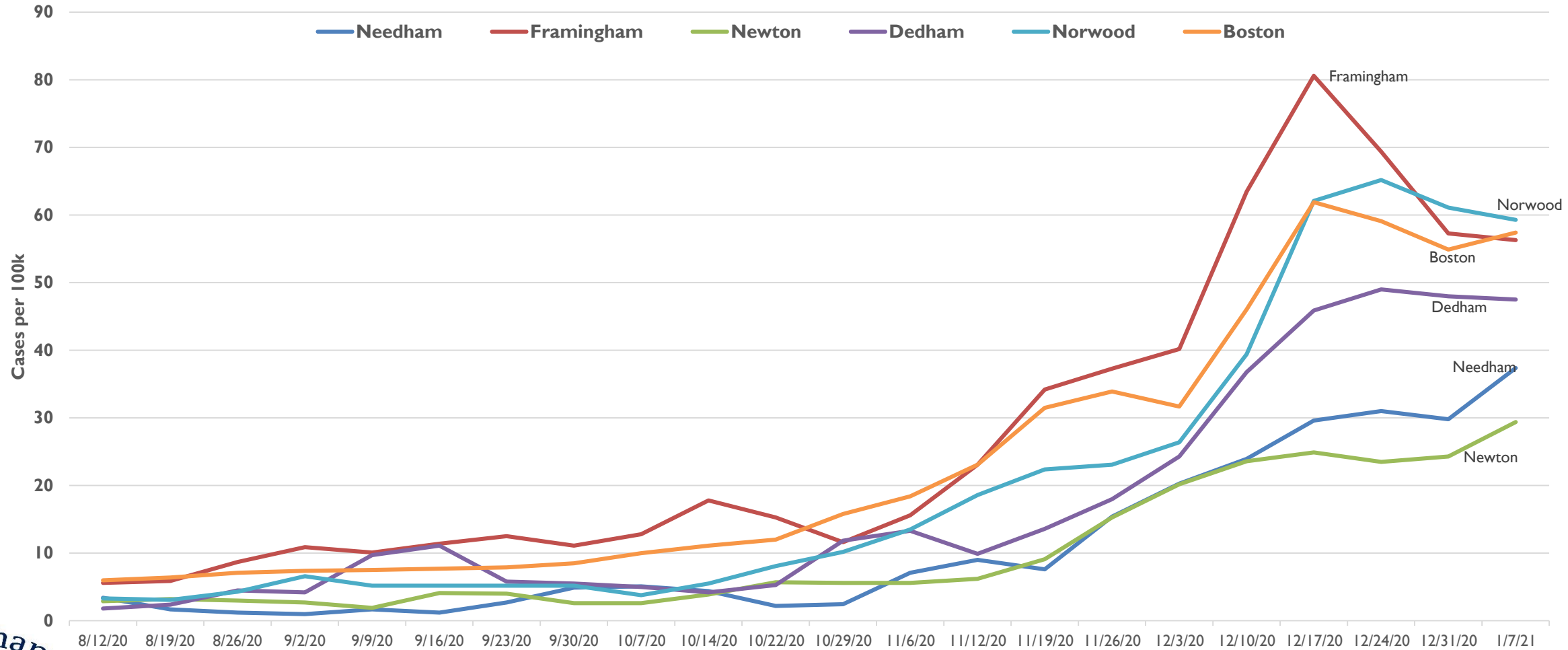


Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Average Daily Cases per 100K

Data published 1/07/21

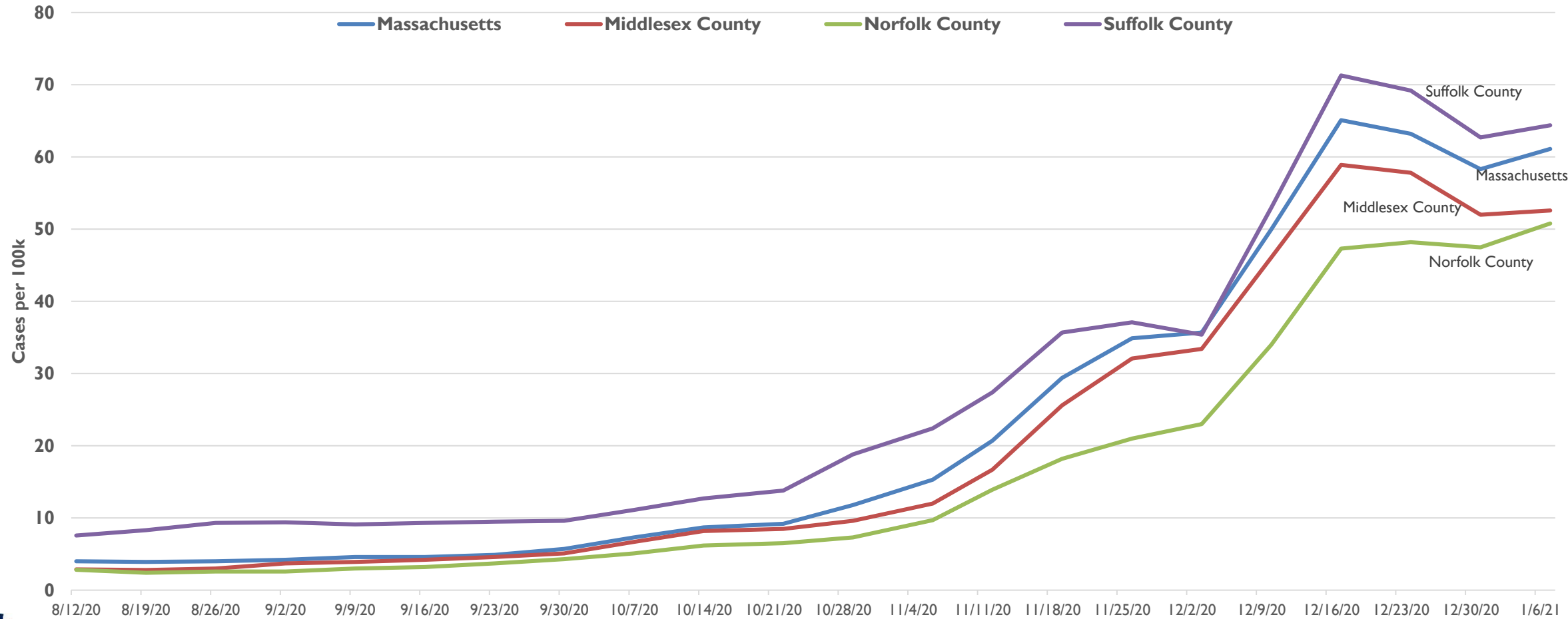
Average Daily Incident Rate per 100K: City & Towns



Average Daily Cases per 100K

Data published 1/07/21

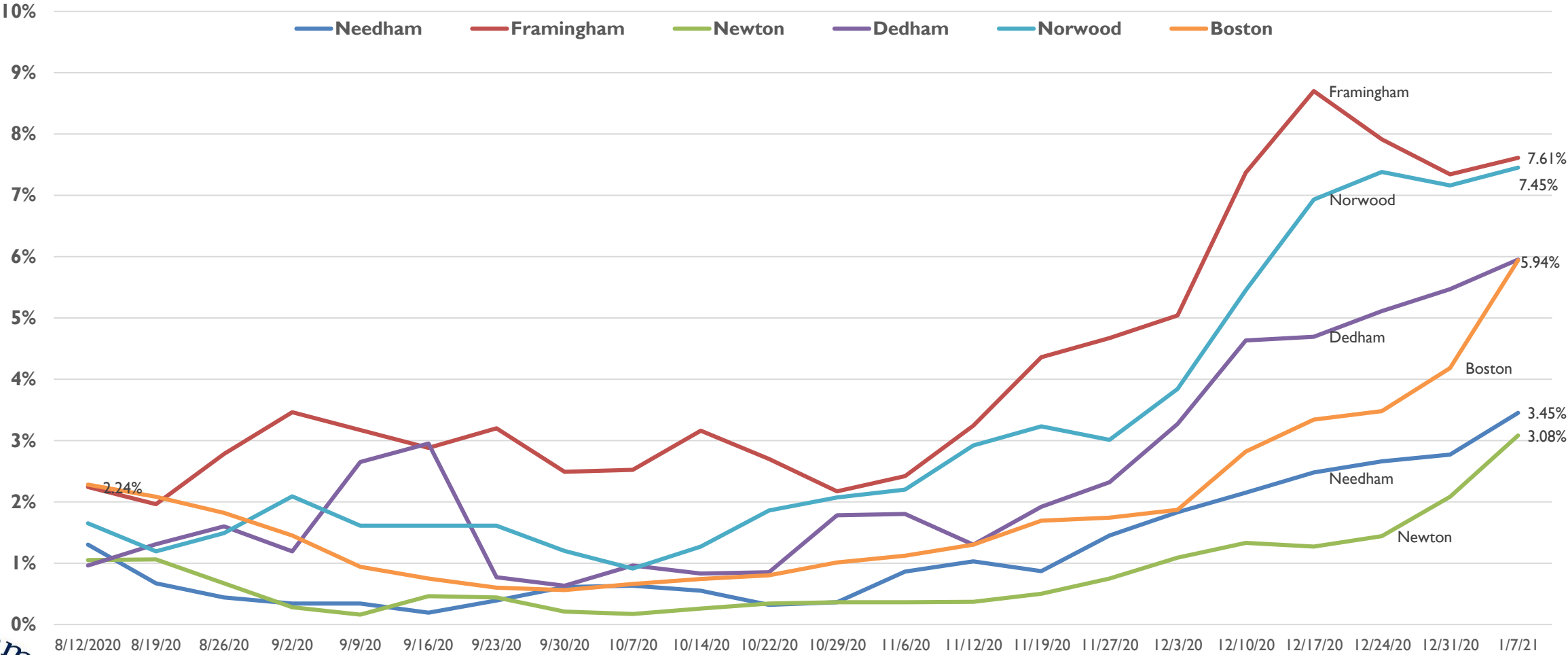
Average Daily Incident Rate per 100K: State & Counties



State Calculated Positive Testing Rate

Data published 1/07/21

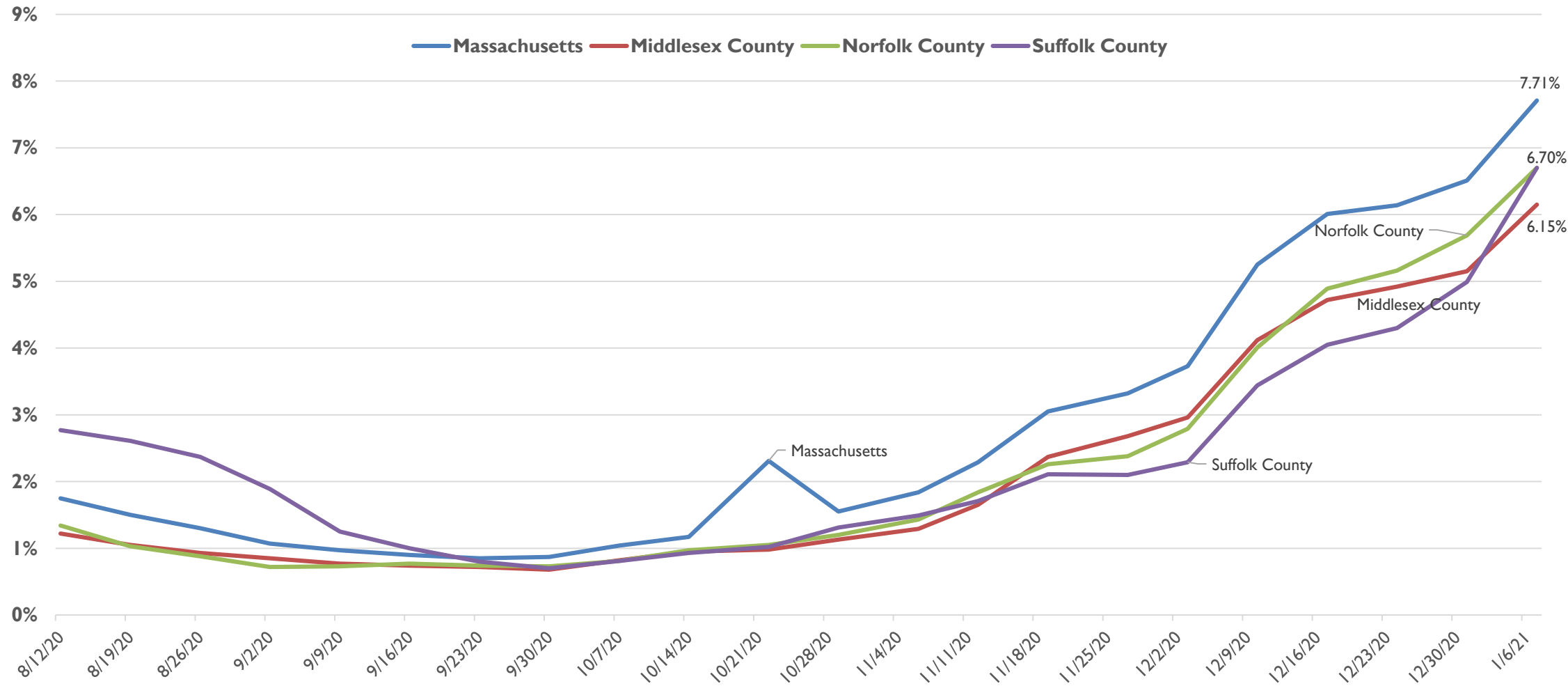
Percent Positive: City & Towns



State Calculated Positive Testing Rate

Data published 1/07/21

Percent Positive: Statewide and by county



Needham COVID-19 Case Clusters

December 2020

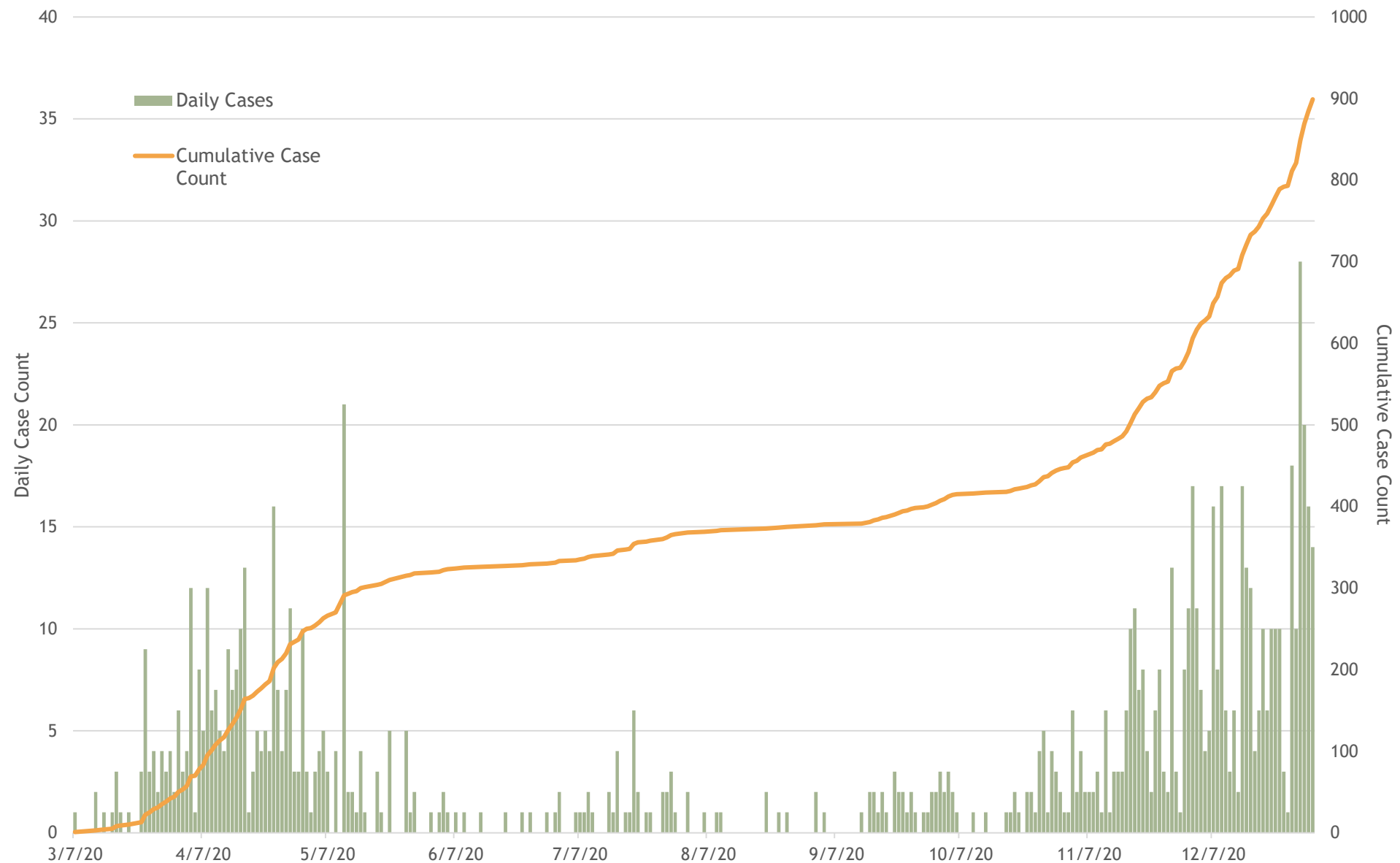
Cluster Type	# of Clusters	# of Needham Cases
Household	62	176
Day Cares	3	3
Congregate Care	3	39
Sports	1	0
TOTAL	66	218



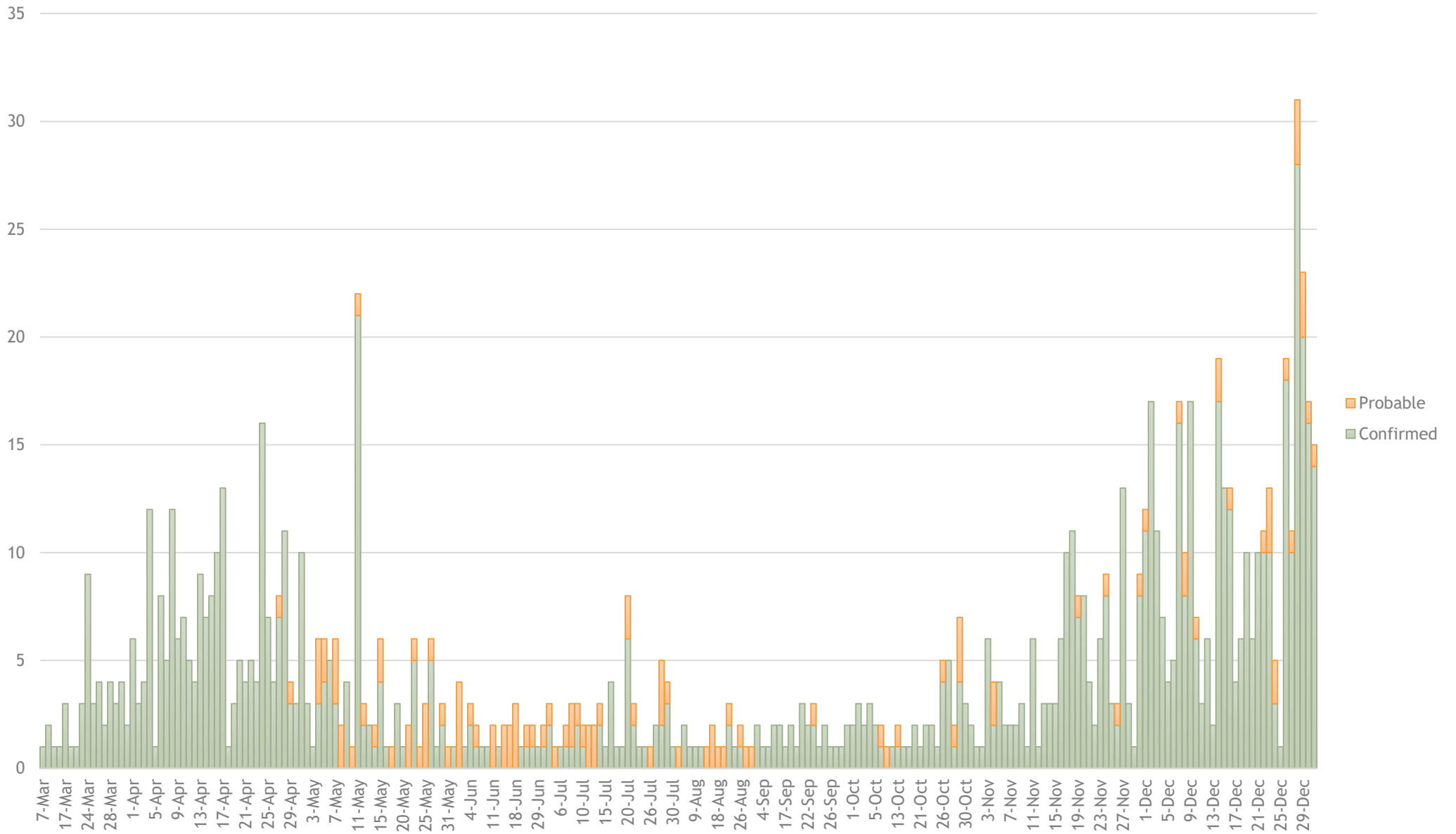
Needham COVID-19 Monthly Case Report: December 2020

Public Health Division

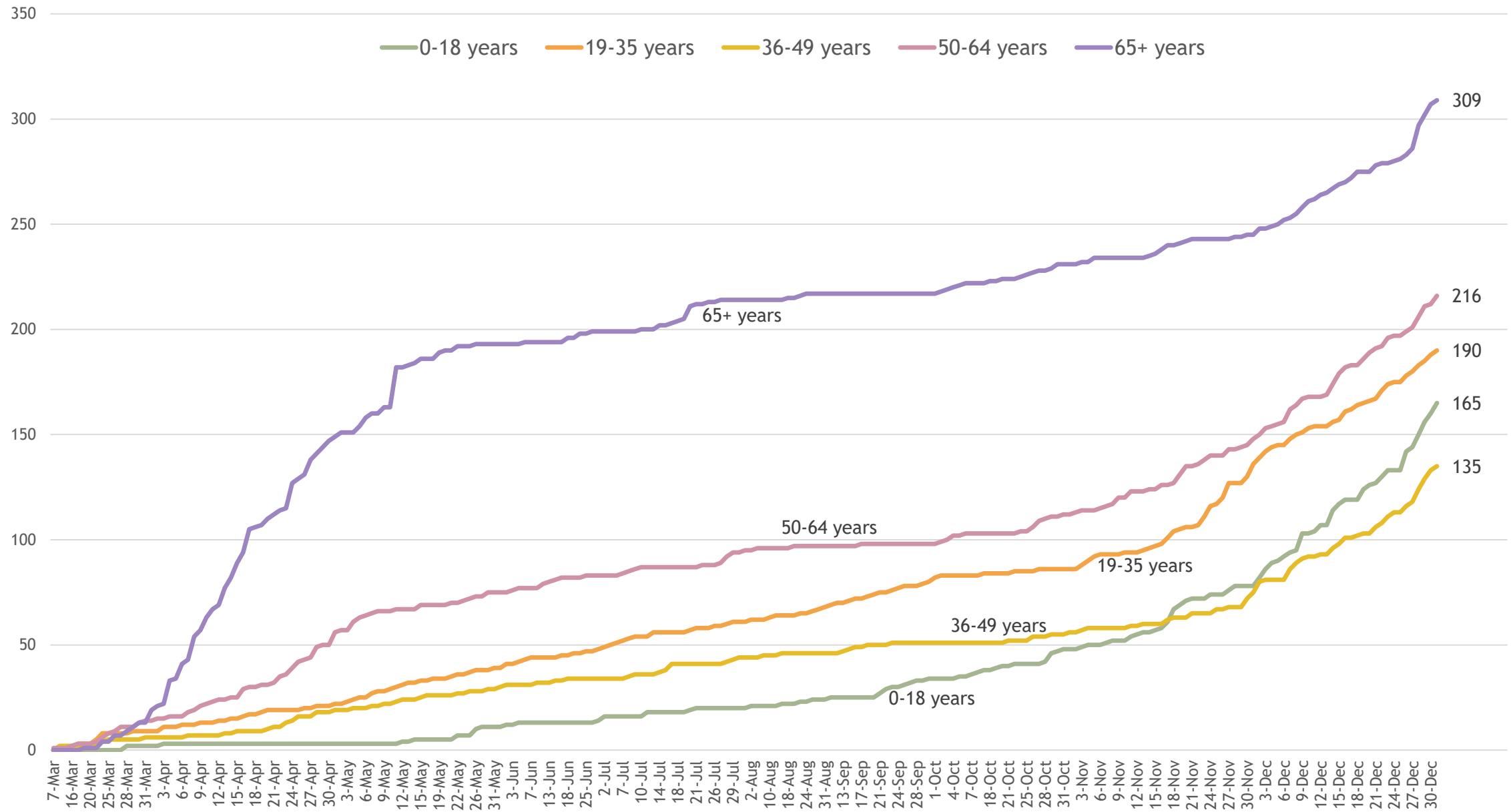
Daily & Cumulative Confirmed Cases



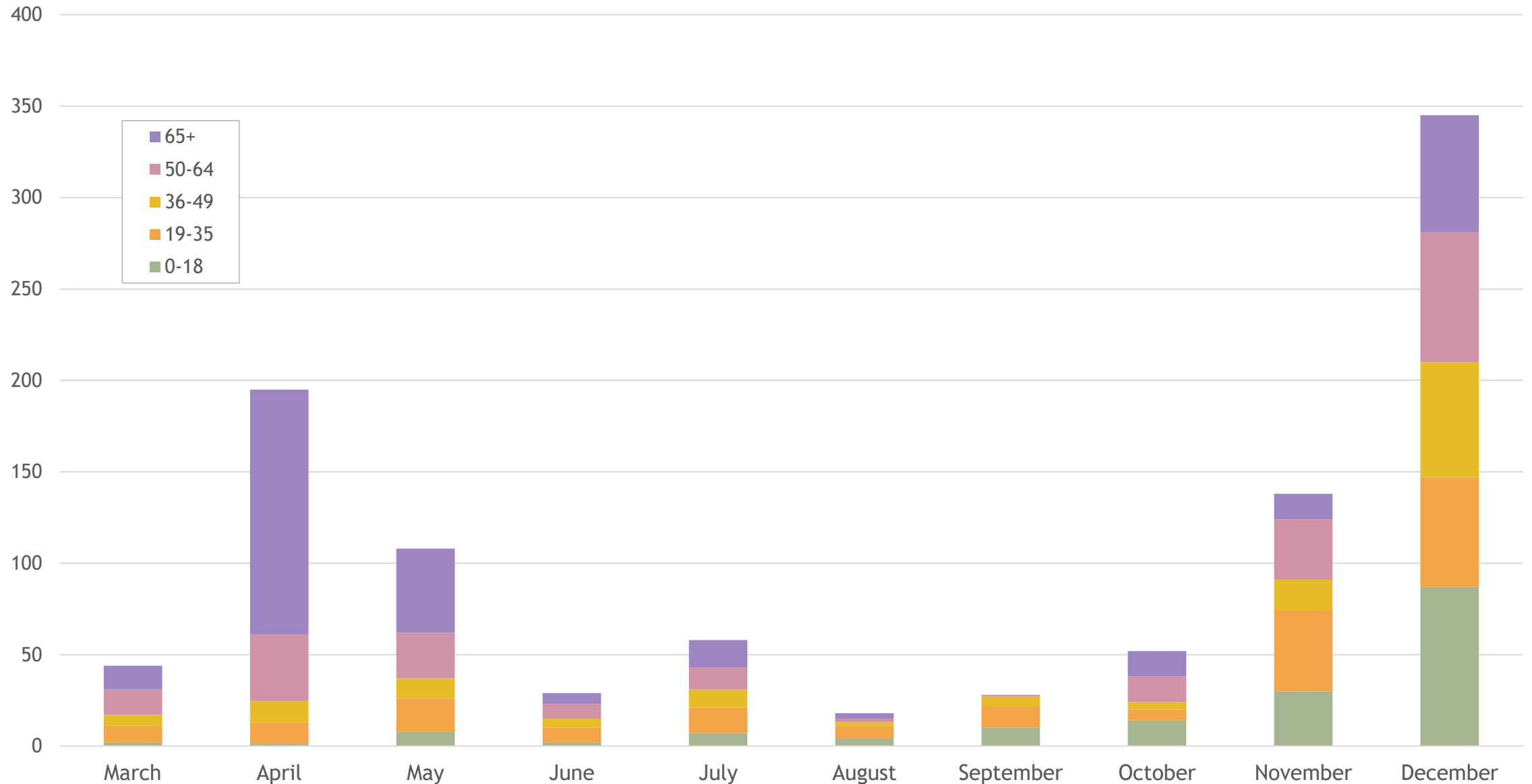
Confirmed & Probable Cases



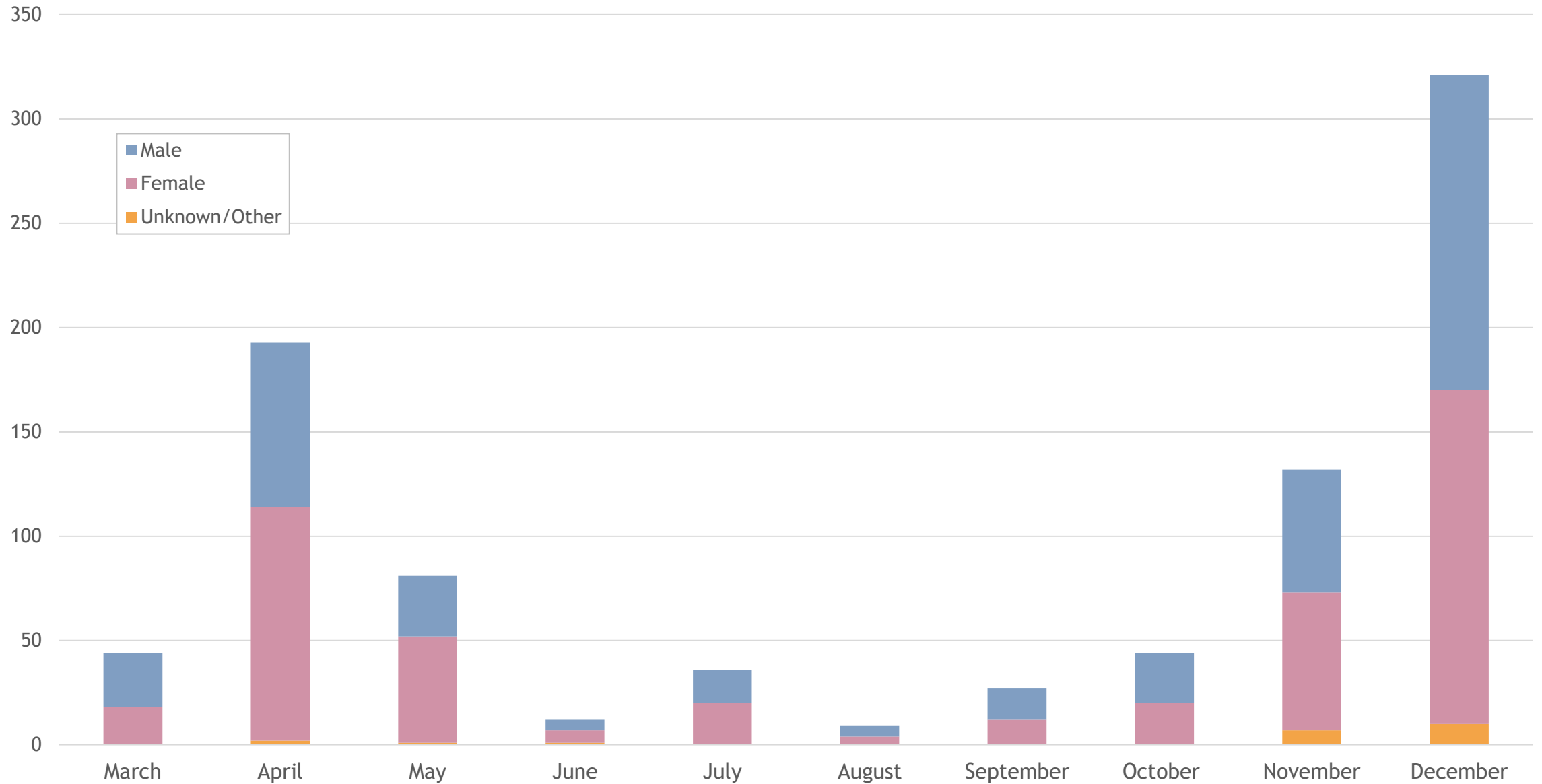
Cumulative Cases by Age Group (Confirmed + Probable)



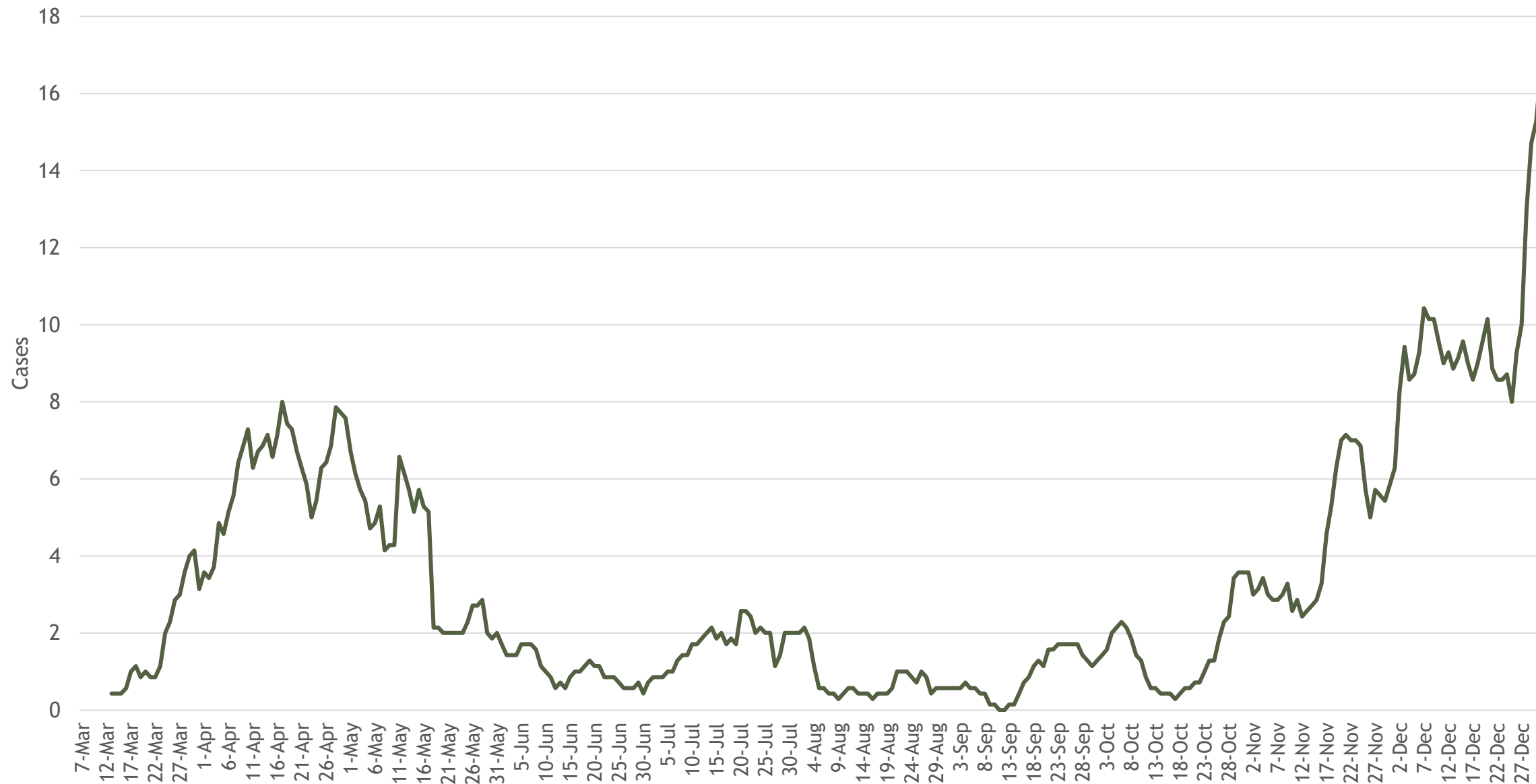
Monthly Cases by Age Group (Confirmed + Probable)



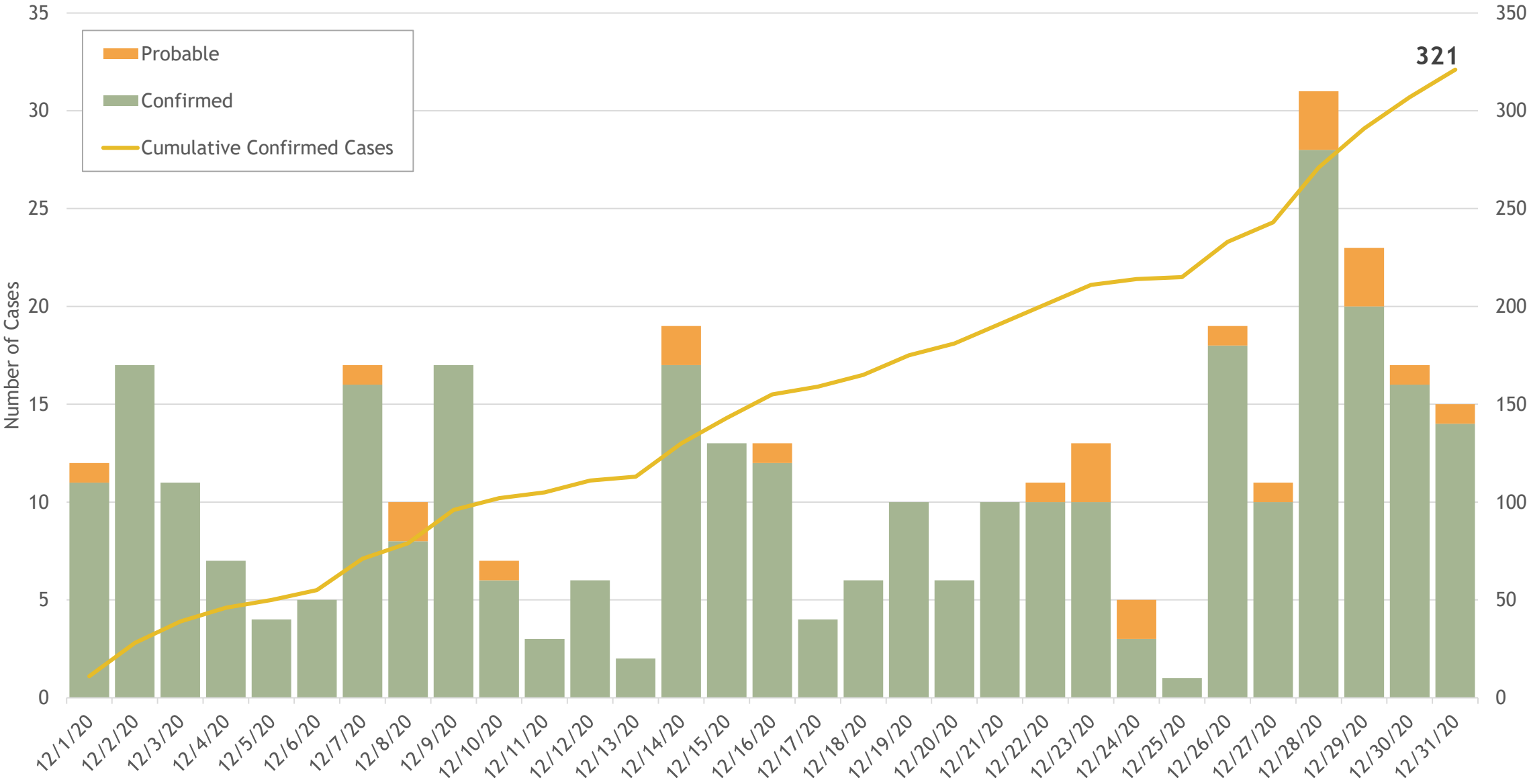
Monthly Confirmed Cases by Gender



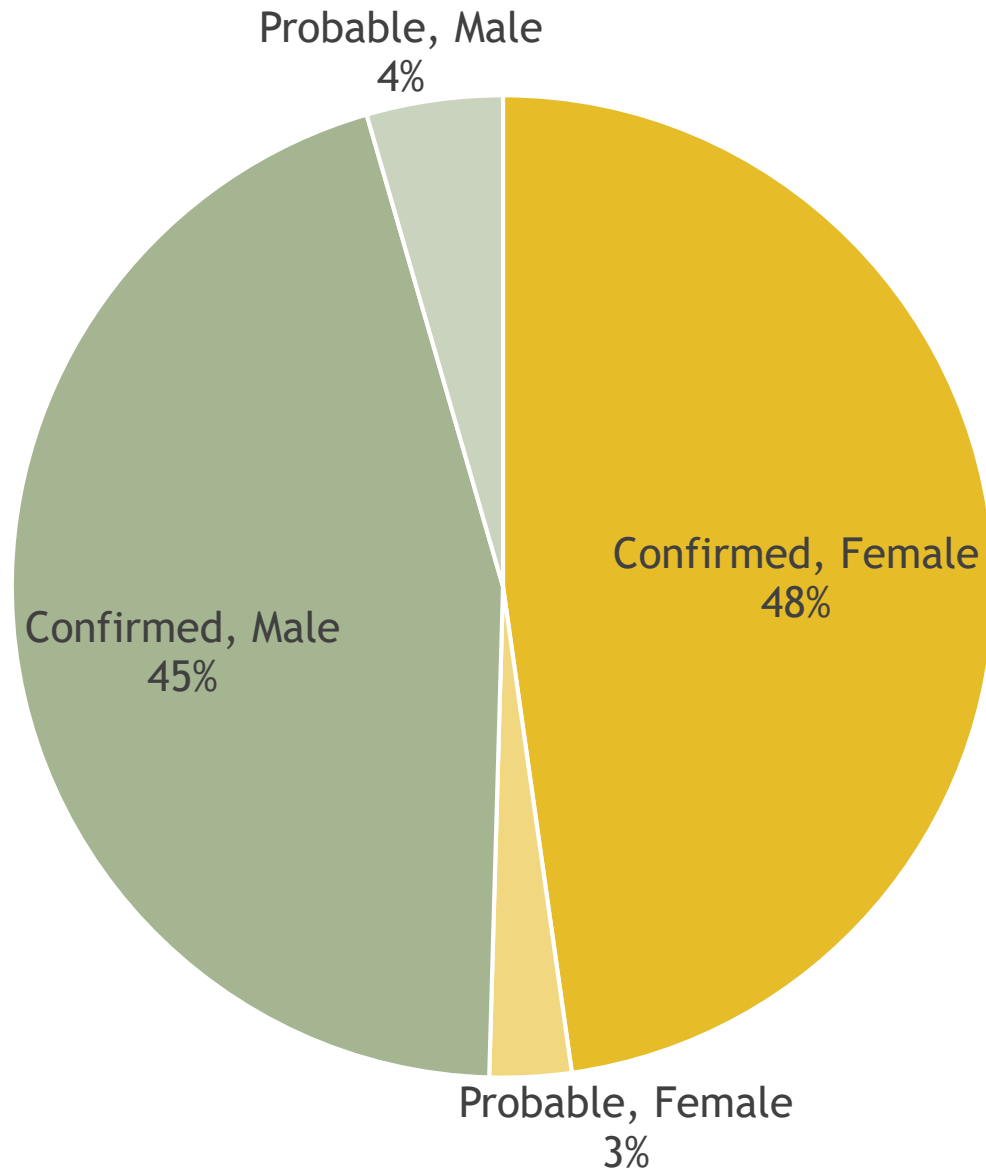
Rolling 7-day Average (Confirmed + Probable)



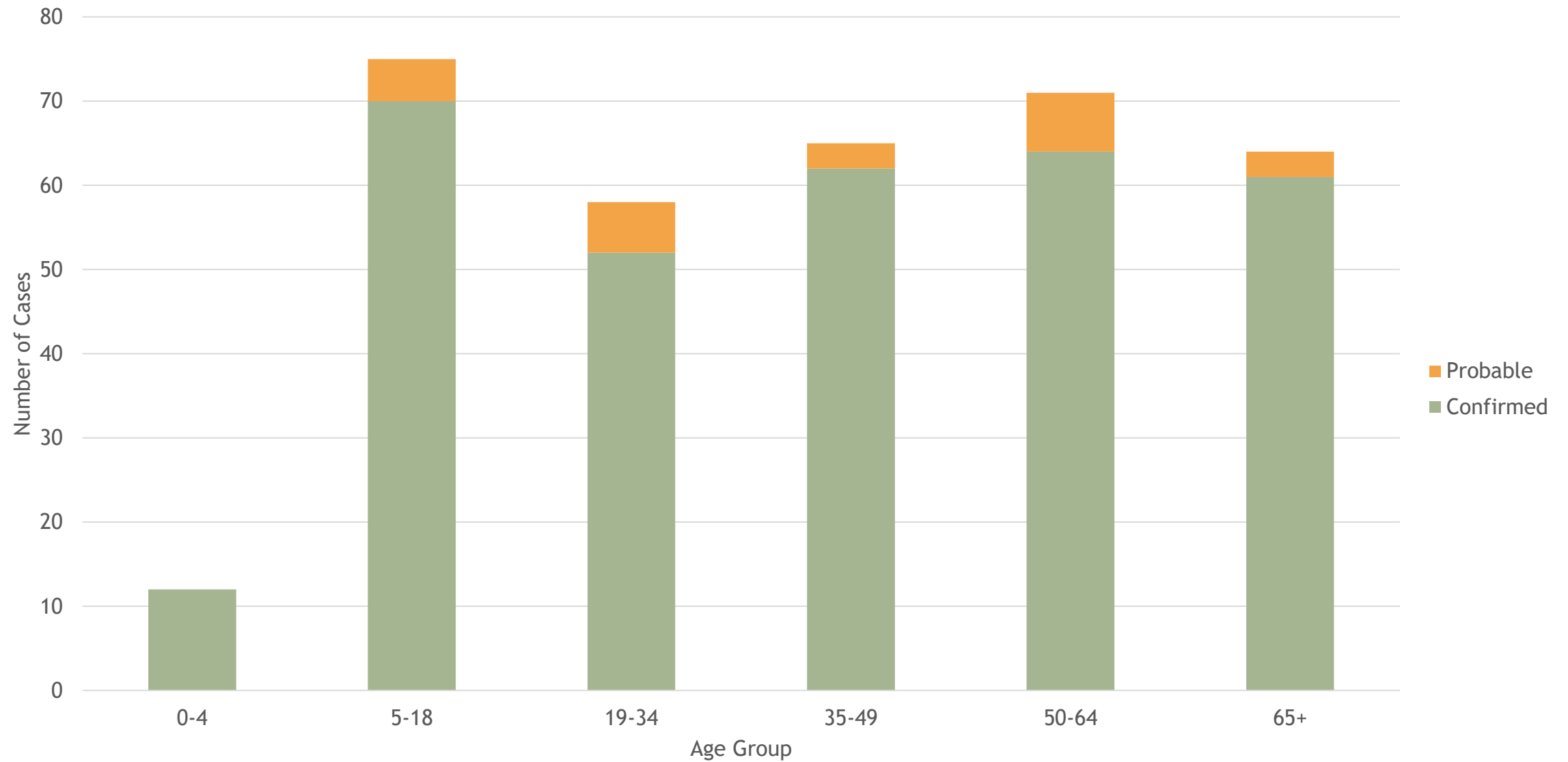
December COVID-19 Cases



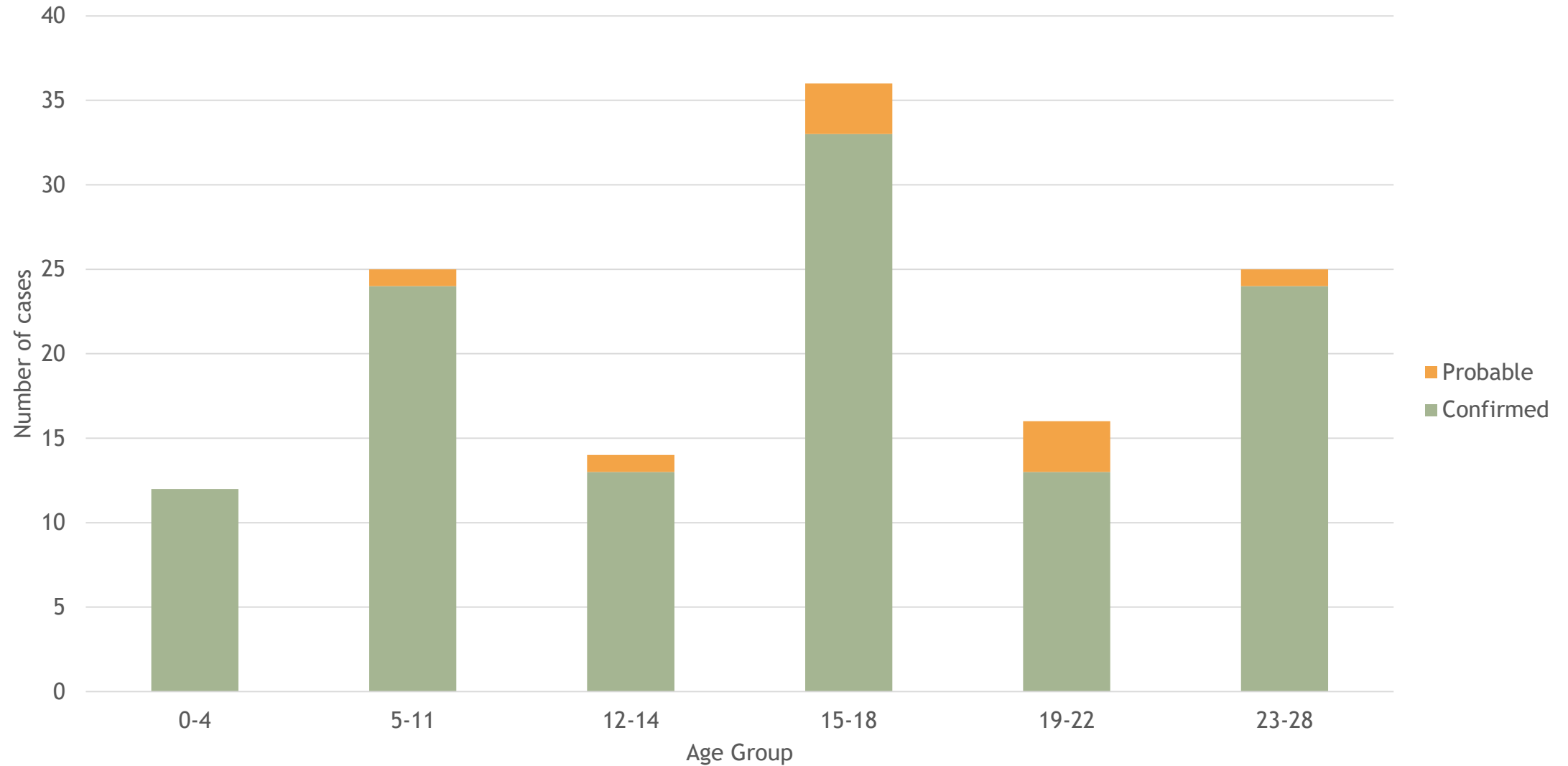
Gender Breakdown of December Cases



Age Distribution of December Cases



December cases among children & young adults



Clusters in December

Cluster Type	Number of Clusters	Number of Needham Cases
Household	62	176
Day Cares	3	3
Congregate Care	3	39
Sports	1	0

Contacts

Source	Number
MAVEN	77
Schools	197



Board of Health

Kathleen Ward Brown, ScD

Edward Cosgrove, PhD

Stephen Epstein, MD, MPP

Christina S. Mathews, MPH Robert Partridge, MD, MPH

Mission

The Needham Board of Health, founded in 1877, and its Public Health Division strive to prevent and control the spread of disease, to address environmental issues, to promote healthy lifestyles, and to protect the public health and social well-being of all Needham's residents, especially the most vulnerable. This work addresses the social determinants of health, or the conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks, as defined in Healthy People 2020.

Goals for 2021 and 2022

Cross-cutting Planning Considerations

Equity

Build upon the work of the HHS Racial Equity Committee to identify "what needs to change or to be put in place to ensure equity and anti-racism in Needham." How can this work be applied in all areas of public health?

Mental Health and Behavioral Health

Consider opportunities for collaboration and connection with mental and behavioral health programs that support Needham.

Health in All Policies

How can *Health in All Policies*, or the inclusion of health considerations into policy making across sectors, be applied in Needham to improve health outcomes and health equity?

Pandemic impact

What has the Covid-19 pandemic shown us about community public health needs and programs?

Administrative

Ensure the necessary infrastructure to effectively provide essential public health services.

- Develop processes and protocols for applications and management of all received grant funding within the Division.
 - Document necessary elements and responsibilities
 - Identify and address gaps
- Develop and implement schedule of Board review of one regulation per quarter.
- Review and revise website review to reflect current programming and resources.
- Develop a comprehensive communications strategy for the Public Health Division that increases community outreach and awareness of pertinent public health issues.

Ongoing

- Encourage continual gathering of qualitative and quantitative data to inform Public Health Division and Health & Human Services Department activities.
- Pursue grant funding opportunities to meet distinct community needs (i.e. concussion education and healthy aging initiatives).

Long-term

- Pursue Public Health Division accreditation and support the establishment of a culture of continuous quality improvement.
- Secure funding and support for a Director of Health position
- Develop capacity for data analysis and dissemination.

Community Health

Increase the quality, availability, and effectiveness of educational and community-based programs designed to prevent disease and injury, improve health, and enhance quality of life.

- Pursue collaborative development of physical activity projects with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Aging Services Division of HHS.
- Assess food security and nutrition needs across the Town of Needham and work with Town and School Departments, non-public education providers, community partners, and faith-based organizations to ensure food security and accessibility of

appropriate and healthy nutrition for all Needham residents regardless of circumstance.

- Advocate for resources to enhance community transportation options, especially for older adults and low-income populations.
- Identify financial resources to expand the Safety at Home Program, which prevents older adult falls through home visits, exercise programming, and referrals, to support more comprehensive home modifications.
- Develop a structure and pursue opportunities to collaborate with other Town departments regarding policies and programs which have an impact on health, such as with the accessory dwelling unit bylaw.
- Implement concussion regulation education for Needham youth sport coaches, including collaboration with Parks and Recreation Division, IT, and sport leagues.
- Support and expand upon existing community initiatives that address public health concerns including senior nutrition, elder isolation, mental health promotion, and domestic violence awareness.
- Continue developing Nourishing Needham campaign to encourage healthy eating in the community.
 - Collaborate with food establishments on highlighting healthy options on their menus.

Emergency Management/Emergency Preparedness

Improve the community's ability to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from a major emergency.

- Implement recommendations from the August 2020 Covid-19 After Action report and Improvement Plan.
 - Identify barriers to implementation and work with staff to address these
- Revise and update the Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) to include implementation of procedures for internal and external communications, Incident Command System (ICS), and workplace redundancy to improve the Town's Continuity of Operations.
- Manage ongoing Covid-19 response.
- Prepare for and support distribution and administration of eventual Covid-19 vaccines.
- Add two to three MRC volunteer training and educational events to develop an engaged volunteer corps.

Ongoing

- Conduct annual training and exercising of building-specific municipal safety and emergency guidelines and procedures to identify needed revisions to guidelines and procedures.
- Revise, educate, and test, by means of an annual drill or exercise, Emergency Dispensing Site protocols and plans, aligning with MA DPH and CDC requirements.
- Maintain full certification of the Needham Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Long-term

- Conduct MRC call-down drills at least once per year to ascertain availability of MRC volunteers to deploy during emergencies in another community requesting assistance.
- Expand Needham's MRC membership so that volunteer resources are available during emergencies.

Environmental Health (EH)

Promote health for all through a healthy environment

- Implement Covid-19 response guidance through education and enforcement activities.
- Hire additional staff or provide additional resources to maintain EH Unit capacity for inspections, environmental health monitoring, training, and vendor and general public education.
- Work towards the achievement of all nine (9) FDA Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards; pursue federal, state, and non-profit grant resources to offset the costs for achieving full compliance and apply for future FDA grants to make this possible.
- Continue to conduct a comprehensive assessment by the end of FY 2021 of regulations which require updates, revisions, or which should be rescinded.
- Conduct a comprehensive assessment by the end of 2021 of regulations which require updates, revisions, or which should be rescinded.
- Develop a regular schedule for detailed review and revision of all regulations.
- Expand electronic inspection system and utilize for at least one other environmental health inspection (pools, septic, housing, etc.) by the end of 2021.

Continue to work on the development and implementation of food establishment inspection grading policies and gain additional feedback from Food Advisory Board.

Ongoing

- Prioritize positive communication and relationships with food service owners and staff and tobacco vendor owners and staff.

Long-term

- Consider conducting a six-month pilot of food establishment grading policies in last quarter of 2021/first quarter 2022, once our food establishments are not burdened by the pandemic.
- Research options for digital record keeping and options for electronic payment for permits and fees.
- Work with the Town's IT Department import the remainder of our permit applications and fees into our online permitting system and pursue joint online permit applications where applicable.
- Expand upon existing electronic payment system.

Public Health Nursing

Advance population health through quality community/ public health nursing education, research and service.

- Manage Covid-19 response.
- Evaluate the cost and capabilities of the Needham Public Health Division flu vaccination and education efforts.
- Monitor how the Town uses different outlets for flu vaccination to increase vaccination rates by 20%.
- Provide Covid-19 vaccination education
- Assist in promotion, distribution and administration of eventual Covid-19 vaccines.

Ongoing

- Annually examine community demographics and population needs to identify priorities for public health nursing staff activities.
- Address the needs of the aging population through prevention and education efforts including home safety visits, blood pressure and other wellness clinics, and mental health services and referrals.

- Engage with community resource providers, including Domestic Violence Action Committee (DVAC), Community Crisis Intervention Team (CCIT), Needham Coalition for Suicide Prevention (NCSP) and others, to help address needs of individuals and populations requiring assistance.

Substance Use Prevention

Reduce substance use and misuse to protect the health, safety, and quality of life for all, especially children.

Needham

- Conduct alcohol compliance checks quarterly in FY 2021.
- Research and develop regulations for Needham that will govern the use of recreational marijuana.
- Revise existing regulations governing medical marijuana to promote a safe and healthy environment for all of Needham's residents by: prioritizing safe and sanitary operation of marijuana dispensaries and recreational marijuana establishments; and providing community education about the dangers of chronic use and general misuse of marijuana.
- Continue to identify problem substance use among youth
- Promote substance use prevention programs and advocacy for policy change more broadly, expanding reach into populations not previously served by federal funding
- Engage the coalition in a health equity assessment, including but not limited to racial equity, of substance use programs to identify any needed changes and opportunities for improvement.
- Develop a health equity impact statement
- Provide education and training for coalition volunteers on health equity.

Ongoing

- Provide at least six (6) educational and/or informational events to the Needham community about adverse health impacts of substance use and misuse for the youth, adult, and senior populations annually.
- Host two (2) additional mobile take-backs per year, in addition to the spring and fall Take Back Days on Town Common
- After each event, administer a qualitative assessment of performance
- Leverage visibility to youth, parents and community where appropriate, with cohort coalitions in neighboring towns. Promote youth substance use prevention programs through outreach by SPAN volunteers;

- Sustain ongoing collaboration among coalition stakeholders in support of prevention work

Long-term

- Draft and implement a policy for Needham that outlines specific consequences for alcohol vendors who fail compliance checks in order to decrease youth access to alcohol by decreasing alcohol vendor compliance failures from 6 to 4 by 2021.
- Assess substance use among other populations, including but not limited to the older adult community;
- Evaluate community readiness for substance use prevention programs for other populations, including but not limited to the older adult community.
- Increase weight of semi-annual prescription medication disposal in Needham from all medication disposal locations by at least 5%
- Secure a second safe and secure location in Needham for a sharps disposal kiosk at another Town facility or a community partner agency (FY 2021 approximately)
- Decrease Needham High School's 30-day youth use rates for alcohol, misuse of prescription drugs, and marijuana, by 2%. This will be measured by comparing the 2016 MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey (MWAHS) results with the 2018 and 2020 MWAHS results.

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative (SAPC) Cluster (Needham, Dedham, Norwood and Westwood)

- Address parental attitudes favorable to alcohol use through a community awareness and education campaign in Needham, Dedham, Norwood and Westwood using messaging based on research. Include materials such as AD Council PSAs, SAMHSA Talk They Hear You, MADD Power of Parenting, Boston Children's Hospital Teen-Safe.org, and others.
- Address low perception of harm of alcohol use among high school grade 9 students by instituting a policy in Needham, Dedham, Norwood and Westwood school systems that 9th grade parents take an online education program (AlcoholEdu High School Parents).
- Conduct community awareness and education campaigns that encourage people to lock up alcohol in their homes in Needham, Dedham, Norwood and Westwood.

Ongoing

- Conduct Responsible Beverage Service training (TIPS) for retail licensees in Needham, Dedham, Norwood and Westwood to reduce ease of access to alcohol in the four communities.

- Police officers in Dedham, Needham, Norwood and Westwood will conduct alcohol compliance checks with under-age operatives in all licensed establishments on at least a semi-annual basis with the longer-term goal of doing so on a quarterly basis.
- Sustain regional prevention funding for FY22 through state and federal grant applications.

DRAFT

COVID surges, caution urged

Town adds 69 new cases, health director stresses vigilance

Trevor Ballantyne
Wicked Local

The first shipment of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine arrived in Massachusetts on Monday; the same day a 96-year-old World War II veteran in Bedford became the first VA patient in the country to get the shot.

It's positive news to be sure,

but speaking by phone last week, Needham Public Health Director Timothy McDonald said all residents should remain vigilant.

According to the state's vaccine distribution plans, roughly two-thirds of Massachusetts residents would not begin to be vaccinated until April, and McDonald encouraged residents to continue to wear face masks and keep their distance.

Even for those who receive the vaccine first, "the question is how likely is it to prevent you from being able to spread

COVID-19," McDonald said; and for those who know they have been infected already, "there is a chance you are still healthy and your immune system is taking care of it, but you are still talking, singing and whatever else you are doing -- spreading infectious droplets."

COVID-19 cases in Needham

According to the latest report from the state's Department of Public Health, DPH, the Town

of Needham added 69 newly confirmed COVID-19 cases last week.

As of Dec. 10, the date of the report, the town's 14-day average daily incidence rate, calculated per 100,000 residents, increased to 23.94 from 20.3 reported the prior week; and Needham's 14-day percent positivity rate increased to 2.15 from 1.83.

Eighty-six Needham residents have died after falling ill with the coronavirus as of Dec. 3; the

See COVID-19, B1

COVID-19

From Page A1

town updates the number every two weeks based on a review of death certificates filed with the Town Clerk.

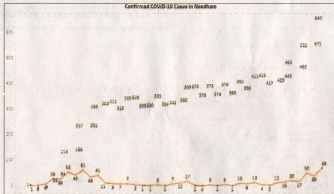
Thanksgiving case-clusters

In addition to some small clusters in local congregations and settings, McDonald reported public health nurses in the town encountered at least one cluster of COVID-19 cases following the Thanksgiving holiday.

In addition to causing the spread of the coronavirus, the high number of contacts involved in clustered cases burdens the local health board's staff tasked with contact-tracing duties.

"We had one cluster that involved, initially travel, but then an indoor gathering...there was the index case and there were 10 other cases - and those were all people in their mid-to-late teens," McDonald said.

"When you are going out and interacting with dozens of people; when you have dozens of close contacts; that is a real challenge for us from a contact tracing perspective," he added. "It takes a lot of time to reach that many people."



Cumulative COVID-19 cases in Needham. Data based on DPH and Town reports. Numbers changed retroactively are not reflected. (T. BALLANTYNE)

COVID-19 cases in Needham Public Schools

In nine Needham Public Schools buildings, 62 students and staff have received confirmed-positive COVID-19 test-results since the school began tracking confirmed cases in August.

Two schools, Pollard Middle School and Needham High School account for 51.6% of the school district's cumulative confirmed-cases.

Last week, the school district added five new cases, according to

a COVID-19 cases dashboard located on the Needham Public Schools website.

Gov. Baker rolls back reopening restrictions

Over the weekend, state health officials reported 4,968 newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 47 new COVID-deaths on Saturday, and 4,677 cases and 41 new deaths on Sunday.

The weekend case totals came after a week where the state

added 32,473 cases - almost 50% of the total amount of new cases, 65,514, confirmed in November.

Last week, state health officials estimated that there were 65,741 people with active cases of the highly-infectious coronavirus in Massachusetts, roughly equal to the population of Haverhill. One week prior, DPH estimated that there were 51,371 people with active cases of the virus.

New orders announced by Gov. Baker last week tighten restrictions for private gatherings and

for most businesses operating in the state, including restaurants.

As of Sunday, Dec. 13, outdoor gatherings at event venues are limited to no more than 50 people; and hosts of outdoor gatherings of more than 25 people are required to provide advance notice to their local board of health, according to a Town of Needham COVID-19 update providing information on the governor's actions.

Across the state, capacity limits are reduced from 50 to 40 percent for businesses, the update notes, including those with office-settings and those in the retail and lodging industries. The capacity restraint also applies to golf facilities and gyms and health clubs; and movie theatres, museums, and libraries.

Food-court seating areas at malls are to be closed and musical performances at restaurants and bars are no longer permitted, and patrons at gyms must wear masks at all times; the same for employees working in offices.

Also included with the new restrictions are orders for restaurants to seat no more than six patrons at a time. Those who dine indoors are recommended to eat only with members of the same household, and they must be limited to 90 minutes at their table. Patrons are instructed to wear a mask at all times; except when they are physically eating or drinking.

Reporting from the State House News Service contributed to this article

Legal Notices

TOBACCO PRODUCTS LEGAL NOTICE

At a public meeting held on December 10, 2020 the Board of Health of the Town of Needham, County of Norfolk, Massachusetts, acting under the authority of Chapter 111, Section 31 of the Massachusetts General Laws adopted revisions to Article 1, Regulation Affecting Smoking and the Sale and Distribution of Tobacco Products in Needham in the interest of, and for the preservation of, the public health. This summary shall serve as notice to all.

The Board of Health revised Article 1, "Regulation Affecting Smoking and the Sale and Distribution of Tobacco Products in Needham", which was last revised in February 2020, to retire 3 open tobacco permits, to adopt the state fine schedule, and to make other technical changes and small edits.

This regulation will take effect January 1, 2021

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