

REVISED AGENDA

Tuesday August 17, 2021

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850-8581-0677

Under Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, 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 August 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.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 850-8581-0677 or click the link below to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85085810677?pwd=M0ozMlZSYzJFYndxNm1laENjNnhuOT09>

- **6:00 to 6:05 – Welcome & Review of Minutes**
- **6:05 to 6:35 – Staff Reports (July)**
- **6:35 to 7:00 – COVID-19 Update**
- **7:00 to 7:30 – BOH Priorities - Recovery Act and Select Board Priorities**
- **Other Items**
- **Topics for Upcoming BOH Meetings**
 - **Mental Health in Needham**
 - **Drinking Water System Quality in Needham**
 - **Use of Pesticides and Fertilizers in Needham**
 - **Status Update on BOH CY21-22 Goals**
 - **Revised Article 12: Rules and Regulations for Private Water Supplies**
- **Next BOH meetings**
 - **Regular Monthly Meeting** **September 23, 2021** **6:00 p.m.**
- **Adjournment**

(Please note that all times are approximate)



Needham Public Health Division

July 2021

**Assist. Health Director - Tara Gurge
Health Agents - Diana Acosta and Monica Pancare**



Unit: Environmental Health

Date: 8/17/2021

Staff members: Tara Gurge, Diana Acosta and Monica Pancare

Intern: Ally Littlefield

Activities and Accomplishments

Activity	Notes
Town Online Permitting System	Diana and Tara are continuing to work with Terry Wolfson from IT Department in developing additional online permit applications on ViewPoint Cloud. Currently working on Septic Soil Testing, Septic Plan Review Checklist Form, Septic Construction and Well permit applications. Diana, Tara, and Dawn continue to take part in bimonthly zoom permit meetings with IT.
Sira Naturals – Milford Tour	On August 15, 2021, Diana conducted a walkthrough tour of Sira Naturals grow house operations in Milford, MA. The facilities were clean and sanitary. Sira will be expanding its operation to an additional building on their campus.
Organic Lawncare Brochure and PSA	Ally and Tara met with a group of stakeholders via Zoom made up of local Town Depts, local non-profit organizations and residents to revise an outdated Board of Health Public Service Announcement on encouraging the use of organic lawncare practices. The group shared updated resources. A revised brochure will also be developed and will be distributed to residents. Ally is also working on articles for the local newspaper and will work with Needham Cable on taping a PSA.
Restaurant Food Consultant Trainings	Berger Food Safety conducted an initial training at Masala Art. They are conducting an additional training to train the remaining 6 staff members that missed the first training. Additional unannounced audit inspections will also be conducted shortly after the second training to ensure they are applying their food safety practices learned during the trainings. Farmhouse restaurant will be receiving a similar training soon.
The Kendrick	Continuing to monitor TCE report data and collect residential notifications that we receive in the mail from the Ramboll Licensed Site Professional. Forwarding resident concerns received to LSP and MassDEP contacts for additional guidance or specific sampling info.
RTS Expansion of Organic Waste collection / Organics recycling program at Needham Public Schools	Tara met with Greg from RTS, along with Agri-cycle, to conduct a walk through at the RTS facility to review proposed areas and protocols in order to expand the residential food waste collection program on site. Diana and Tara will also be meeting with Colin, the new Director of Nutrition Services at Needham Public Schools, to discuss steps to bring on the remaining 4 schools in town to expand the organics food waste recycling collection program. Signed protocols to be submitted prior to the start of the program, and pre-program inspections to be conducted.
Tobacco Regulation Definition update	Tara is working with Lynn on a minor revision to the “person” definition in the BOH Tobacco Regulation. (Will review in Sept. BOH meeting along with revised Well Regulations.)
Policy Updates	Ally, Diana and Tara are actively working with Lynn on revising our Env. Health policies to stay in compliance with our policy review requirements. (On-going.)
Job Posted for part-time Env. Health Agent	We are in the process of working with HR to post an additional part-time Env. Health Agent position to assist us in conducting food inspections. Plan to hire in Sept.
ServSafe Food Manager certification	Ally, our FDA intern, who conducts our weekly Farmers Market inspections, has recently passed the ServSafe Food Manager certification exam.

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

Activities

Activity	Notes
Animals	3 renewal permits issued – 1 additional renewal awaiting payment to issue final permit Gould Street – Resident made aware of opportunity to apply for a variance to keep chickens at a closer set back. The resident is still deciding whether to pursue the variance. Stockdale Road – A bat caught by a household cat was positive for rabies. The cats were placed under a 45-day quarantine and will remain in the home. An overlapping 10-day quarantine was issued as the exposed cat had fallen and scratched the owner.
Biotechnology	New Biotechnology lab is taking over the Celldex location, 115 Fourth Ave. Animal, Disposal of Sharps, and Biotech permit applications have been submitted. Review Complete – awaiting inspection walk through. TBD in late September/early October.
COVID -19 Inquiries	Environmental Health continues to field questions and concerns from residents and business owners/staff on COVID-19 procedures and mandates. Receiving increase in inquiries from apartment complex owners on indoor mask wearing requirements as numbers of cases are starting to increase.
Demo Reviews/ Approvals	8 - Demolition signoffs: - 119 Broad Meadow Road - 107 Thornton Road - 47 Hazelton Ave - 137 Fairfield Street - 70 Stockdale Road - 111 Fairfield Street - 33 High Rock Street. - 1033 Greendale Ave
Farmer's Market	3 – Permits Issued - Tiffany's Brownies and Treats - Shazzy's Sweets - Valicenti Pasta Farm 31 – Inspections conducted - No market on July 5th
Food – New Food Permit (Updates)	1 – Food Establishment pending pre-operation inspection process: - <u>Little Spoon (formerly known as Thai Story)</u> – Still in process. Submitted application online. 2 – Plan Review Items/inquiries received from: - <u>Smoothie Bar at 915 Great Plain Ave</u> – No application has been submitted. (Still pending.) - <u>Hungry Coyote</u> – Received online outdoor seating plan to review. No issues observed with proposal. 4 – Annual Permit Issued - Cookie Monstah (permanent location) - Fooda - The Sheraton - Hungry – pop up in SharkNinja space
Temporary Food Permits	1 – Temporary Food Permits Issued - Carnival by Cushing Entertainment – 4 booths were inspected (Lemonade, Sweet Shop, Fried Dough, and Chicken/Fry)
Food Complaints	2/2 – Food Complaints/Follow-ups. - <u>Bertucci's (1/1)</u> – Customer reported sighting pests in the bathroom. Diana followed up with the manager who promptly sent over pest control reports. Most recent report was from the night before the complaint was called in. No pest activity was noted on the report. - <u>General Complaint (1/1)</u> – Resident concerned with establishments handling cash and then food. Diana followed up with managers at locations reported.

Housing Complaints/ Follow-ups –	3/9 – Housing Complaints/Follow-ups conducted at: – <u>Stephen Palmer Apartments (1/1)</u> – Resident reported again that building is not being cleaned frequently and there are stains on the carpet. Items are not enforceable by the housing code. UPDATE- Tara and Diana had a conference call with Nick Ruccolo, Vice President of Crowninshield Management, and he immediately had the common area carpets re-cleaned, and will ensure that the onsite maintenance will continue to conduct routine cleaning and maintenance on site. Will also ensure that this resident’s concerns will now be documented and followed up with in a timely manner going forward. – <u>Union Street (0/1)</u> – Awaiting work to be scheduled by landlord. Reached out to landlord again with any updates on scheduling of work in order to sign off on our housing order letter. (Items still pending.) – <u>The Kendrick (0/1)</u> – Follow up conducted at apartment that had unsanitary conditions. Apartment was found to meet the housing code and resident was given permission to move back in. Eviction notice issued by property management. – <u>Charles River Landing (0/1)</u> - Resident is still receiving Traveling Meals through Health Division and routine cleaning and trash removal services through Springwell. The resident now has a working landline phone. We will be coordinating a follow-up inspection with Officer Forte in the near future in order for us to sign off on the housing order letter issues. – <u>St. Mary’s St. (0/2)</u> – Continued site visits every other week to help keep the owner on track with the removal of exterior items. Have continued to witness overall improvement of exterior of property. Will continue to meet with resident every other week to check on his progress. – <u>Charles River Landing (0/1)</u> - Initial call was received by occupant re: a hot water issue. Hot water tank was replaced in the spring, and we continued to receive concerns re: lack of sufficient hot water from the occupant. Property maintenance was notified. Received another call from resident this month reporting that he had no hot water and he was told by management that plumber was scheduled to repair issue and restore hot water by 5 PM that Friday. Resident called the Health Division office a little after 5 PM and Mary, our public health nurse, received the call and we were trying to notify property management about the issue. At 6:40, occupant was reportedly still without hot water, so Mary headed out to the site to verify that plumber was addressing the issue. Plumber was not there when she arrived. We called property management again and they sent a plumber back out ASAP to fix the issue. Issue was addressed. – <u>Capt. Robert Cook Drive (1/1)</u> - Resident reported finding mice droppings in their unit. Diana reached out to the maintenance manager at Needham Housing Authority, who reported pest control was initially sent out in late June. Resident was informed to alert the office if there were further issues found but the manager reported there were no calls made. Pest control was sent to the property again in mid-July. – <u>Highland Terrace (1/1)</u> – Resident reported flooding in basement and landlord nor neighbor was taking action. Diana and Tara followed up with the landlord on the complaint. A dehumidifier was added into the unit. The resident was in the process of moving out and was to vacate unit by the end of July.
Nuisance – Complaints/ Follow-ups	8/7 – Nuisance Complaints/Follow-ups: - <u>The Rice Barn (1/1)</u> – Excess trash was reported outside of the Rice Barn. Diana contacted the owner who had removed the trash from the area the same day. - <u>River Park Street (2/1)</u> – Two neighbors called to report a large pile of trash outside a residential home. Diana conducted a site visit and witnessed the large pile. Diana was able to connect to the resident who had their cleaner remove the pile the same day. A follow-up with a complainant confirmed the pile was moved to a dumpster. - <u>CVS (Great Plain Ave.) (1/1)</u> - Tara received call from abutter about the CVS dumpsters that were relocated next to their property, due to a repaving project, and they reportedly observed strong trash odors coming from empty dumpsters due to recent hot temperatures. CVS management was notified and they required their trash hauler to rinse and disinfect dumpsters. Odors were addressed.

	- <u>Avery Park (1/1)</u> – Resident reported potential evidence of pests near public waste receptacle. Town pest control operator from Eco Pest Services conducted a follow-up site visit to verify report. No evidence of pests was observed. - <u>Memorial Park Building (1/1)</u> – Resident was concerned with multiple open barrels stored in back of town building filled with stagnant water that could potentially be a mosquito breeding risk. DPW sent staff out to dump water out of barrels, and stored barrels upside down. - <u>DeFazio Field Parking Lot (1/1)</u> – Resident called to report that traffic direction barrels in lot were holding stagnant water. DPW staff was able to address issue in short-term by putting dish soap in barrels with stagnant water. Will come up with a long-term plan in the near future to address this concern. - <u>Cutler Park (1/1)</u> – Resident wanted to know if it was safe for their dog to swim in Cutler Lake as caution signs were posted along the trail. Wanted to confirm if there was an algae bloom. Diana reached out to the Department of Conservation and Recreation who reported the signs were posted for safety reasons. There was no algae bloom at the time the inquiry was called in. No person or animal should be swimming in the water. Dogs are always to be leashed.
Planning Board site plan reviews	0 - Planning Board reviews conducted.
Septic – Failed System/Follow-ups	2– Failed Title 5 Septic reports, follow-ups received, for: - <u>#185 Charles River St.</u> – Soil testing conducted. Awaiting plans. - <u>#463 South St.</u> - Still waiting for update from new owner on sewer connection process. Septic abandonment form still pending.
Septic – Plan Review	1– Septic Plan review conducted for: - <u>92 Pine Street</u> – Conditional approval letter sent.
Septic – Installation inspections	2– Inspections - 11 Gatewood – loam and seed check - 40 Windsor Road – check trenches
Septic – Soil Testing/Perc Test	1 – Soil Testing conducted at: - 185 Charles River Street
Well Follow-ups/Permits issued	3- Irrigation Well Permit Follow-ups conducted/permits issued: - <u>#54 Perry Drive</u> - Water and Sewer signed off. - <u>#120 Oxbow</u> - Water and Sewer signed off. - <u>#766 Chestnut St.</u> - Contacted Water and Sewer to conduct their final insp. (Still pending.)
Zoning Board of Appeals plan reviews	2– Zoning Board of Appeals plan reviews conducted for: - <u>#920 South St.</u> - Comments sent. - <u>#350 Cedar St.</u> - Comments sent.

FY 21 Priority FBI Risk Violations Chart (By Date)

Restaurant	Insp. Date	Priority Violation	Description
Mandarin Cuisine	7/3/2021	3-302.11 (A)(2) Raw Animal Foods Separated from each other - Code: 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.	Kitchen - Raw chicken skewer stored above raw beef in walk in. Provide pictures within 5 business days of the entire walkin cleaned, organized and properly labeled by each storage item. This inspector wants to see visible shelf labels for where raw TCS foods will be stored properly. Raw Chicken, beef, pork, fish ect.
		Corrected On Site - 3-304.11 Food Contact with Soiled Items - 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.	Kitchen - Incorrect storage of in use utensils. Large pot w handle submerged in a thick red sauce. Sugar bin in rear hall had ladle handle in product.
		4-201.12 Food Temperature Measuring Devices - Provide. Code: Food temperature measuring devices may not have sensors or stems constructed of glass, except that thermometers with glass sensors or stems that are encased in a shatterproof coating such as candy thermometers may be used.	Kitchen - Walk in did not have internal thermometers.
Gari Fusion Restaurant	7/3/2021	3-301.11 (B) Preventing Contamination from Hands - Code: 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.	Kitchen - Cook was observed using a ungloved hand to take cooked edamame from a bulk container to a smaller container for takeout order. Product was discarded, and employee was required to wash hands and donn gloves.
		8-103.12 (A) Confirmation with Approved Procedures/HACCP - 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.	Kitchen -TPHC not followed as required.

Fuji Steakhouse	7/3/2021	3-304.11 Food Contact with Soiled Items <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> 3-501.16 (A)(2) (B) Proper Cold Holding Temps. - Code: Except during preparation, cooking, or cooling, or when time is used as the public health control as specified under section 3-501.19, and except as specified under paragraph (B) and in paragraph (C) of this section, TCS food shall be maintained at 41°F or less. Eggs that have not been treated to destroy all viable <i>Salmonellae</i> shall be stored in refrigerated equipment that maintains an ambient air temperature of 45°F or less.	Kitchen - Sushi rice had a cloth nap in bowl. Only food grade utensils can be used for preparation of food. Do not use or store cloths with food. Serving area - 3 door glass refrigerator was at 50> degrees TCS Products removed to walk in refrigerator. Repair or replace to keep 41* or below.
Cappella	7/10/2021	3-501.14 (A) Cooling Cooked Foods - Code: Cooked TCS foods shall be cooled within 2 hours from 135°F to 70°F and within a total of 6 hours from 135°F to 41°F or less.	Kitchen - Poked sausage in roll top 55f Product was cooked at 1030am. Discarded
Farmhouse Restaurant	7/17/21	3-501.16 (A)(2) (B) Proper Cold Holding Temps. - Code: Except during preparation, cooking, or cooling, or when time is used as the public health control as specified under section 3-501.19, and except as specified under paragraph (B) and in paragraph (C) of this section, TCS food shall be maintained at 41°F or less. Eggs that have not been treated to destroy all viable <i>Salmonellae</i> shall be stored in refrigerated equipment that maintains an ambient air temperature of 45°F or less.	Basement walk in - Bolognese container 2 60f, 57f, 58f Product discarded
Kindercare	7/27/2021	Corrected On Site 3-501.16 (A)(1) Proper Hot Holding Temps. - Code: Except during preparation, cooking, or cooling, or when time is used as the public health control as specified under section 3-501.19, and except as specified under paragraph (B) and in paragraph (C) of this section, TCS food shall be maintained: at 135°F or above, except that roasts cooked to a temperature and for a time specified in paragraph 3-401.11(B) or reheated as specified in paragraph 3-403.11(E) may be held at a temperature of 130°F or above.	Kitchen - The temperature of the Chicken and rice in the Food warmer was 115 degrees. Chicken and veggies were cooked from frozen. Turned up the warmer to a higher temp. Before it's served items are reheated to proper temp. Rechecked and food was at 160°. Corrected on site.

Kindercare	7/27/2021	3-501.16 (A)(2) (B) Proper Cold Holding Temps. - Code: Except during preparation, cooking, or cooling, or when time is used as the public health control as specified under section 3-501.19, and except as specified under paragraph (B) and in paragraph (C) of this section, TCS food shall be maintained at 41°F or less. Eggs that have not been treated to destroy all viable Salmonellae shall be stored in refrigerated equipment that maintains an ambient air temperature of 45°F or less.	Kitchen - The temperature of the Ambient in the 2 Door Fridge - 1 was 52 degrees. Milk is all shelf stable. Whole, uncut fruits and veggies were stored. Cream cheese was voluntarily\ discarded as it was out of temperature.
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Category	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	FY'22	FY'21	FY '20	FY' 19	FY' 18
Biotech registrations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Bodywork Estab. Insp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	14	11
Bodywork Estab. Permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	9	9	6
Bodywork Pract. Permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	23	21	22
COVID 19 Complaints	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	123	0	0	0
COVID 19 Follow Ups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	122	0	0	0
Demo reviews	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	76	73	104	105
Domestic Animal permits	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	29	1	21	19
Domestic Animal Inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	22	3
Food Service Routine insp.	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	134	149	200	225
Food Service Pre-oper. Insp.	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	16	48	12	32
Retail Food Routine insp. Or 6 month check in	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	33	46	60
Residential Kitchen Routine insp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	6	8
Mobile Routine insp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	4	17	13
Food Service Re-insp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	21	28	53
Food Establishment Annual/Seasonal Permits	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	134	155	140	171
Temp. food permits	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	67	134	163
Temp. food inspections	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	10	37	29
Farmers Market permits	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	15	14	14	14
Farmers Market insp.	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	124	158	229	127
Food Complaints	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	49	18	20
Follow-ups food complaints	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	48	21	21
Food Service Plan Reviews	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	12	14	20	42
Food Service Admin. Hearings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
Grease/ Septage Hauler Permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	20	21	24
Housing (Chap II Housing) Annual routine inspection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	14
Housing Follow-up insp.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	5
Housing New Complaint	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	40	41	22	22
Housing Follow-ups	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	63	56	28	24
Hotel Annual inspection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3
Hotel Follow-ups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	0	0
Nuisance Complaints	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	45	34	55	42
Nuisance Follow-ups	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	60	55	69	42
Pool inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	13	20	12
Pool Follow up inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	12	7
Pool permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	11	19	12
Pool plan reviews	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	3	44

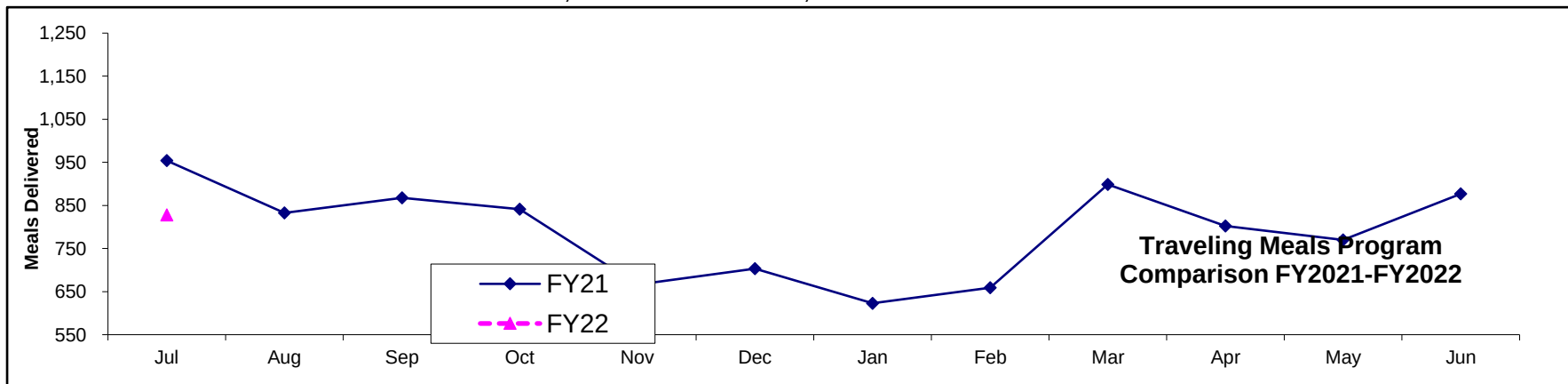
Category	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	FY'22	FY'21	FY '20	FY' 19	FY' 18
Pool variances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	5	7
Septic Abandonment	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	17	21	9	5
Addition to a home on a septic plan rev/approval	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	2	2
Septic Install. Insp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	13	21	28
Septic COC for repairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	3	1
Septic COC for complete septic system	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	3
Septic Info. requests	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	86	61	62	51
Septic Soil/Perc Test.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	1	1	2
Septic Const. permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	6	5
Septic Installer permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6	8	9
Septic Installer Tests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	5	3
Septic Deed Restrict.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	3
Septic Plan reviews	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14	8	9	23
Disposal of Sharps permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	7	7	9
Disposal of Sharps Inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	7	7	7
Planning Board Subdivision Sp Permit Plan reviews/Insp. of lots	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	4	1	1
Subdivision Bond Releases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Special Permit/Zoning	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	18	17	34	15
Tobacco permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	10	10	11
Tobacco Routine insp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	8	14	18
Tobacco Follow-up insp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	3	3
Tobacco Compliance checks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	30	30	41
Tobacco complaints	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	4
Tobacco Compl. follow-ups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
Trash Hauler permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	15	17	14
Medical Waste Hauler permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	1
Well - Plan Reviews, Permission to drill letters, Insp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2	6	2
Well Permits	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0

Health Department Traveling Meals Program

July 2021 FY 2022

Month	# Meals FY21	# Meals FY22	FY07 Cost	% Change # Meals
<u>Jul</u>	954	828	\$4,868.00	-13%
<u>Aug</u>	833			
<u>Sep</u>	868			
<u>Oct</u>	841			
<u>Nov</u>	666			
<u>Dec</u>	703			
<u>Jan</u>	623			
<u>Feb</u>	659			
<u>Mar</u>	899			
<u>Apr</u>	802			
<u>May</u>	770			
<u>Jun</u>	877			
Totals:	9,495	828	4,868.00	

	Projected-12 Mo.
\$	11,683.20
#	2,484





NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



Unit:

Date: July 2021

Staff: Lynn Schoeff

Activities and Accomplishments

Activity	Notes
Review and update tobacco regulation	
Review and update policies	HHS policies PHD administrative policies Traveling Meals Environmental Health Youth & Family Services Aging Services
Review and update staff and Board orientation material	

Other Public Health Division activities this month:



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



Unit: Substance Use Prevention

Date: July 2021

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

Activities and Accomplishments

Activity	Notes
Vaping Grant	Two grant partners, Dr. Kathy Pinkham, Director of Wellness for Needham Public Schools (NPS) and Barbara Singer, Director of Health Services for NPS retired in June. We will miss their passion and commitment to this work. Angi MacDonnell, Vaping Grant Coordinator, and Karen Shannon met with the new Director of Wellness, Denise Domnarski to review the vaping grant. A similar meeting is anticipated in August with the new Director of Health Services, Susannah Hann.
SPAN meetings	Community Action Team – 7/21 for Impaired driving Campaign
SPAN Events	Positive Community Norms Working Group , facilitated by The Montana Institute, Session 4 held on 7/22 and attended by 2 SPAN members and 4 Public Health staff. Sessions are to focused on developing SPAN prevention messaging using positive community norms approach. Sessions five and six are scheduled for August and September.
STOP Act grant	SAMHSA grant: STOPing Underage Access and Use of Alcohol: Codifying Youth, Parent and Retailer Education and Compliance in Needham, MA” a four-year grant starting 4/30/21. Post award amendment for budget reallocation submitted to SAMHSA on 6/7 and approved 7/27. Candidate interviews for the part-time grant coordinator position resulted in hiring Jazmine Hurley, starting the week of August 16.
Mass General Hospital Substance Use and Mental Health Opportunity	On July 1, Karen Shannon and Carol Read convened a meeting with Dr. Randi Schuster, Clinical Psychologist at MGH in the Center for Addiction Medicine, the principals of Needham High School and Pollard Middle School, Aaron Sicotte and Tamatha Bibbo respectively, and Tom Denton. Dr. Schuster presented an overview of Project ARCHES, a school-based program that assesses student substance use and mental health indicators that would provide the opportunity for students to participate in “scientifically supported that fit within tier 2 of a multi-tiered system of supports...Eligible students at collaborating schools are identified via a low-burden annual school-wide survey that allows [the] MGH team to determine which students might be at risk mental health concerns and escalation to problematic substance use.” The Needham Public Schools has signed a letter of agreement to bring these programs to the middle and high schools. They have also committed to participate in a new, school-based youth diversion program, iDECIDE. iDECIDE (Drug Education Curriculum: Intervention, Diversion, and Empowerment), developed by the



NEEDHAM **PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**



	Massachusetts General Hospital and the Institute for Health and Recovery in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, is a novel education-, motivation- and skills-based diversion program to be used as an alternative to exclusionary discipline for students caught violating school substance use policies.
Summer Interns	SPAN is fortunate to have two Needham High School students and SALSA leaders, Madison Boudreau and Izzy Currie, who are helping us as volunteer summer interns. They are working on developing social media content for the upcoming year which will be posted the SPAN Facebook and Instagram pages and NPHD Twitter page.
MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey 2021	Needham will be administering the 2021 Metro West Adolescent Health Survey online on November 3 to students in Needham Public Schools grades 6-12.
Mental Health First Aid for Youth	Four people attended the session on 7/22 conducted by Sara Shine and Karen Shannon. Nine community members had registered and ultimately 5 canceled including one no show on the day of training. Karen S., Sara Shine, and Katy Colthart are discussing dates for future sessions. Denise Domnarski, the new Director of Wellness for NPS is evaluating dates and logistics for having the Wellness staff attend the course.
HHS Racial Equity Committee	Meeting held on 7/29. The group discussed the draft HHS Health Equity Policy and the
Parent Al-anon group	Meetings held every Monday evening. Attendance remains steady averaging 6-8 people each week.
Training	Operation Parent Training: Teens & Opioids (1.5 hrs)- Karen M. Rep Jake Auchincloss Event on Youth Mental Health (1 hr)- Karen M. Everfi Ed Conference: Vaping & Mental Health (4 hrs)- Karen M.
Other Meetings	Keith Ford, NHS Asst. Principal, 7/20 Denise Domnarski, new Director of Wellness for NPS, 7/23

Summary for Month of July 2021: Focus this month has included filling two part-time positions for the Prevention Team including support for SPAN and the STOP Act Grant. Work has begun for completing the Drug Free Communities grant closeout requirements which are due by August 30.



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



Unit: Public Health Nursing

Month: July 2021

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. Continues to decrease.
MRC Training	Held an MRC training on What to do until EMS arrives. Eddie Sullivan, EMS Administrator taught the class.
Camp Inspections	Completed camp inspections this month
COVID presentation at Center at the Heights (CATH)	Presented information to patrons of CATH for discussion of COVID

Summary overview for the month:

The nursing department worked on flu vaccine acquisition. We continued to meet weekly with MDPH on COVID information. Started up blood pressure clinic at Needham Housing. Re-evaluating emergency plans, EDS and Warming and Cooling, and revising as needed. Working with the Pesticide Reduction Task Force. Exploring the new electronic system for vaccinations provided by MDPH.



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



COMMUNICABLE DISEASES:	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	Apr	MAY	JUN	FY22	FY21
Amebiasis													0	1
Chickungunya													0	0
Babesiosis	3												3	5
Borrelia miyamotoi	1												1	0
Campylobacter	2												2	15
COVID 19 Confirmed	37												37	1416
COVID Probable	3												3	118
COVID Contacts	20												20	1006
Cryptosporidium													0	1
Cyclosporiasis													0	0
HGA													0	2
Enterovirus													0	0
Giardiasis													0	0
Haemophilus Influenza													0	1
Hepatitis B													0	9
Hepatitis C													0	6
HGA													0	3
Influenza													0	1
Invasive Bacterial Infection													0	1
Legionellosis													0	0
Listeriosis													0	0
Lyme	7												7	38
Measles													0	0
Meningitis													0	0
Meningitis(Aseptic)													0	0
Mumps													0	0
Noro Virus													0	1
Pertussis													0	0
RMSF(Rocky Mt Spotted)													0	0
Salmonella													0	3
Shiga Toxin													0	0
Shigelloaia													0	1
Strep Group B													0	2
Strep (GAS)													0	0
Strep Pneumoniae													0	0
Tuberculosis													0	0
Latent TB													0	7
Varicella													0	1
Vibrio													0	0
West Nile virus													0	0
TOTAL DISEASES	72												72	4196
Revoked/Suspect Diseases Investigated													0	3



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



ANIMAL TO HUMAN BITES	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	Apr	MAY	JUN	FY22	FY21
Dog													0	8
Cat													0	1
Bat	1												1	7
Skunk													0	0
Raccoon													0	1
other													0	1
TOTAL BITES	1												0	18

IMMUNIZATIONS	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	FY22	FY21
B12	2												2	13
Flu (Seasonal)													0	1225
Hep B													0	0
Polio													0	0
TDap													0	0
Varicella													0	0
COVID-19													0	6963

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	FY21	FY21
Food Pantry														0
Friends														0
Gift of Warmth														\$16,956
Good Neighbor														0
Park & Rec														1
Self Help														2

Donations: None	
Gift cards Distributed: None	

Emergency Management Support Monthly Report July 2021

178 Rosemary Street, Needham, MA 02494
E-mail: healthdepartment@needhamma.gov

781-455-7940x504(tel); 781-455-7922 (fax)
Web: www.needhamma.gov/health



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



Prepared by: Taleb Abdelrahim

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

Summary of work:

Tasks completed and being worked on:

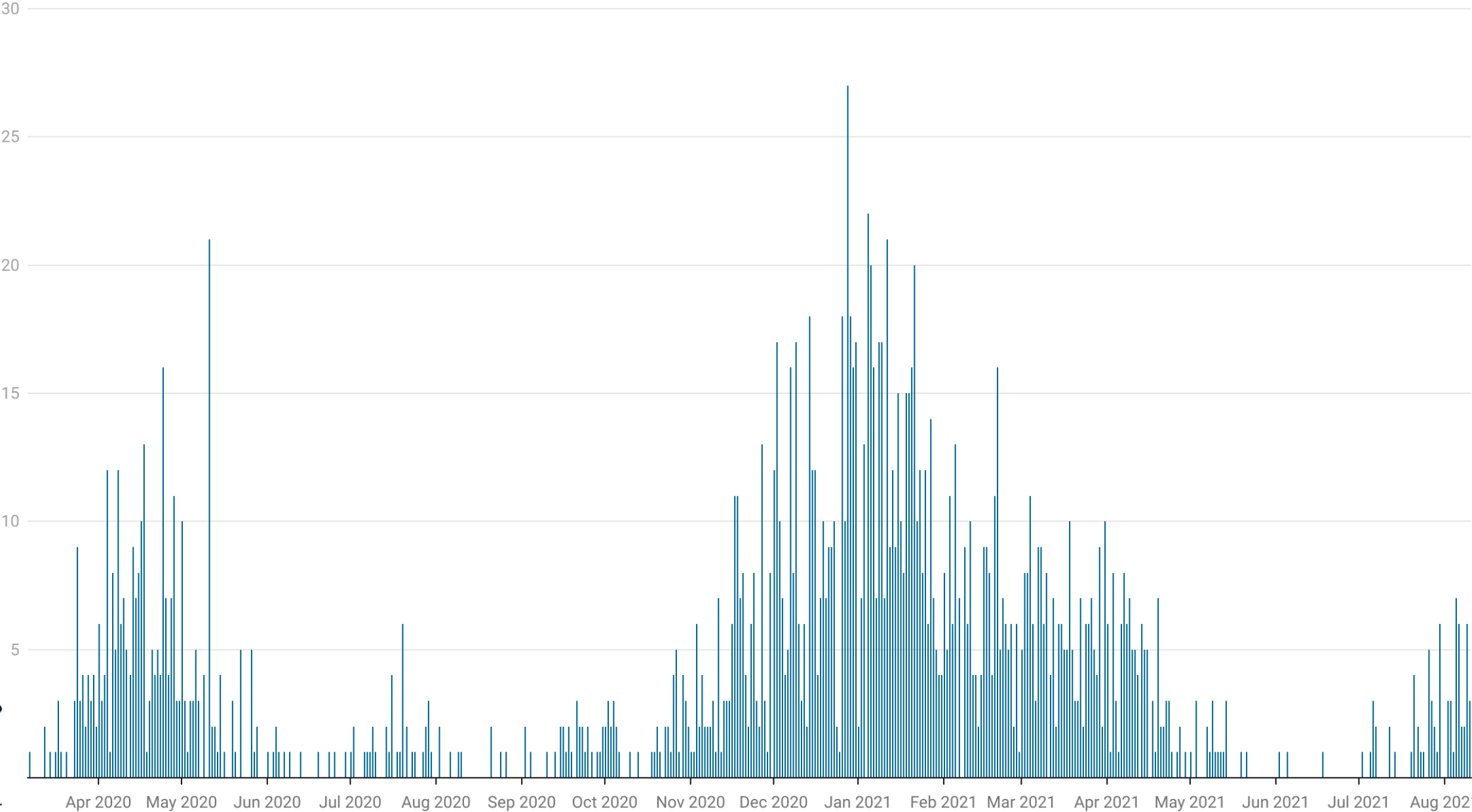
1. We hosted our second MRC training event about Saving Life Skills Until EMS Help Arrives with Needham FD/EMS, which was on July 14th, 5-6:30pm at CATH.
2. We're working to schedule our third MRC training event about Basic Rules of Radio Communication with Needham FD/EMS for month of August.
3. We're reviewing and updating the plan for Emergency Warming and Cooling Centers.



Board of Health COVID-19 Update

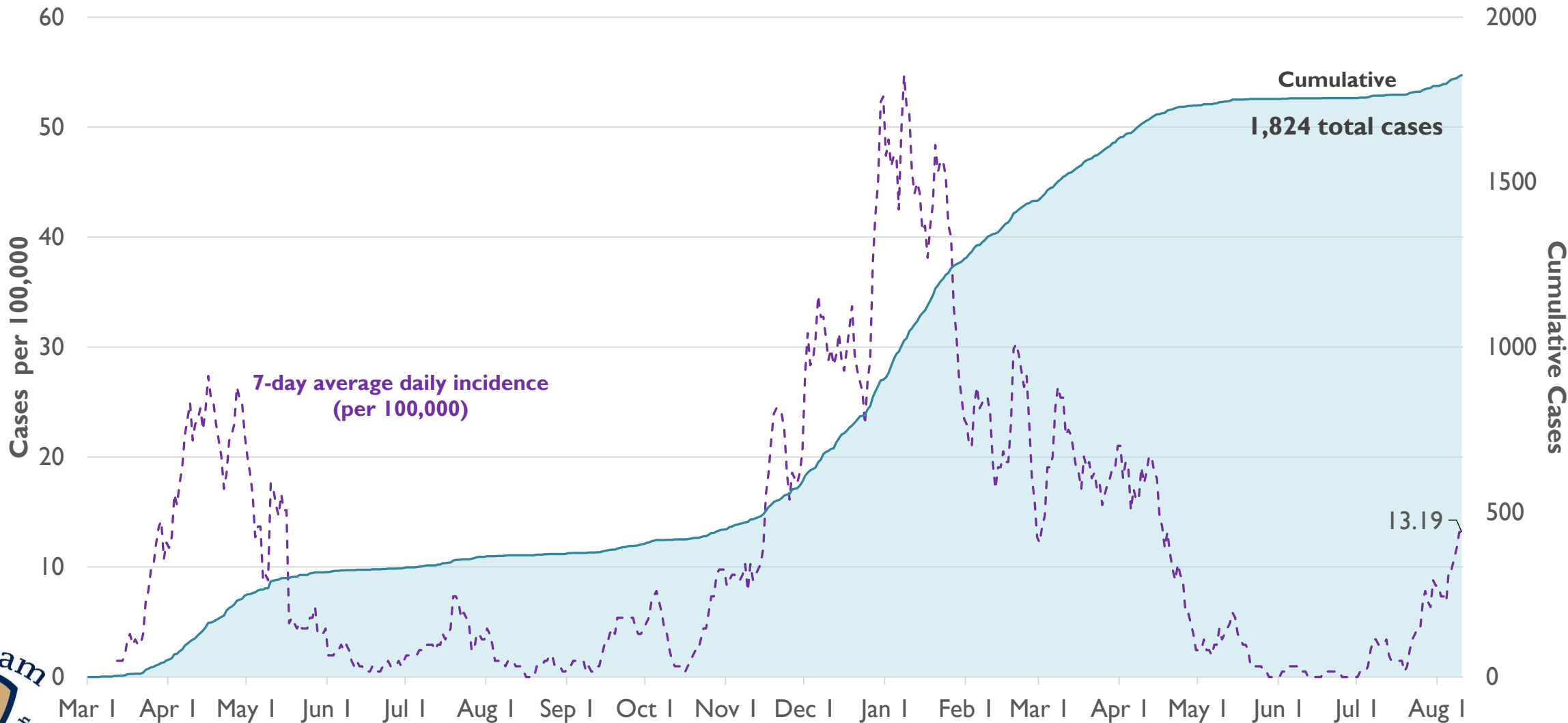
August 17, 2021

Daily Confirmed Cases



COVID-19 Incidence

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

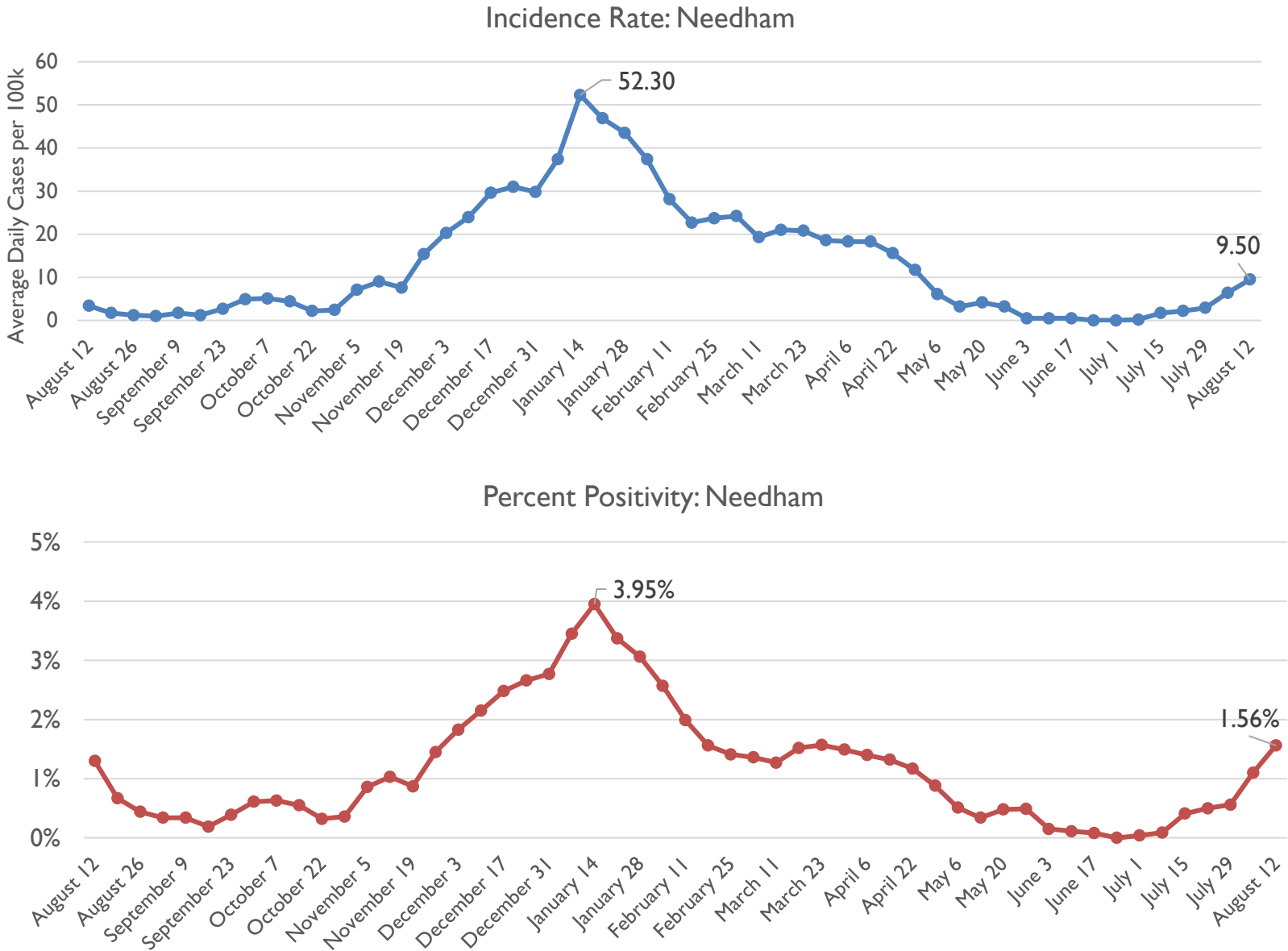


Incidence & Percent Positivity

Area and Risk Level	Avg. Daily Incident Rate per 100K (last 14 days)	Percent Positive Tests (last 14 days)
Massachusetts	12.2 ↗	2.69% ↗
Needham	9.5 ↗	1.56% ↗
Middlesex County	10.2 ↗	1.96% ↗
Framingham	9.4 ↗	2.44% ↗
Newton	8.7 ↗	1.37% ↗
Norfolk County	9.7 ↗	2.20% ↗
Dedham	7.6 ↗	1.87% ↗
Norwood	9.7 ↗	2.31% ↗
Suffolk County	14.9 ↗	2.35% ↗
Boston	14.6 ↗	2.22% ↗

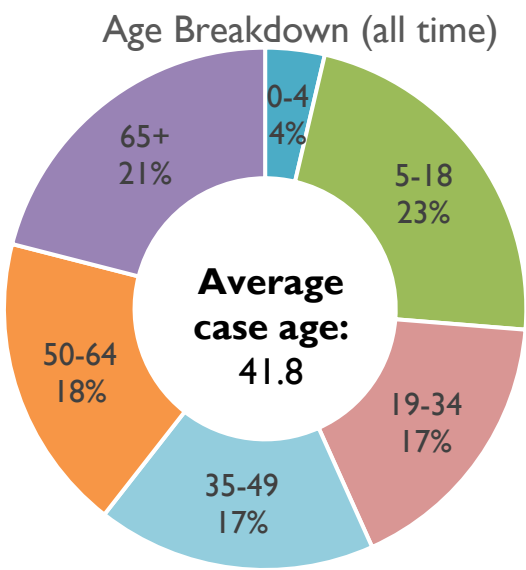
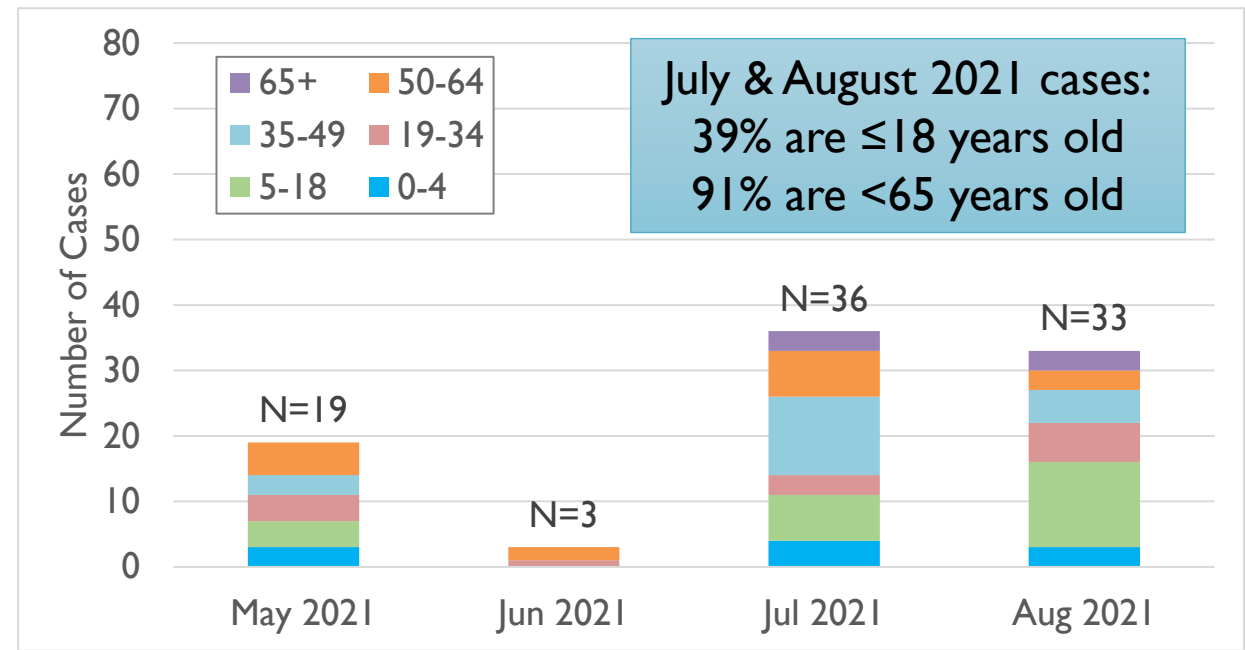


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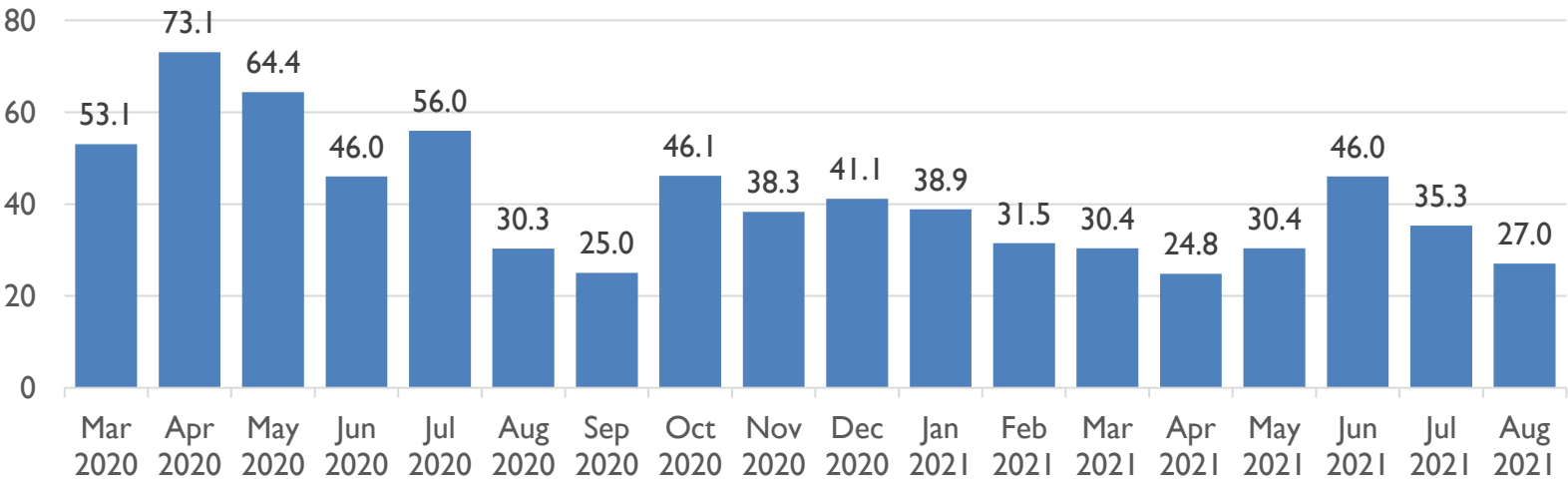


Data as of August 12

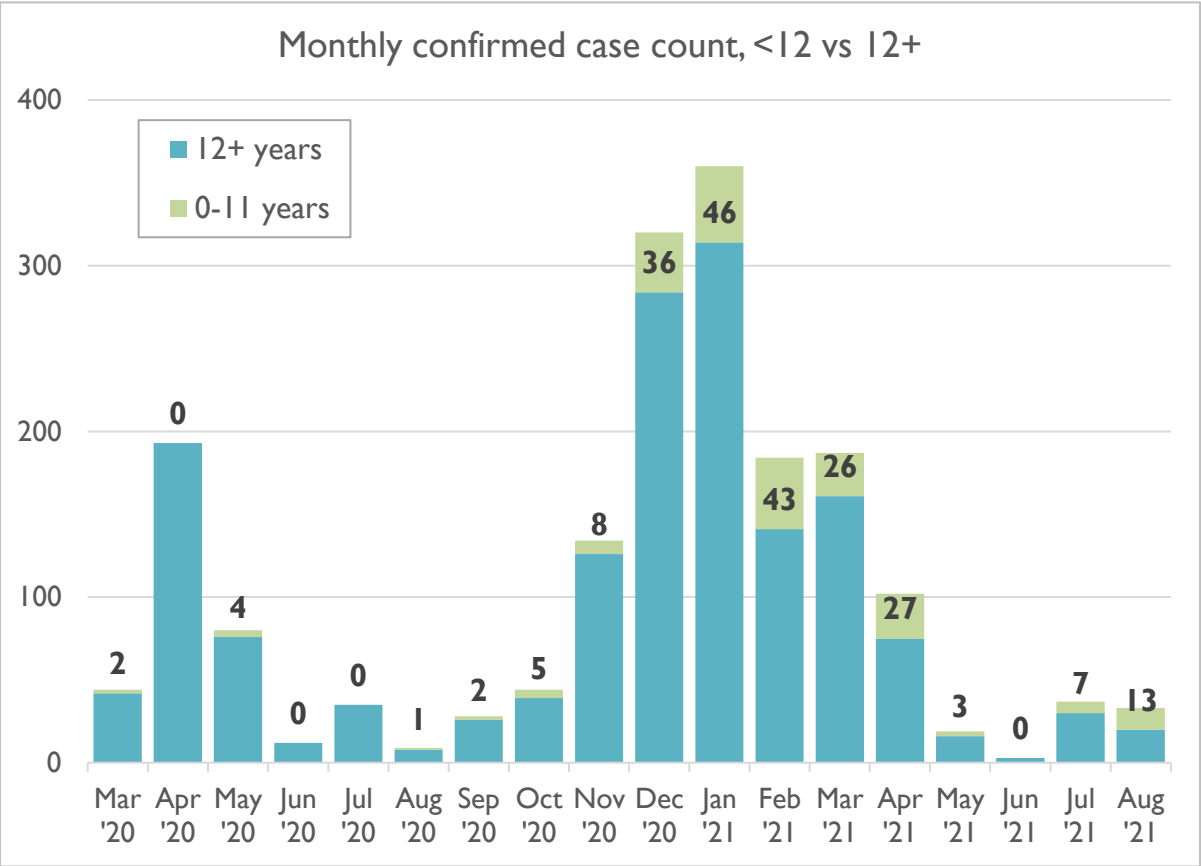
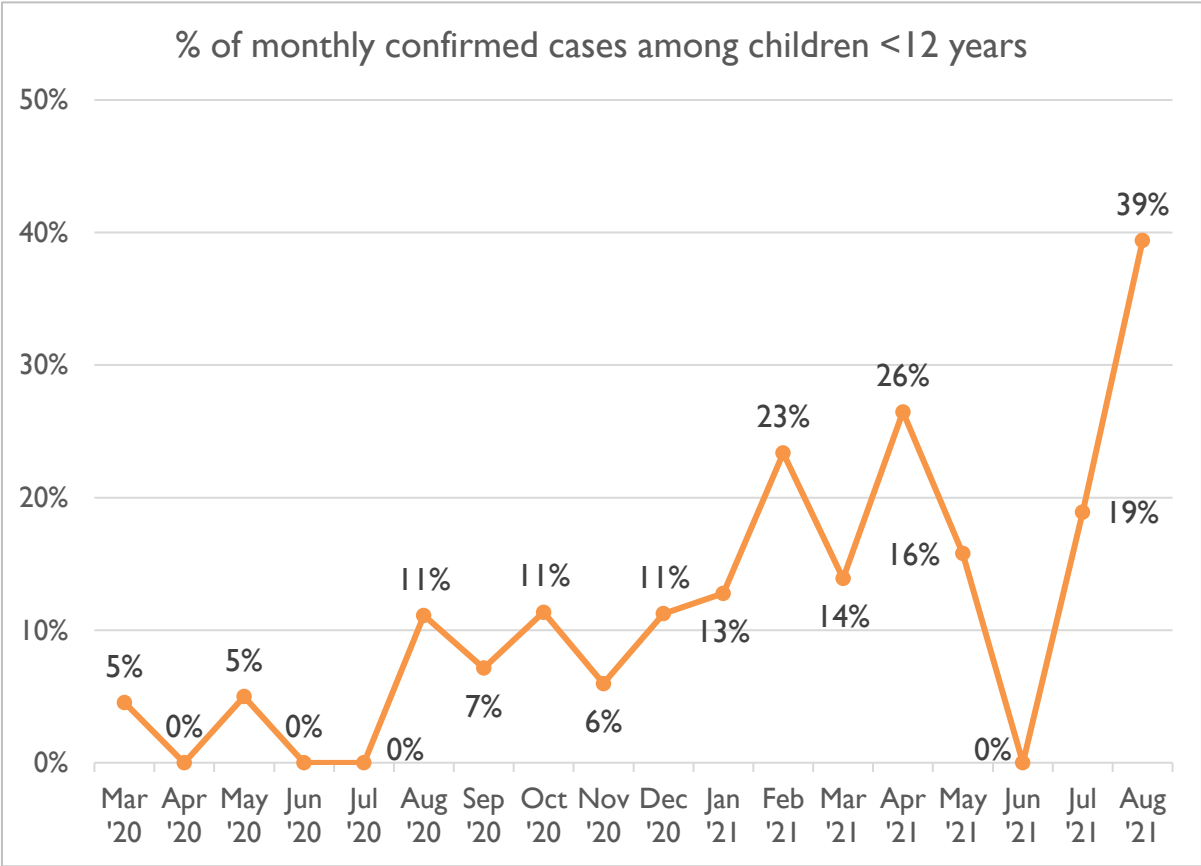
COVID-19 Confirmed Cases by Age



Average Age of Confirmed Cases



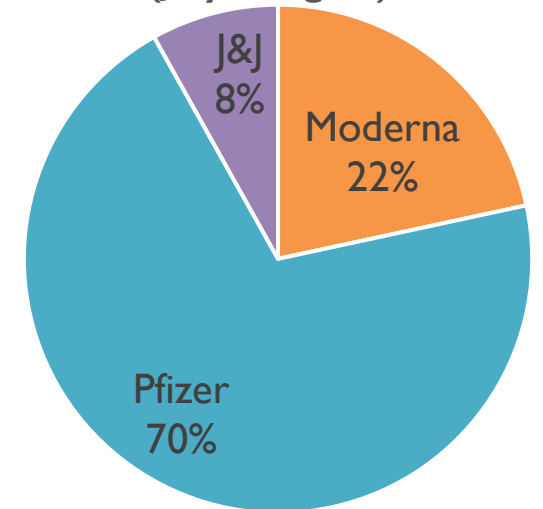
Cases in children under 12



Breakthrough Cases

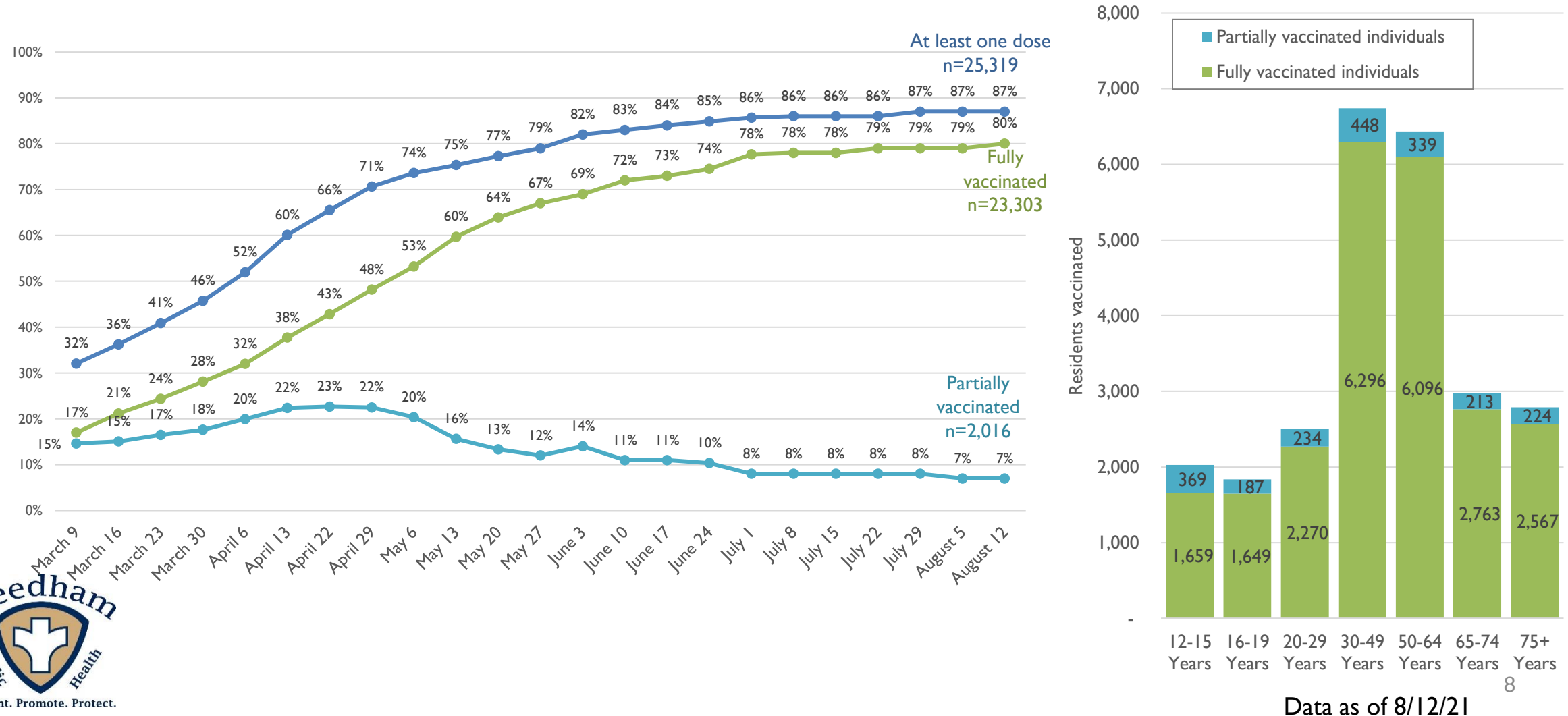
Cases	May-June	July	August	Total
Total Cases	26	40	33	99
Ineligible	6 (23%)	7 (18%)	12 (36%)	25 (25%)
Partially vaccinated	4 (15%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	5 (5%)
Unvaccinated (eligible)	9 (35%)	5 (13%)	3 (9%)	17 (17%)
Breakthrough Cases	7 (27%)	27 (68%)	17 (52%)	51 (52%)
Average Age (IQR)	-	42 years (35-61)		-
% Female	-	57%		-
% vaccinated with breakthrough disease (May – August breakthrough cases only)				0.22%

Breakthrough cases by vaccine
(July - August)



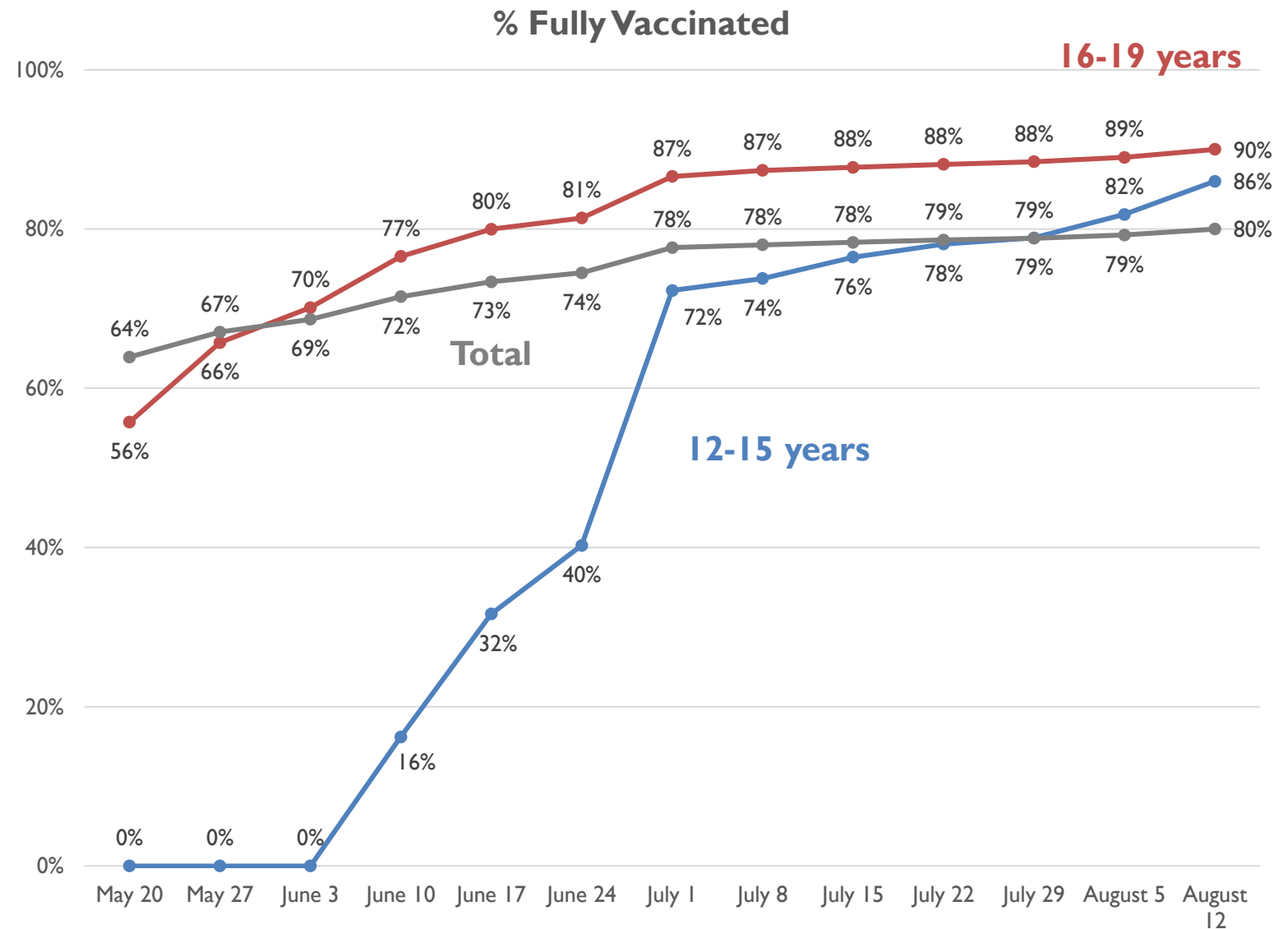
Vaccine Uptake

- Almost all eligible Needham residents are fully vaccinated (appx. 16% of town pop is <12 years old)
- Vast majority of vaccinated adults have completed vaccine series (if two-dose vaccine)
- MA reports >95% in all eligible age groups have received at least one dose; >90% fully vaccinated ages 16 and up



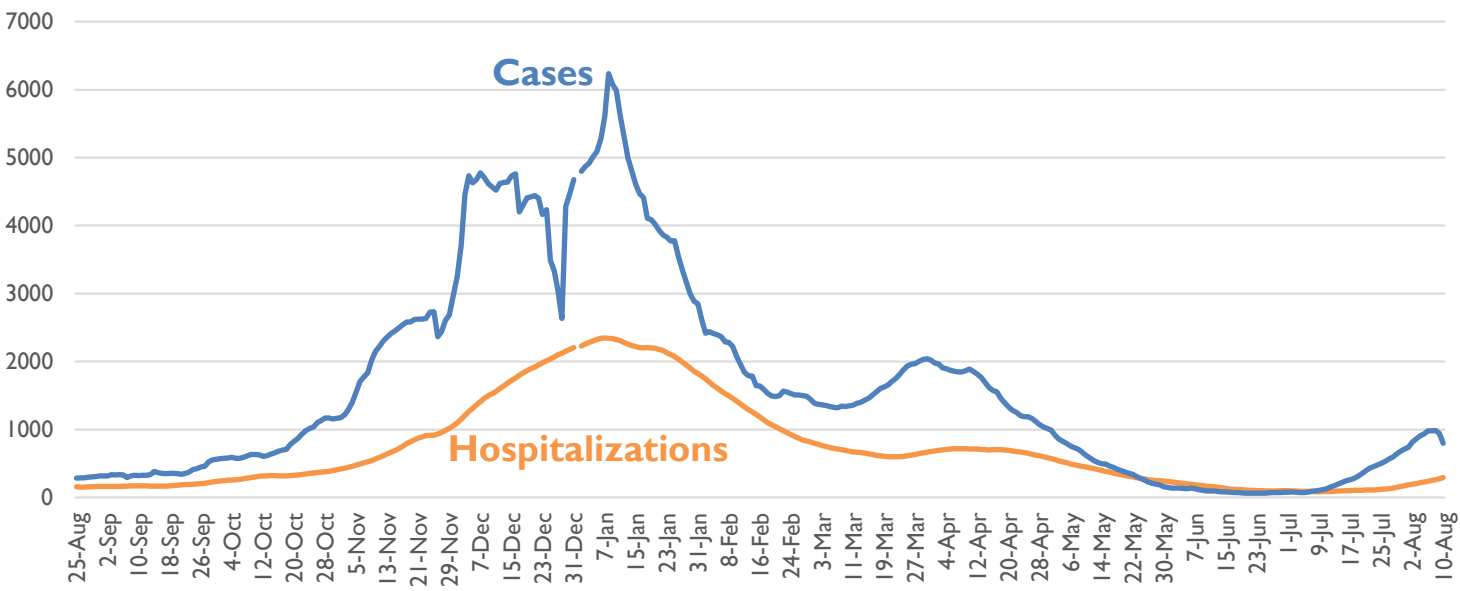
Vaccine Uptake Among Youth

- Children 12 years and older became eligible for Pfizer vaccine on May 12 (second doses starting June 2)
- Appx. 380 missed second doses among 12-15 year olds and 166 among 16-19 year olds (haven't gotten 2nd dose within 4 weeks of receiving 1st; data reporting lags possible)
- Missed doses declining steadily among 12-15 year olds (down from 502 three weeks ago) but fairly stagnant among 16-19 year olds

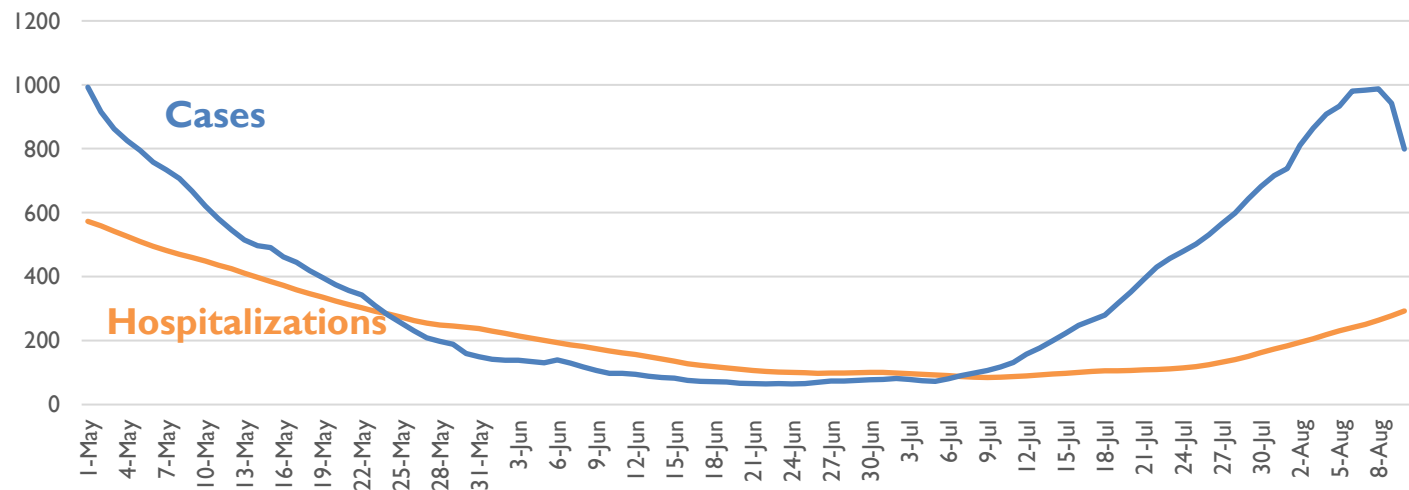


State-level Trends in Cases & Hospitalizations

Massachusetts Confirmed Cases & Hospitalizations



May – August Trends



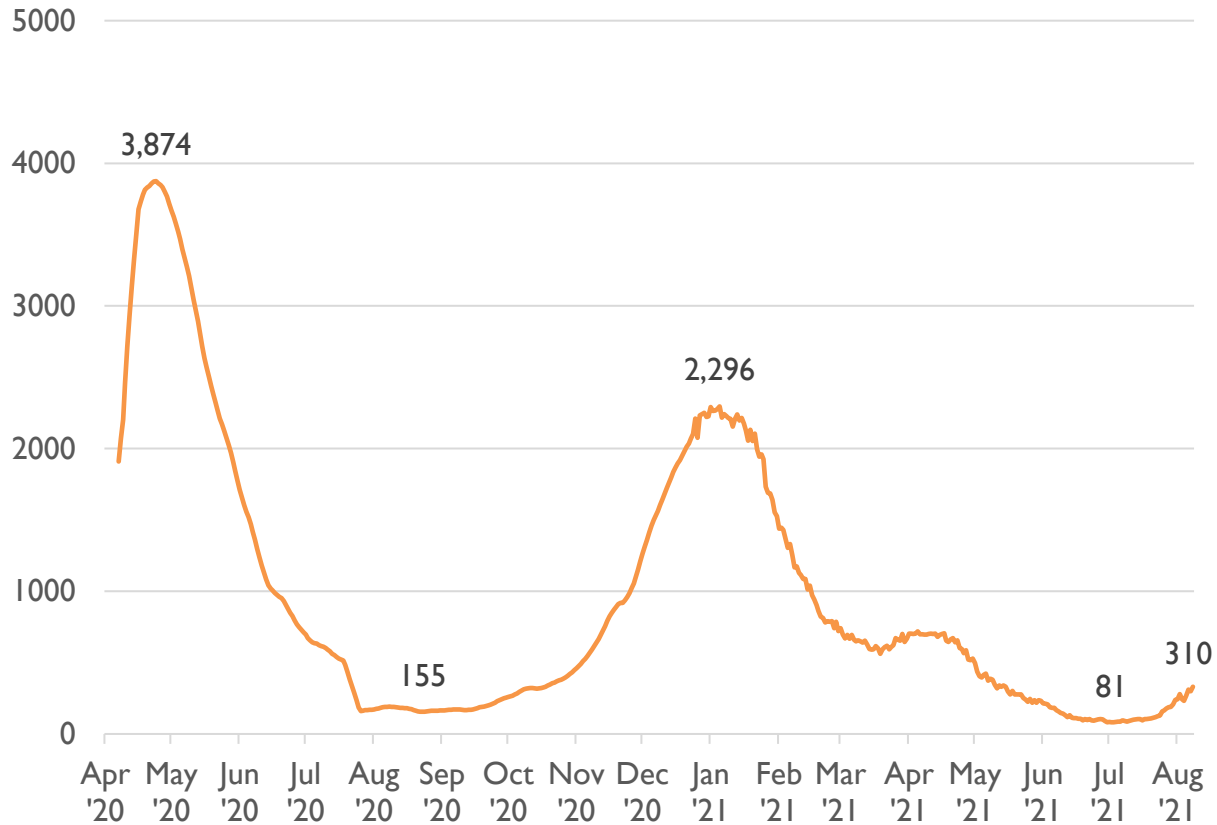
Cases & hospitalizations presented as 7-day rolling averages



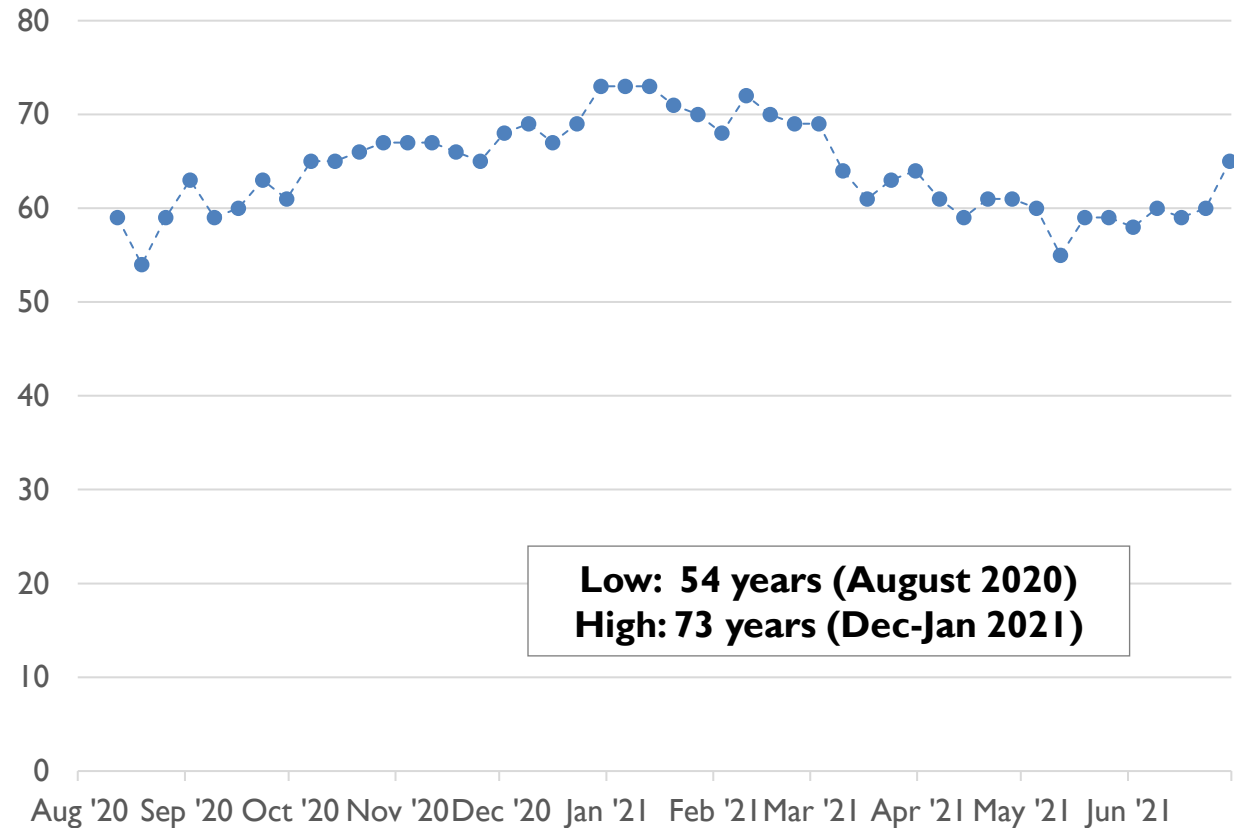
Data as of 8/11/21

Massachusetts Hospitalizations

7 day average of COVID hospitalizations

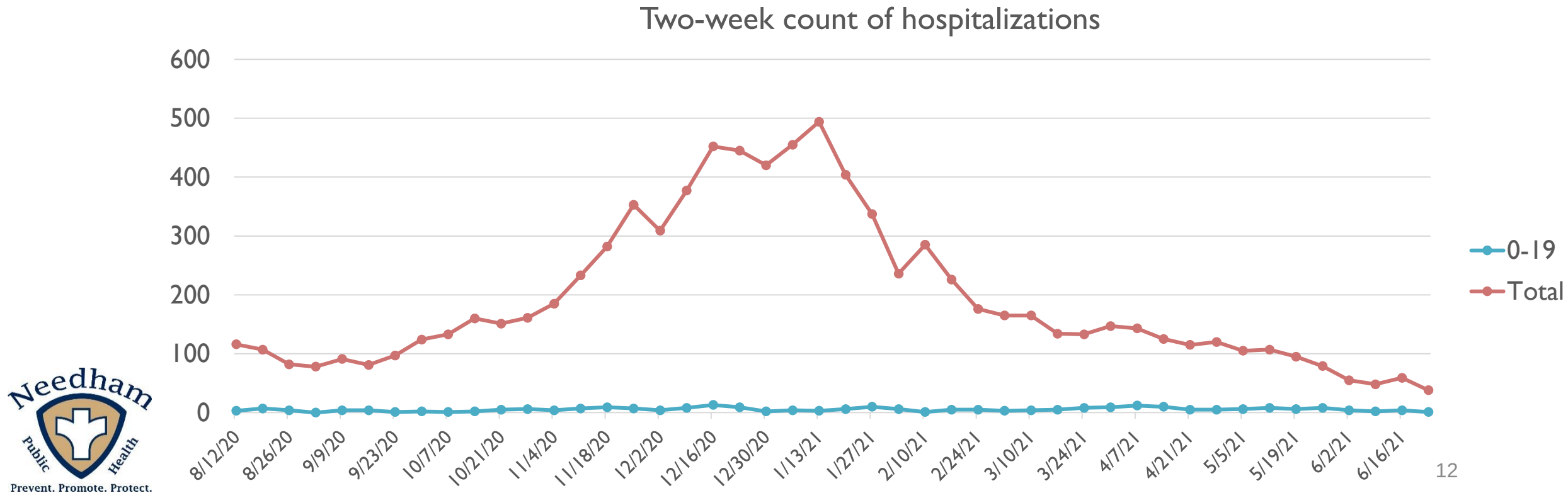


Average Age of Hospitalized Case

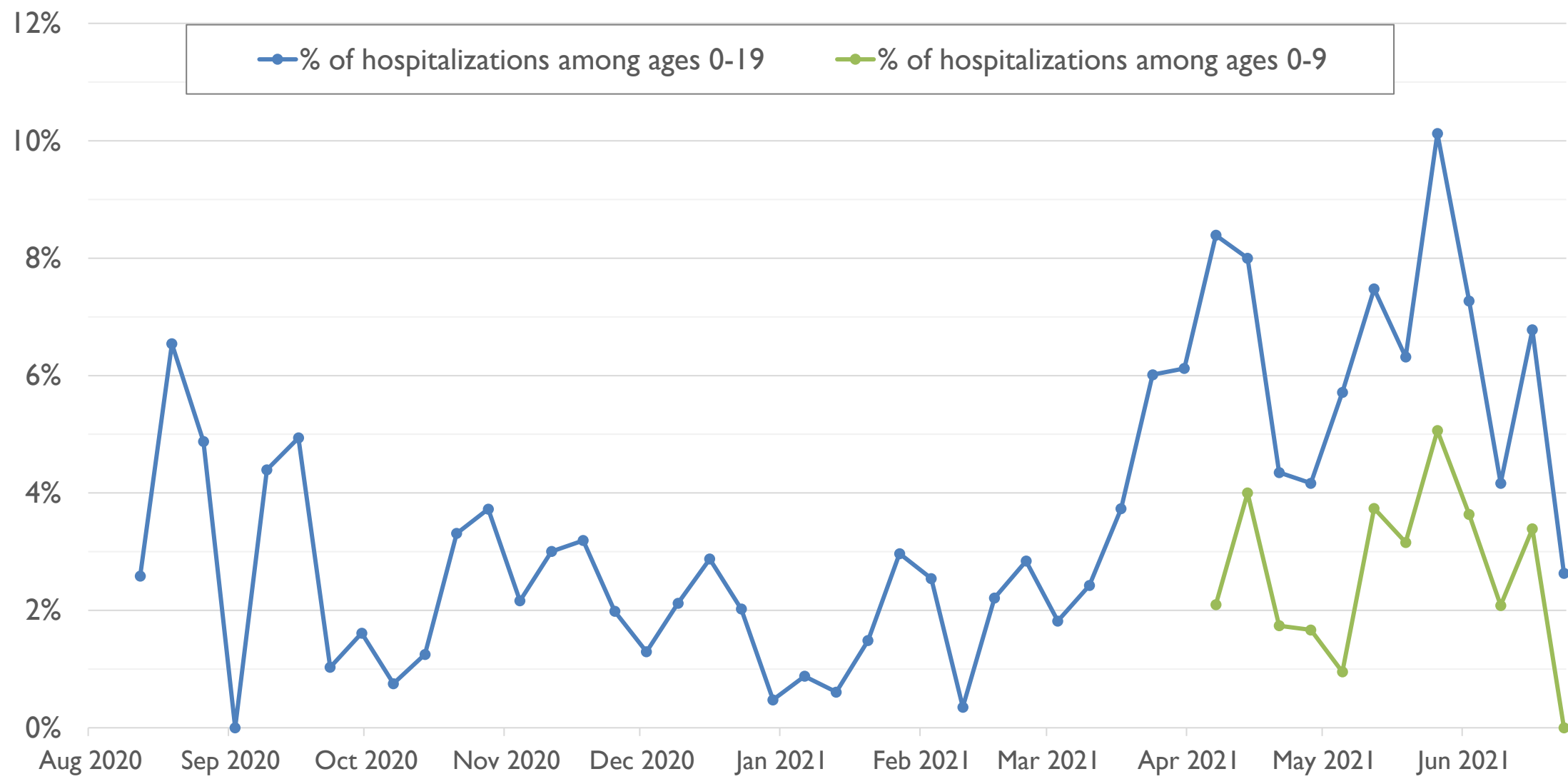


MA Hospitalizations among children & teenagers

- Hospitalizations among children and teens disaggregated as of April '21 (previously only reported as combined hospitalizations among 0-19 year olds)
- Reported as total hospitalizations over previous two weeks
- No age-specific hospitalization data released since end of June

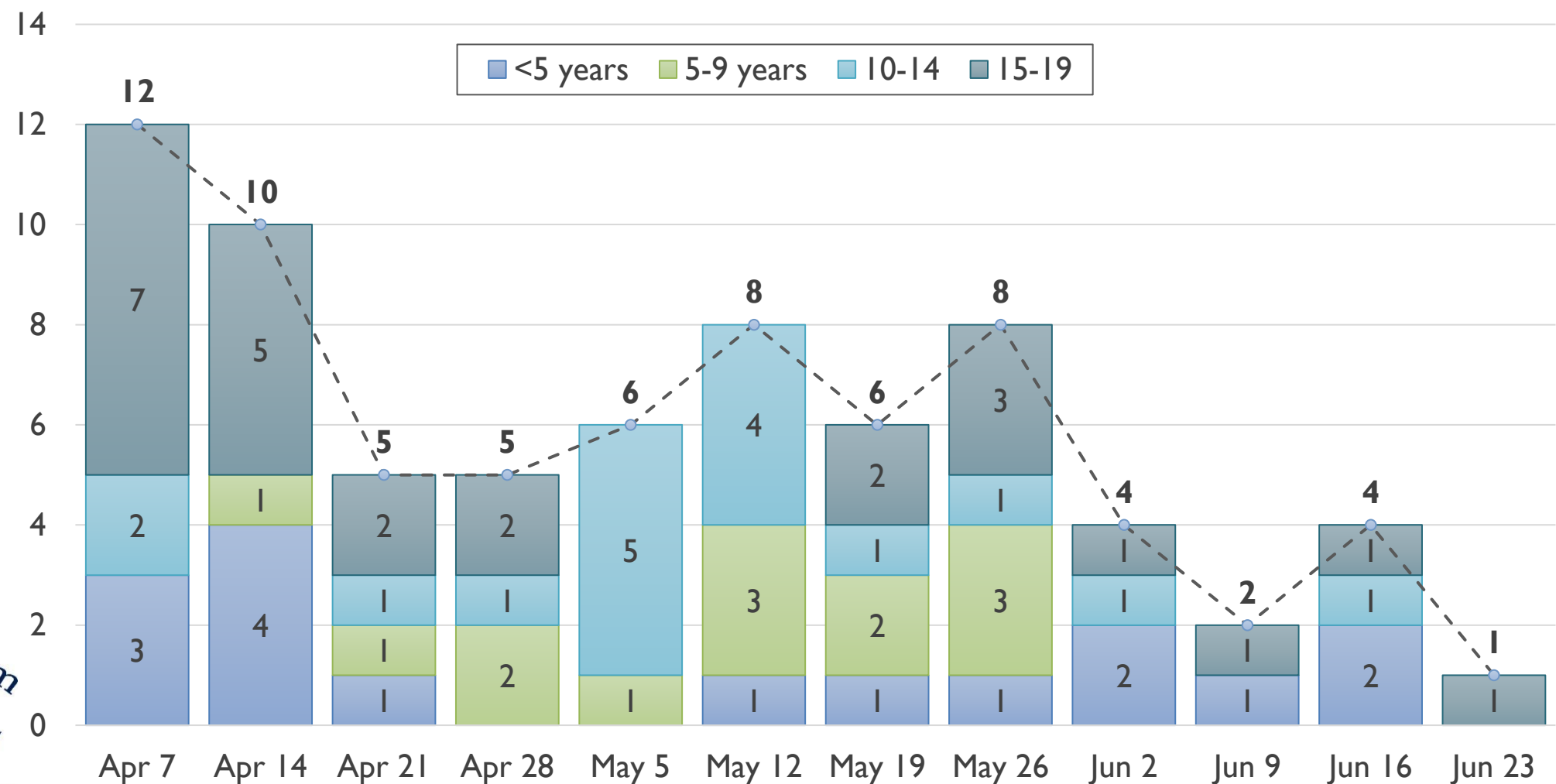


% of hospitalizations among children & teenagers



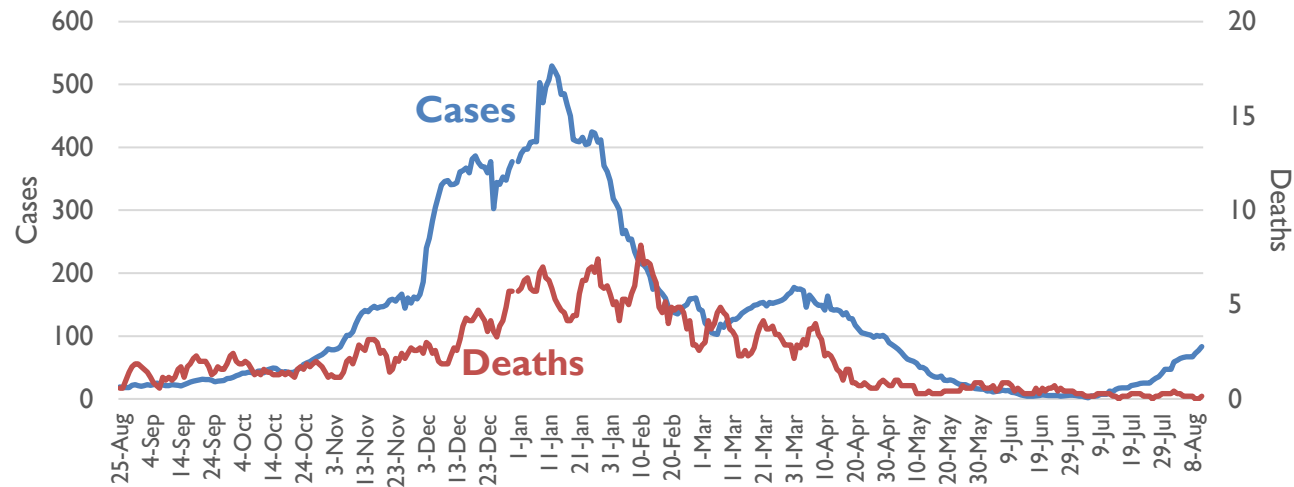
MA Hospitalizations among children & teenagers

Two-week total hospitalizations by age group, April-June 2021



County-level Trends in Cases & Deaths

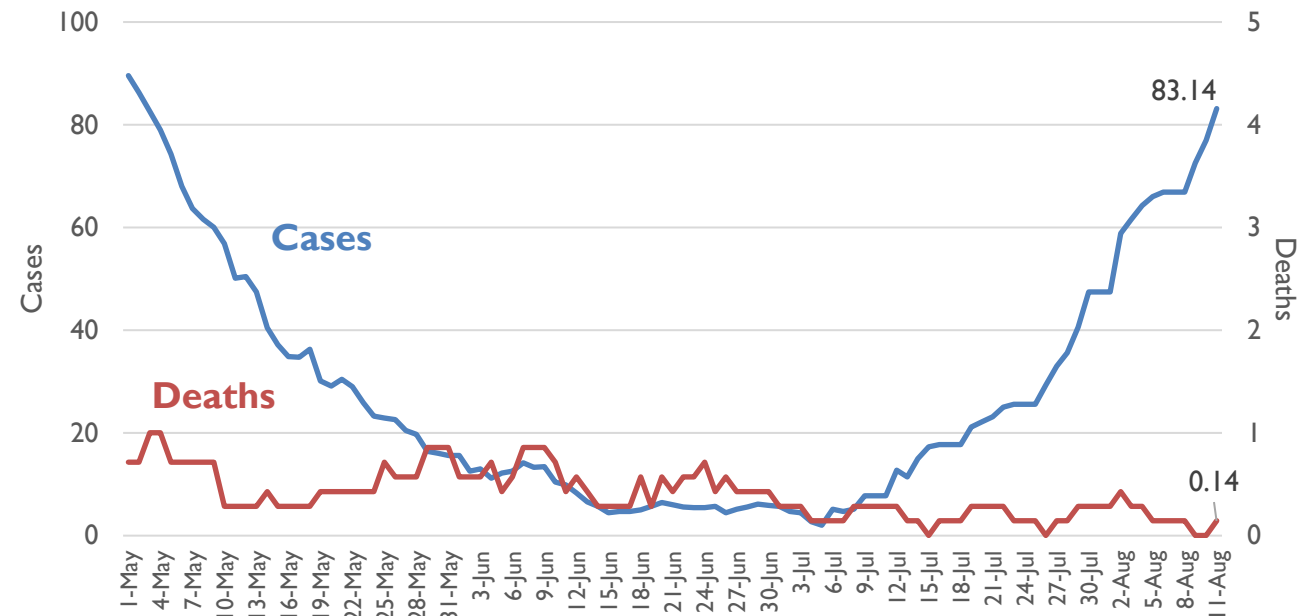
Norfolk County Confirmed Cases & COVID Deaths



COVID-19 Deaths in Needham:

126 total deaths
No new deaths since mid-April

May – August Trends



Cases & deaths presented as 7-day rolling averages



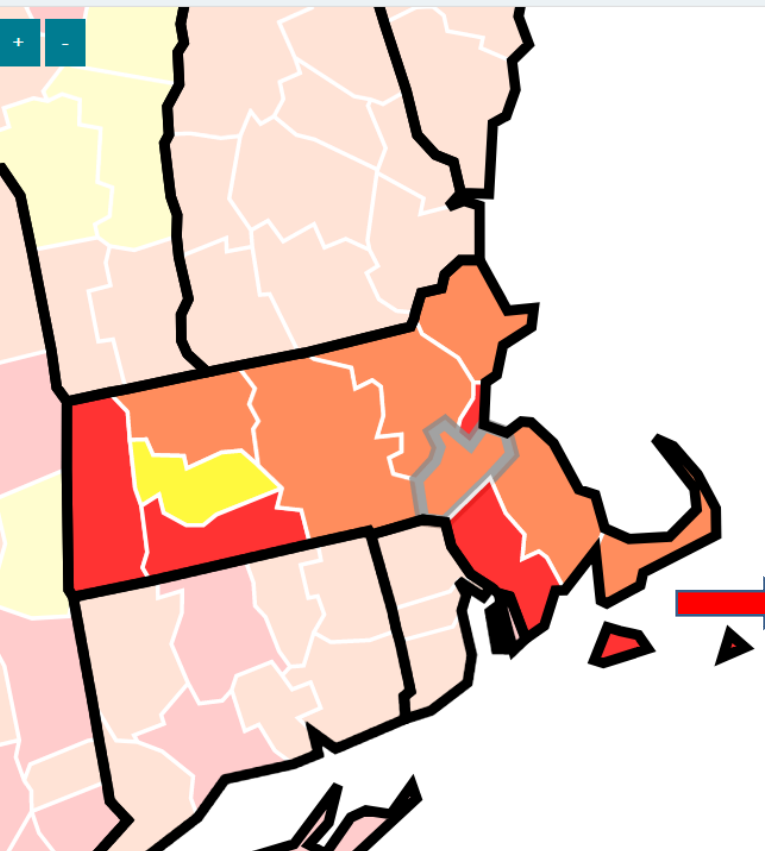
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Data as of 8/11/21

Current CDC Recommendations

- Fully vaccinated individuals are now recommended to wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission

Time Period: Wed Aug 04 2021 - Tue Aug 10 2021



→ Norfolk County is currently an area of **substantial transmission**

Indicators (Aug 4-10):

- 76.26 cases per 100,000 (substantial transmission)
- 2.38% positivity rate (low transmission)

Indicator - If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥ 100
Percentage of NAATs ¹ that are positive during the past 7 days	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥ 10.0%

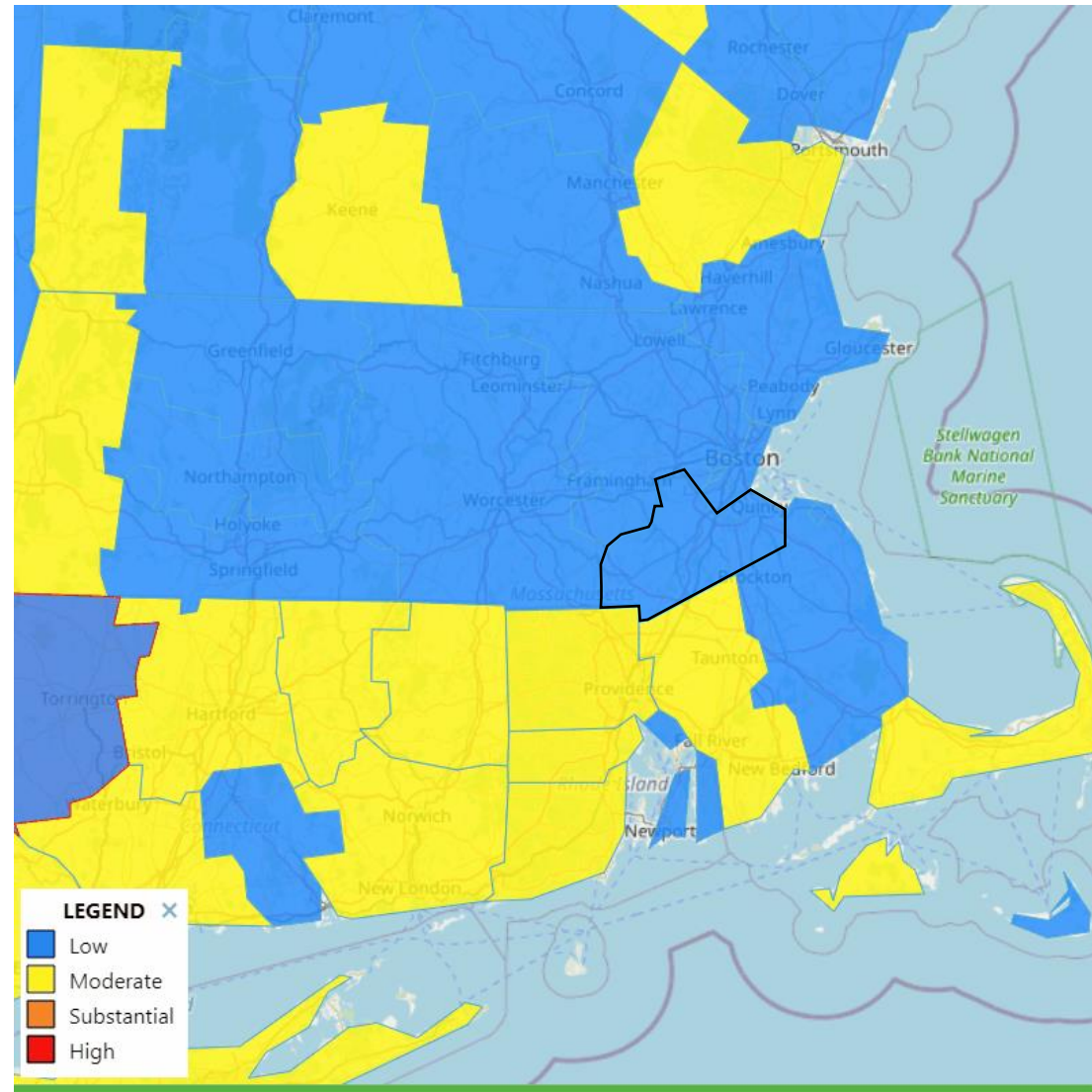
● High ● Substantial ● Moderate ● Low ● No Data

Source: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/>

Community Transmission Levels: July-August

Norfolk County outlined in black

Time-lapse from July 11 – August 10



Prevent. Promote. Protect.



COVID-19 | PHASED PREVENTION | LEVELS OF COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION |
ALL COUNTIES | 07/11/2021



Explore more data at ephtracking.cdc.gov/DataExplorer

Current CDC Recommendations

Masks

- Fully vaccinated individuals may choose to mask regardless of community transmission levels if they or a member of their household is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease, or unvaccinated
- Universal indoor masking recommended for all students, staff, teachers and visitors in K-12 schools, regardless of community transmission levels or vaccination status
- Unvaccinated individuals ages 2 and older should wear a mask in all public indoor settings

Vaccinated contacts

- Close contacts that are fully vaccinated should be tested 3-5 days after exposure, wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they test negative, and isolate if test positive

Symptomatic & fully vaccinated

- Fully vaccinated individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should isolate, seek clinical evaluation, and get tested for COVID if indicated



**Select Board
TOWN OF NEEDHAM
AGENDA FACT SHEET**

MEETING DATE: 08/17/2021

Agenda Item	American Rescue Plan Act COVID-19 Funding Request
Presenter(s)	Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager

1.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC TO BE DISCUSSED
The Town Manager will make a recommendation to the Board for the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support the Town's ongoing public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the annual salary costs for: • 1 FT Public Health Nurse: \$80,000 • 1 FT Epidemiologist: \$70,000 • 2 PT Contact Tracers: \$60,000 • Total = \$210,000 This recommendation is for an immediate need – additional conversations will be held with stakeholders, boards and committees about future recommended uses.	
2.	VOTE REQUIRED BY SELECT BOARD
<i>Suggested Motion:</i> That the Board vote to appropriate \$210,000 in ARPA funds to support a full-time public health nurse, a full-time epidemiologist, and two part-time contact tracers for 12 months, to address the Town's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.	
3.	BACK UP INFORMATION ATTACHED
a. HHS ARPA Spending Recommendation Memo	



NEEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH



Memorandum

To: Katie King, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Operations
From: Timothy McDonald, Director of Health & Human Services and Assistant
Emergency Management Director
Date: August 9, 2021
Re: American Rescue Plan Act COVID-19 Spending Recommendation Memo

The COVID-19 Pandemic, which in Massachusetts reached its nadir in terms of cases and positive testing rate during the month of June, has regained momentum since the middle of July. Driven by the Delta Variant of COVID, cases counts in Needham and the town's positive testing rate have risen in the last three weeks. Whether the Delta Variant of COVID-19 produces a new months-long wave of COVID cases or whether the increase in cases is more short-lived is not clear at the present time.

In this memorandum, I outline American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending priorities for the Needham Health & Human Services Department. The priorities, which are outlined briefly and which include a rough cost estimate, are intended to address one of three areas – ongoing operational needs to meet the direct challenges of COVID-19, increased investments to respond to the mental health impacts (both previously incurred and ongoing) of COVID-19 in the community, and resources to respond to the pandemic's ongoing disruption of the social, educational, nutritional, and physical activity needs of Needham's seniors.

These spending priorities are based upon my assessment of the department's needs and the needs of its constituent divisions. That assessment was informed by discussions with the professional staff of the Health & Human Services Department and those staff members' subsequent conversations with their own team members and the board members overseeing their divisions, along with my own discussions and the public deliberations of the Needham Board of Health.

Operational Needs to Meet the Ongoing Challenges of COVID-19

As late July's announcement of new mask guidance from the CDC has reinforced, the COVID-19 pandemic is not over and Needham should take steps now to plan and reserve resources to respond to the continued resurgence of the pandemic. Resource needs for continued COVID-19 response are largely confined to staffing in the public health nursing, contact tracing, and epidemiology areas.



NEEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH



To address the needs of the COVID-19 pandemic, in July 2020 Needham posted a job opening for a full-time public health nurse to supplement the Town's existing staff members. Funded largely from salary savings in an effort to take advantage of CARES Act reimbursements, this role oversaw a team of three part-time contact tracers (who were partially grant-funded). The public health nurse was the primary liaison with the Needham Public Schools on COVID cases in children, as well as cases which arose in private schools, daycares, and after-school programs.

Although there is tremendous uncertainty about the course of the pandemic in Fall 2021 and over the winter, the staffing pattern noted above – a full-time nurse solely focused on contract tracing who oversees a small team of contact tracers – served Needham well and should be extended for an additional 18-24 months. **The annual cost for the full-time nurse is approximately \$80K in salary costs.** The contact tracing team of three will be reduced to two, although the two contact tracers together will work the same number of hours as the team of three did this past year. **The total annual cost for two 19.5 hr/week contact tracers is approximately \$60K.**

The Public Health Division has reserved funding from its Immunization Revolving Account to support the costs of further COVID-19 immunizations during the remainder of 2021 and into 2022. The working assumption is that in the fall, the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization for Pfizer (and possibly Moderna) will be extended down to either the 5-11 year age bracket or possibly even the 2-11 year age bracket. A secondary assumption is that at some point in the fall or the winter, a third "booster" shot of either Pfizer or Moderna vaccine will be required for immune-compromised individuals (and possibly for all seniors over 60 years of age). Funds have been reserved, and planning has begun, to support both of those immunization campaigns when they are authorized (and when vaccine is available). **No funding is requested to support the costs of additional COVID-19 vaccinations at this time.**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town of Needham has undertaken tremendous efforts to provide information to the public. This process has been led, naturally, by the Town's Public Information Officer (PIO), yet the Public Health Division has played an important role in these efforts especially the Division's grant-funded part-time epidemiologist. She has worked closely with the PIO, and led the way in developing streamlined, comprehensive, and visually attractive information on the Town's COVID Dashboard. She has also developed the vast majority of all presentations, both internal and external, about COVID that my team and I have delivered over the last 12 months. The Public Health Division's grant expires in a few short weeks, but the need to collect, analyze, and display information to help educate and inform the public will remain. **Funding to support a full-time**

178 Rosemary Street, Needham, MA 02494
E-mail: healthdepartment@needhamma.gov

781-455-7940 (tel); 781-455-7922 (fax)
Web: www.needhamma.gov/health



NEEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH



epidemiologist with a special focus in data visualization will cost approximately \$70K per year in salary.

Investments to Respond to Mental Health Impacts of COVID

Youth mental health problems have spiked during the pandemic, with family stress and financial shortfalls directly impacting youth. Those challenges have been exacerbated by the disruptions to learning and socialization over the past 18 months. During “normal” times, the Youth & Family Services (YFS) Division of HHS has a short list of children and families waiting to begin seeing a clinician for a course of mental health treatment. The length of that wait list has increased markedly – there is a growing volume of new clients clamoring for services, and current clients who might normally have finished a multi-month treatment plan and left YFS have instead developed new challenges and are not able or willing to end treatment.

To address this growing need for mental health services, YFS requests a full-time clinician for a period of 24 to 30 months. This would help the surge in mental health cases and ensure that youth receive services quickly. This full-time position would also help to support additional programming, parent support groups and needs assessments. **The total annual salary cost for this request is approximately \$70K.**

Additional needs, should funding be available, might support any of the following mental health priorities:

- Outside contracts with mental health experts to which YFS might refer particularly acute cases, for example a youth with complex eating disorder and self-harm behavior. The total cost for this request is approximately \$50K, comprised of five contracts with mental health experts at an annual value of \$10K each.
- The development and equipping/outfitting of a space at either Needham Town Hall or the Center at the Heights for the purposes of providing a multi-sensory environmental space in which to conduct therapeutic interventions. Commonly referred to as a Snoezelen® Room, the space makes it possible for the therapist to create an immersive environment for the patient with things like soothing sounds, low-level/reduced lighting, etc. The approximate cost to equip such a space is \$50K.
- Funding to support enhanced community education and awareness on mental health topics (community conversations on mental health, as well as additional trainings and community forums. The total costs for event planning, A/V needs, and refreshments would be approximately \$15K.



NEEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH



Response to the Pandemic's Disruption of the Lives of Seniors

Senior isolation and depression during COVID-19 has been a major challenge that the Aging Services Division and the Council on Aging have worked hard to address. Challenges remain though, and the resurgence of the Delta Variant of COVID-19 has underscored the need for the Aging Services Division to simultaneously offer both virtual programs (for those seniors who are not yet comfortable interacting in large groups indoors) and in-person programs (for those seniors that want/need in-person activities and socialization). Available funding might support:

- Additional part-time staff to provide outreach and education services at an approximate annual cost of \$25K; and
- Supplemental funding for programs (largely costs of instructors and some supplies) to make up shortfalls in the Division's program revenue accounts. Virtually all programs offered at CATH are currently operating at a loss due to limited attendance (attendance is 25-30% of pre-pandemic levels currently), and the Division has not yet figured out a viable way to charge seniors for online programming. The estimated shortfall for FY 2022 is approximately \$30K, although this is a very rough estimate based on a series of large assumptions which may not turn out to be accurate as the year develops.

Thank you for your consideration of this memorandum. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns, or if I may provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Timothy Muir McDonald
Director of Health & Human Services
Assistant Emergency Management Director
Town of Needham