

Lincoln Public Schools COVID-19 Response Update

Presented to the Board of Health 2/16/2022



Recap of Recent Activities

- Launched weekly at-home testing and ended test and stay
- Replaced close contact tracing with potential exposure notifications at the classroom (PK-5) or grade level (6-8)
- Updated protocols to align with changes and recommend rapid tests before returning from quarantine or isolation
- Expanded access to rapid antigen tests for students for testing prior to return, in the case of household exposure, or when there are barriers to access
- Extended town rapid test program to our Boston resident families

Dashboard Snapshot - Wednesday 2/16

Total confirmed COVID-19 cases

366

Confirmed cases among students

296

Confirmed cases among faculty/staff

70

Cases found through testing program

149

Cases By Month

- *September: 9*
- *October: 9*
- *November: 34*
- *December: 69*
- *January: 218*
- *February: 27*

Total Cases By Campus

- *Hanscom Campus: 189*
- *Lincoln Campus: 177*

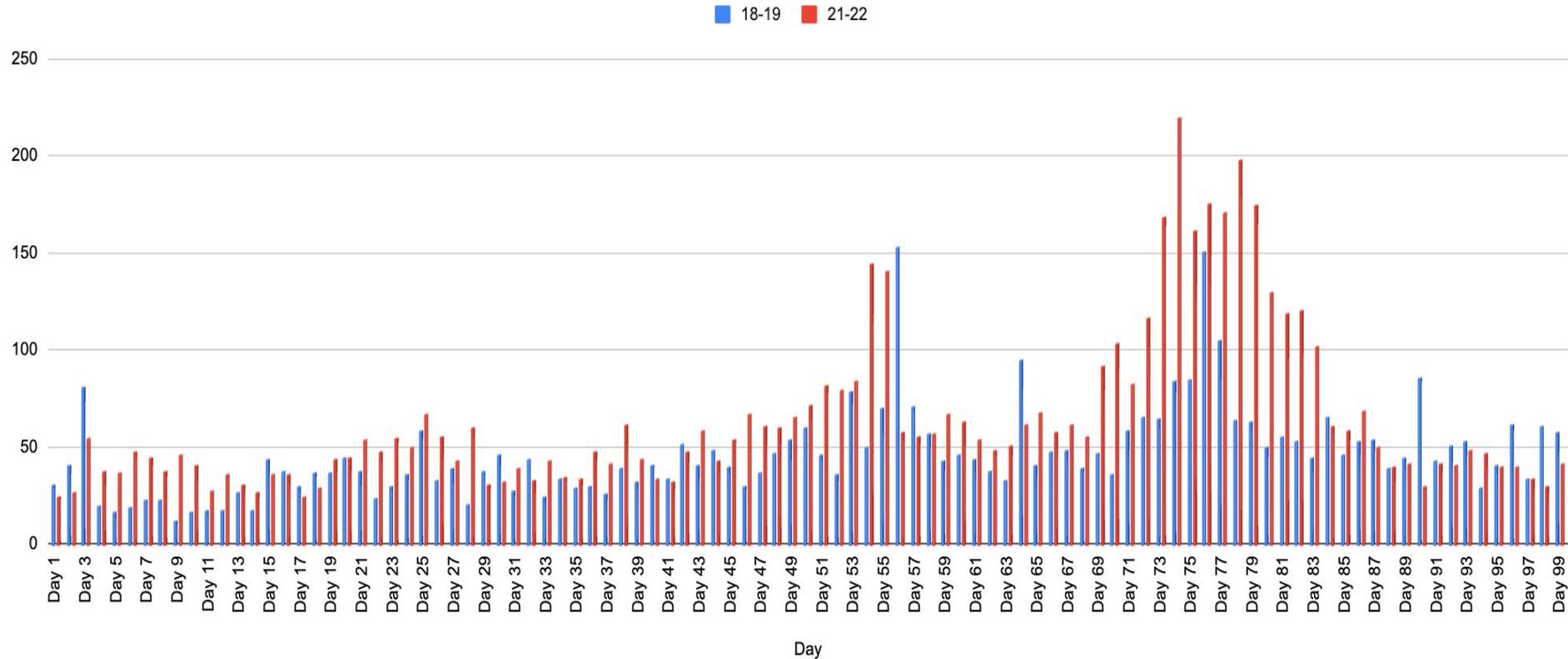
<https://www.lincnet.org/coviddashboard>

COVID Trends - January and February

	Weekly DESE Case Report (Thu-Wed)	Positive Pools (PCR)	Positive Weekly At-Home Tests	Student Avg Daily Absences	Staff Avg Daily Absences (Sick & COVID-related)	Lincoln 14-day % Positivity	Wastewater Surveillance MWRA North 7-day avg
Week of 1/3	130	32	-	196	40	-	8,353
Week of 1/10	64	21	-	172	36	9.88%	5,091
Week of 1/17	41	18	-	84	28	10.28%	2,331
Week of 1/24	29	6	-	55	25	8.69%	1,420
Week of 1/31	22	5	0	61	24	4.35%	1,016
Week of 2/7	13	1	2	42	23	2.09%	404
Week of 2/14	6	3	3	52	19	<i>Not Published Yet</i>	159

Student absences 18-19 (Pre-COVID) vs 21-22

of Students Absent by Day



Student Vaccination Rates (Fully vaccinated)

Hanscom	
Preschool at Hanscom	5%
HPS (K-3)	24%
HMS (4-8)	42%

Lincoln	
Preschool at Lincoln	18%
Lincoln School K-4	67%
Lincoln School 5-8	78%

Details and caveats:

- Vaccination data from Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) or directly reported by parents to the school.
- First round of family outreach complete, and will continue outreach on an ongoing basis.
- Hanscom data may in part reflect student mobility and HAFB not reporting directly to MIIS database, but primarily reflects lower vaccination rates.
- Most preschool students are still not eligible to be vaccinated. Only 18% of Lincoln and 34% of Hanscom preschool students are eligible to be vaccinated.

MA Masking Order Ending

- Order ends as of 2/28 and decisions revert back to local control
- Local decision to continue masking requirements or shift to less masking
- Areas where masking will still be required/necessary in all districts:
 - School buses (Federal)
 - Nurse's offices (per MA DPH, healthcare settings)
 - Individuals in days 6-10 following a positive test result
 - Individuals with specific health concerns
- DESE/DPH strongly recommends unvaccinated individuals continue to mask, regardless of local decision
- Individuals must have personal discretion to wear masks without stigma

Lincoln Decisions

- Continue with local mask wearing requirement for staff and students, or shift to less masking?
- If the decision is to shift to less masking, when would this take effect?
- Are there school, district, or community metrics that would have to be met before shifting to less masking, or conversely, when masking would return?
- What accommodations do we need to make for students and staff with special health considerations (immunocompromised, etc.)?
- Does this look different for Preschool?

Neighboring District Decisions

Neighboring Districts:

Acton Boxborough RSD	2/28
Bedford	2/28
Belmont	Maintain
Carlisle	TBD on 2/17
Concord	3/7
Lincoln Sudbury RHS	3/7
Sudbury	3/7

Preschools:

Acton	Maintain
Bedford	2/28
Belmont	Maintain
Concord	Maintain
Magic Garden	Maintain

Recommendation

- End universal masking requirement in grades K - 8 on Monday March 7th
- Maintain mask requirement for Preschool until eligible for vaccination or EEC provides guidance for consideration
- From March 7th, masking only required on school buses, in nurse's office, when in days 6-10 after testing positive, and at the nurse's direction (such as when an individual develops symptoms in school)
- Individuals are welcome to continue to wear masks at their personal discretion. LPS will continue to provide KN95 or N95 masks to staff upon request.
- The health and administrative teams will monitor case rates at the classroom, grade, school, and district level, and may put in place temporary masking requirements as needed to respond to instances of in-school spread.
- Other mitigations including increased ventilation and the testing program will stay in place and be reviewed by the COVID problem solving team as appropriate.