

Superintendent's COVID-19 Update

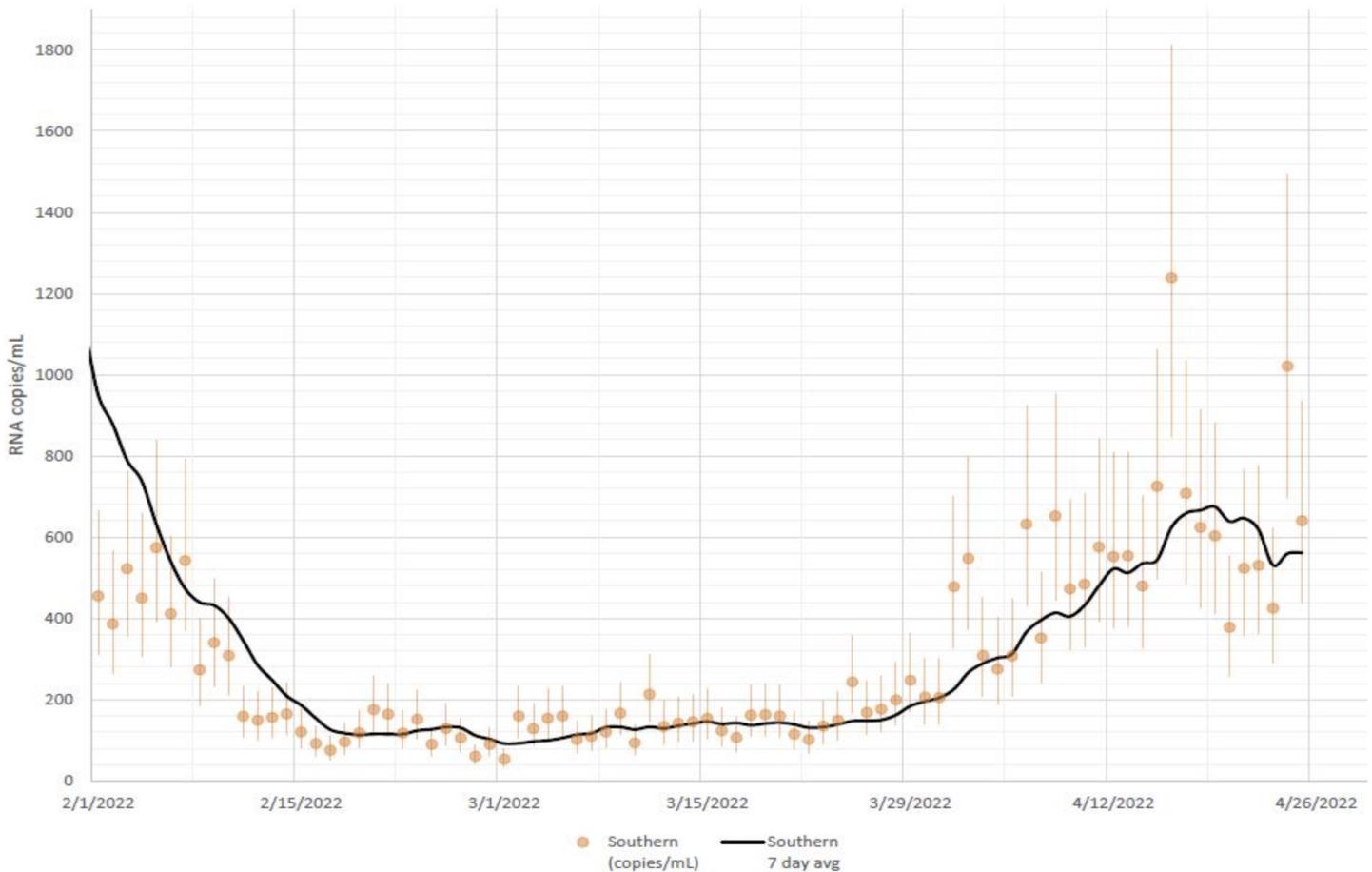
April 27, 2022

Since there was no school in Dedham last week, all schools are working to take account of any new COVID-19 cases that occurred outside of school. This is an imperfect process and depends upon the diligence of parents to continue keeping schools informed when their children test positive. We also know, based on conversations with Director of Health Services Maria Antonuccio and Dedham's Health Director Kylee Sullivan that allergies have been quite active lately and many parents may be believing that these are "allergy symptoms" rather than possible COVID-19.

This week's pooled testing at all schools showed FAR fewer positive test results than the week before our April vacation break. On Monday and Tuesday of this week we tested a total of **300 pools** that included **1416 individuals**. We received 3 positive pools out of those 1416 individuals for a percent positivity of 0.20%. 2 of the positive pools were at Dedham Middle School and 1 positive pool was at Avery. One of the positive pools at DMS actually turned out to be a student that had COVID-19 over April vacation and accidentally participated in testing within the 90 "do not test" window. There were **NO POSITIVE POOLS** from ECEC, Oakdale, Riverdale, Greenlodge, and Dedham High School this week.

The slight decrease in cases this week is consistent with reports of slight decreases in schools across the state. Recent wastewater COVID-19 concentrations mirror this cresting and slight downturn of COVID-19 concentrations in wastewater also. This reading has proven to be pretty accurate in predicting future cases 2-5 days in advance. A graph of this week's data from MWRA wastewater is shown below:

Recent South System Viral RNA Signal by Date



The most recent data regarding COVID cases in Dedham and the Dedham Public Schools are below.

Please be aware that DPS Schools Data represents 2 weeks worth of cases due to April vacation.

[COVID-19 data for Town of Dedham](#)

[COVID cases in MA schools](#) (For comprehensive statewide results, click **[HERE](#)**)

[Positive COVID Cases in DPS Schools](#)

[DPS Pooled Testing Participation and Results](#)