

# Superintendent's COVID-19 Update

May 18, 2022

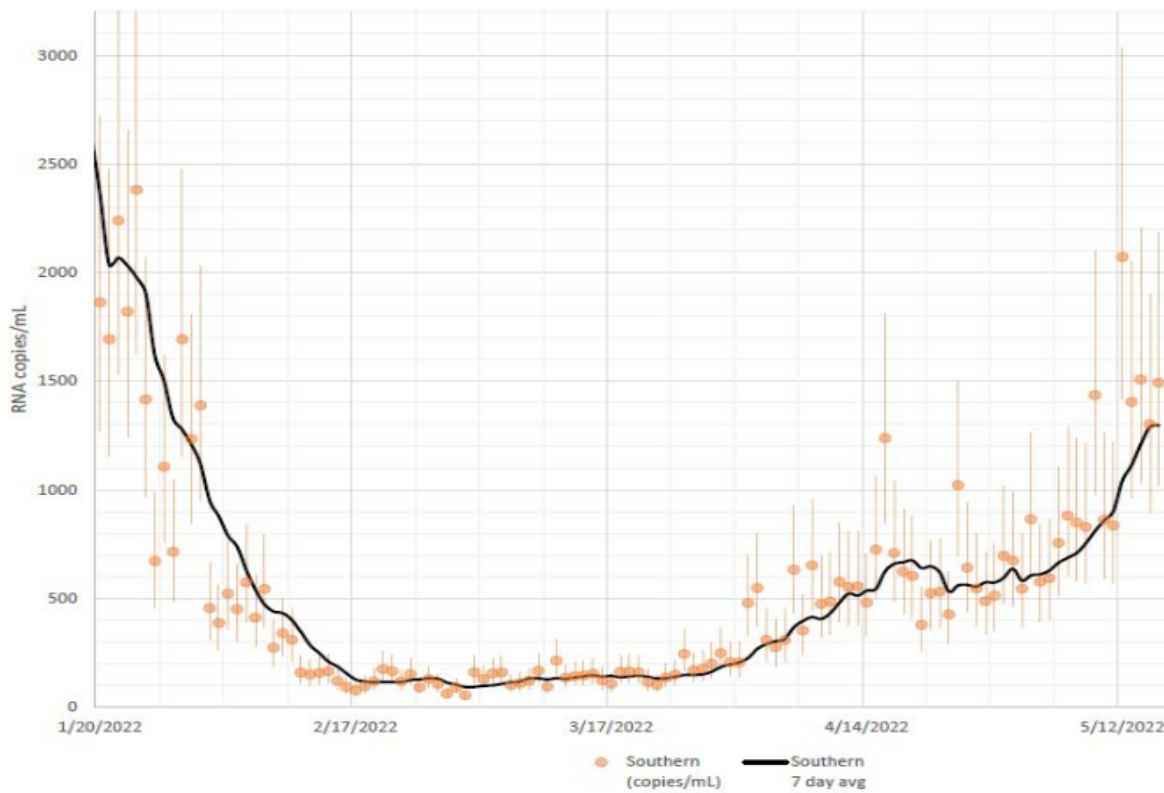
This week's pooled testing at all schools showed a continued increase in positive pools over last week's results, with positive pools being detected at 6 of the 7 district schools. On Monday and Tuesday of this week we tested a total of **334 pools** that included **1360 individuals**. We received 14 positive pools out of those 1360 individuals for a percent positivity of 1.03%. There was 1 positive pool at ECEC, Oakdale, and Riverdale. There were 2 positive pools at Greenlodge, 5 positive pools at Avery, and 4 positive pools at DMS. Results from DHS are still pending. There were also 3 inconclusive pools (2 at Greenlodge and 1 at Riverdale).

There was a 66% increase in [COVID cases in public schools](#) across the state last week. The total number of cases jumped from about 8,000 to well over 13,000 in one week.

The CDC has now listed Norfolk County in the "HIGH" category of its [COVID-19 risk by county rating system](#). The guidance from the CDC recommends mask wearing when indoors in counties rated as high community levels of transmission. This rating system is based upon hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. At the Dedham Board of Health meeting last week this new information was discussed and no action was taken. In my conversations with Dedham Health Director Kylee Sullivan, she did NOT suggest mandating mask-wearing indoors in Dedham at this time, nor has the MA DESE recommended any changes.

Recent wastewater COVID-19 concentrations have shown a significant increase in COVID concentration in the past week. These readings have proven to be pretty accurate in predicting future cases 2-5 days in advance. A graph that includes this past 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.

**[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](#)**