Superintendent's COVID-19 Update

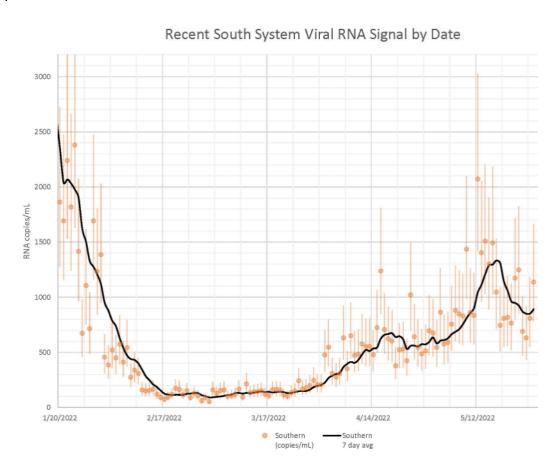
June 1, 2022

<u>Total cases are down very slightly in comparison to last week</u>. While overall cases reported Townwide were up in comparison to last week, the schools showed a slight downturn in cases. Interestingly, there were NO POSITIVE CASES reported in the past week at Greenlodge School. This week's <u>pooled testing</u> revealed positive pools at 5 of the 7 district schools. On Tuesday of this week (no testing on Monday due to the Memorial Day holiday) we tested a total of **310 pools** that included **1283 individuals**. We received 9 positive pools out of those 1283 individuals for a percent positivity of 0.7%. There was one positive pool at Greenlodge, and 2 positive pools at ECEC, Oakdale, Riverdale, and DMS. There were NO POSITIVE POOLS at Avery or DHS. There was also 1 individual inconclusive pool at Riverdale..

On Wednesday, May 24, DESE sent districts an <u>update on the statewide K-12 COVID testing</u> <u>program for this spring, summer, and fall</u>. The same day, the Department of Public Health published <u>updated quarantine and isolation guidance</u> for children in child care, K-12 schools, out-of-school time programs and recreational camp settings. Also on May 25, DESE held a webinar to discuss the updates, and a recording of that webinar and slides from it are posted on DESE's <u>COVID-19 Testing Program</u> webpage.

The CDC continues to list Norfolk County in the "HIGH" category of its **COVID-19 risk by county rating system**.

Recent wastewater COVID-19 concentrations show a bottoming out and a slight uptick in the past two days. 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:



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