

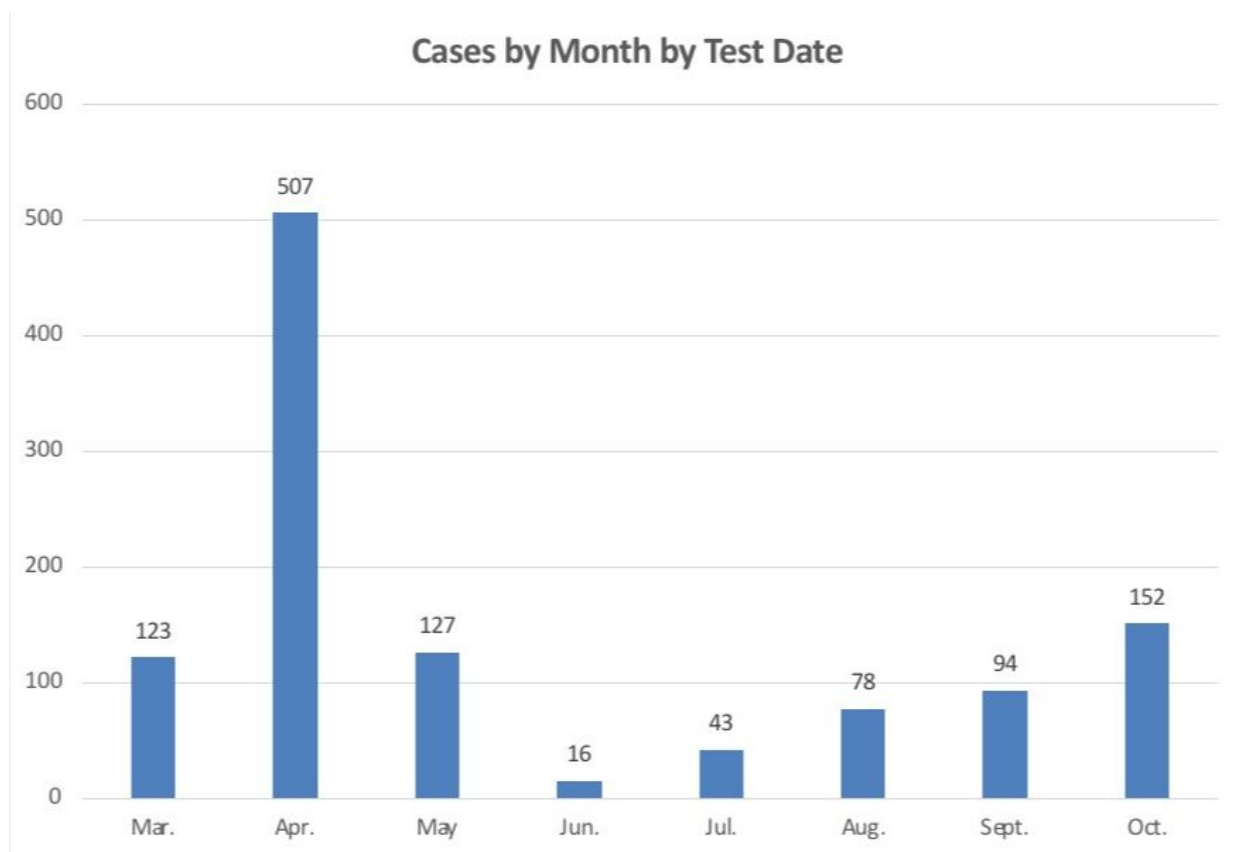
## Mayor's Update

### COVID-19 Update and Losses

Over the past eight days, Newton has an additional 44 confirmed cases of COVID-19, bringing the cumulative total among our residents to 1,157 through Thursday, November 5. During the previous eight-day period, we reported 38 new cases, and 39 in the prior week. The number of new positive cases in Newton is increasing.



During the month of October, 152 Newton residents were confirmed to have COVID-19, using data through Nov. 4. Comparatively, the highest case count by month in Newton during this pandemic was in April when there were 507. The next highest month was in May when there were 127 cases. Since June when there were 16 cases, the count has been steadily increasing.



Newton's COVID-19 14-day average daily incidence rate reported this week for the period from Oct. 18 to 31 is the same as was reported last week – 5.6 cases per 100,000 people. The positivity rate – or the percentage of people who test positive among all those tested – also remains steady from the previous reporting period at 0.36 percent.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) today changed the metrics for how it designates communities'

## COVID-19 in Newton

Total Cases  
1,157

Total Deaths  
142

\*As of 11/5

risk level. For large municipalities like Newton (with more than 50,000 residents), an average of less than 10 new cases per day per 100,000 residents (a.k.a., the 14 day average daily incidence rate) will show the community in green or lower risk. (More information on the new metrics can be found on page 27 [here](#).)

According to the state, using the new metrics, this week the color coded designations for the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts are: 16 red “high risk” communities, 91 “moderate risk” yellow communities, 79 “lower risk” green communities, and 165 “low risk” grey communities based on

this week’s data.

Newton this week is designated as green, as are our neighbors Brookline, Needham, and Wellesley. Three other neighbors – Boston, Waltham, and Watertown – are yellow, or moderate risk. Our seventh neighbor, Weston, is gray or low risk.

Seventy-four percent (74%) of the Newton residents confirmed to have COVID-19 (excluding those in assisted living and long-term care facilities) are no longer in isolation and are essentially “recovered” from the disease. Thirty percent (30%) of Newton’s total cumulative cases are among residents of Newton assisted living/long-term care facilities. The updated [cumulative case graph](#) showing Newton cases over time is available on the Newton COVID-19 data page.

Governor Baker has new mask and gathering orders and a stay home advisory that went into effect at midnight:

- [Wear a face covering](#) at all times in public places, *even if* distance can be maintained.
- Follow the new [gathering limits](#) and physical distancing orders both at home and in public settings/event venues. Indoor and outdoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 10 people – keep this in mind for holiday plans. In addition, “All (gathering) participants ... must maintain at least 6 feet of distance from every other participant at the gathering, except where participants are members of the same household.”
- [Stay home](#) between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., except to go to work or school, or for essential needs such as seeking emergency medical care.

Gov. Baker is taking these steps to avoid another spike in cases like we saw in April. COVID-19 case numbers and COVID-19 related hospitalizations are rising in our state. The number of people in intensive care units have more than doubled over the past 2 months.

The data shows that social gatherings are contributing to these increases. Left unchecked, the current COVID-19 case growth poses a risk to our healthcare system. We need to intervene to moderate the growth in cases and preserve hospital capacity.

Staying home in the evening hours when social gatherings often take place and [limiting the size of gatherings](#) helps reduce the number of close contacts we have. If you’re considering an activity with people outside your own household, think about

what you will do and how many close contacts there will be if someone who attends later tests positive for COVID-19. If the activity would create close contacts outside your household, reconsider participating.

This week, we had two Newton residents die who previously tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number to 142. Each week as I report this grim tally, I am reminded of how cruel and devastating this virus can be.

### Newton Public Schools Data

There were four additional NPS positive cases reported over the past week, Oct. 29 to Nov. 4 - three in-person students/staff members and one DLA/remote student, for a cumulative total of 23 cases since school began on Sept. 14. (Notably, three of these additional cases show up in the Newton dashboard in the previous week because the date of the test was prior to Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>.) You can find more information on the [COVID-19 Data website](#).

When we look at the data and listen to the health experts, it's clear that all of us, including students, staff and families, have to continue to practice vigilance – stay home if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, consistently wear a face covering, maintain 6 feet of separation from others, and frequently wash/sanitize hands.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

