

Thursday, June 2, 2022

Mayor's Update



Our COVID-19 data this week continues to show improvement. We had 185 new confirmed cases in Newton over the past seven days from May 26 to June 1, nearly 100 fewer than the 281 new cases over the previous seven days.

As of Tuesday, May 31, Newton-Wellesley Hospital reports there are a total of 19 patients who are hospitalized with COVID-19, and none of these patients are being cared for in the ICU. Approximately 50% of these patients are hospitalized primarily for COVID-19. Over the past week, the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 has ranged from as low as 11 and as high as 21, but the overall trend has

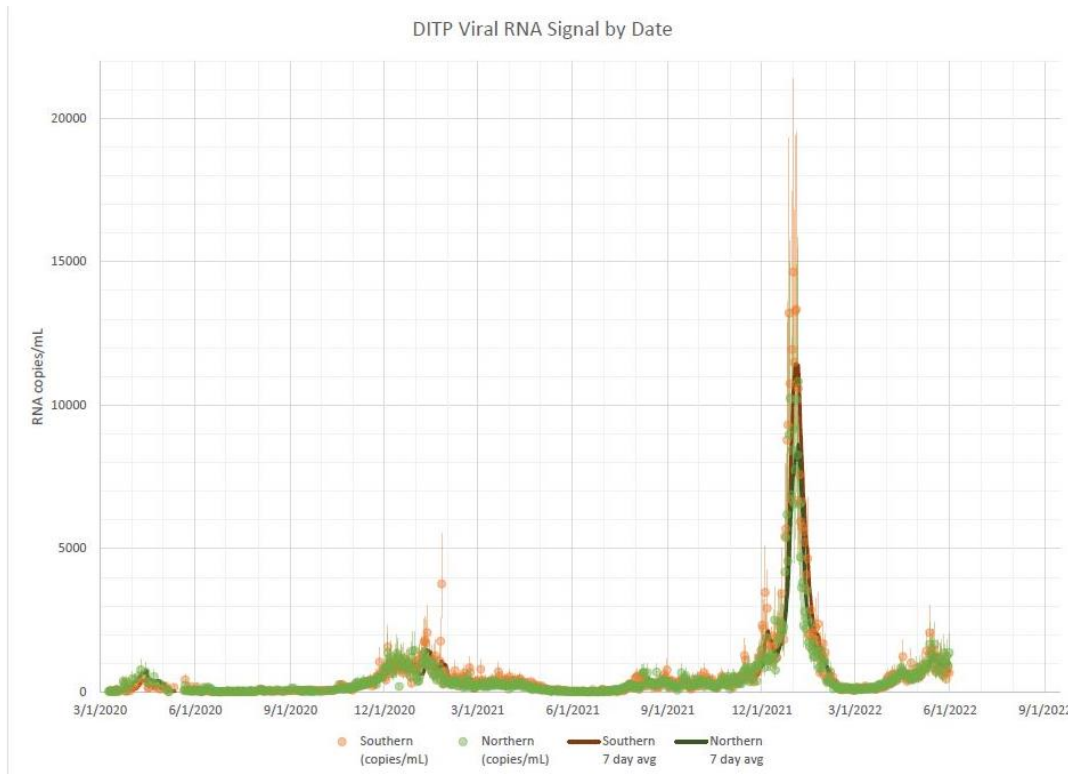
been a slight decline over the past few weeks.

The data about Newton from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's two-week tracking period from May 15 to 28 also shows positive cases heading down. Our incidence rate in Newton, which measures the number of cases per 100,000 population, is now at 43.1 compared to 54.2 last week. Our positivity rate is 7.4% of the 8,132 tests performed on Newton residents, compared to 8.1% (9,193 tests) last week.

We lost no one in Newton this week who died with COVID-19.

The latest MWRA wastewater tracking data from Tuesday, May 31 shows the curve is flattish or taking a small turn upward, but thankfully well below the peak of omicron in December/January. Click [here](#) to see all the data.

COVID-19 Wastewater Data



Newton Public Schools

The Newton Public Schools had 161 cases among students and 34 among staff from May 26 to June 1. (Over the previous seven days, there were 257 cases among students and 36 among staff.)

COVID-19 Booster Clinic: Saturday, June 11

Newton Health and Human Services and Newton Public Schools is again partnering with the Holtzman Medical Group to offer COVID-19 booster vaccines.

The clinic will offer pediatric Pfizer vaccines and boosters for ages 5 to 11. Boosters for all individuals of all ages will also be available.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register. It is being held at the Oak Hill Middle School (130 Wheeler Road) on Saturday, June 11 starting at 9:30 a.m.

Give Life: Mobile Blood Drive Next Friday, June 10 at City Hall

We are experiencing an ongoing national blood crisis with the supply at its shortest in over a decade. Donated blood is critical for trauma victims in emergencies, and also for other medical treatments, including transfusions for people with cancer.

It takes just 15 minutes to donate and to save up to three lives.

Newton Health and Human Services is partnering with the MGH Blood Donor Center and hosting a mobile blood drive on Friday, June 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the War Memorial Circle at City Hall, [1000 Commonwealth Ave.](#) Use this [link](#) to register.



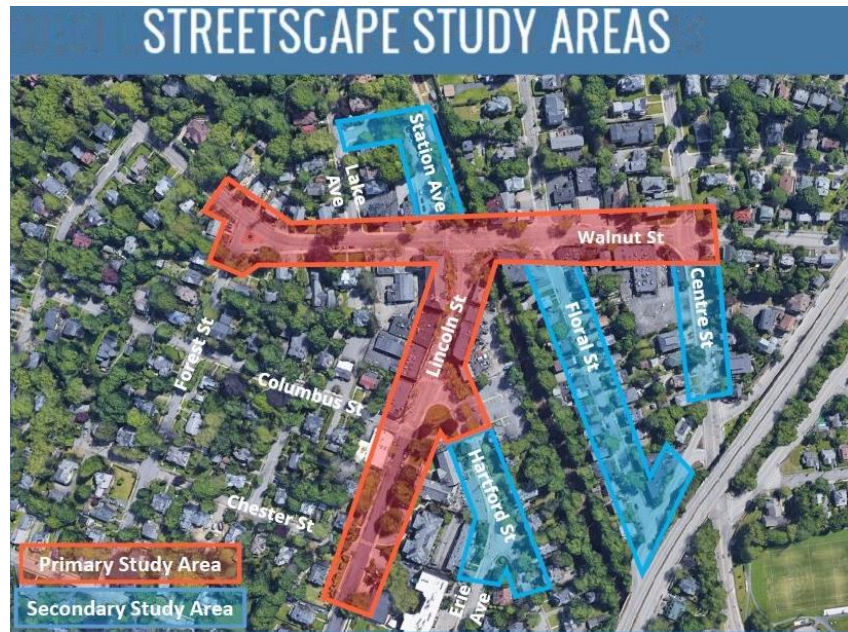
For more information, see [frequently asked questions](#), [eligibility criteria](#), and [tips for a successful donation](#).

Newton Highlands Village Enhancement

We've completed village enhancements in West Newton and Newtonville with new roads and bike lanes and wider sidewalks plus new trees, benches, lighting and gathering areas.

Next up is Newton Highlands.

Join us next Tuesday, June 7, to share ideas for improvements in the Newton Highlands Village Center as we begin initial conceptual designs. Drop by the Woman's Club of Newton Highlands, [72 Columbus Street in the village](#), between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.



Some of the areas we'll be looking at to create a village center that's even more business friendly, sustainable, beautiful, and safe and accessible for people using all modes of mobility (pedestrians, cyclists and drivers) include:

- Improve sidewalks and roadways for all users with a focus on improving accessibility and safety.
- Provide thriving community gathering spaces for residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Beautify with art, benches, lighting, historic markers, and landscaping.
- Activate and enhance infrastructure including best management practices for storm water mitigation, phosphorus reduction and sustainability.

Along with this first of many planned community meetings, we've also set up an online comment tool. Click [here](#) to leave a comment. Find updated information about the Newton Highlands project [here](#), and sign up for the Newton Highlands Project email updates [here](#).

Pride



Fifty-three years after Stonewall, and 51 years after the first Pride flag was flown, after the struggle, the sacrifice, and the political victories over many decades, we see the LGBTQ+ community directly under attack by lawmakers in other states and by hate incidents nationwide.

In Newton, we came together yesterday to say that we will not turn back. Here in Newton, we move forward.

We move forward because of people like Bob Parlin, a teacher at Newton South High School who for 35 years has tirelessly advocated for the right of LGBTQ+ students and helped to make Newton South a welcoming, safe place for everyone. Bob is retiring from the Newton Public Schools at the end of this school year, but his legacy lives on in the Gender and Sexuality Awareness student organization, which he established in 1969, the first of its kind in the United States.

We move forward and continue the fight for the right to simply be who we were born to be, to love and create a family with the person we choose, to live honestly and openly.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. Join us at the West Newton Cinema for a **special screening of *All the Lonely People***, a groundbreaking documentary telling the stories of people's resilience overcoming crippling social isolation and loneliness. We'll have a Q&A with Producer Joe Applebaum after the screening on Wednesday, June 15, at 6:30 p.m. Advance tickets are required for the in-person screening (masks strongly encouraged). Click [here](#) to purchase tickets (or call 617-796-1660). Thanks go to our hosts: City of Newton Dept. of Senior Services, Newton at Home, Good Shepherd Community Care, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Newton, Temple Emanuel, The Village Bank, HouseWorks, and FriendshipWorks.

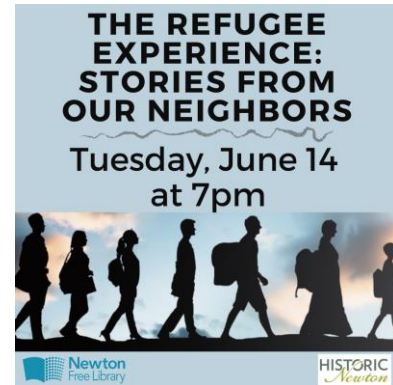




P.P.S. Newton's **Artful Pianos** are out and about across Newton. Stop by one and play. Thanks go to the Newton residents who donated pianos, the talented artists who painted them, and the piano caretakers in each village (our piano "pals"), and project sponsors Newton Community Pride and M. Steinert & Sons. Have an idea for an event at your neighborhood piano? Contact Lisa Rucinski at lrucinski@newtonma.gov.

P.P.P.S. The **10th Annual Nonantum Neighborhood Village Day** is this Sunday, June 5, 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Coletti-Magni Park, [386-392 Watertown Street](https://www.google.com/maps/place/386-392+Watertown+Street,+Newton,+MA). Enjoy plenty of free fun for the family with face painting, balloon animals, a mechanical bull, music by a Beatles tribute band and much more – including a visit from Newton Police Officer Lau and our community resource Golden Retriever, Leo.

P.P.P.P.S. People facing humanitarian catastrophes in their native country have sought refuge in the United States throughout our country's history. Join a virtual panel discussion with Newton neighbors whose families were forced to leave Austria, Cambodia and Haiti at **The Refugee Experience: Stories from Our Neighbors** on Tuesday, June 14 at 7:00 p.m. These individuals will speak about their countries of origin, their families' exodus, and their adjustment to life in the United States. The Newton Free Library and Historic Newton are co-sponsoring the program. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



P.P.P.P.P.S. Check out the wonderful music (all free) in Auburndale, Lower Falls and Waban at **Porchfest**, this Saturday, June 4, from noon until 6 p.m. Click [here](#) to get a map and a list of the performers.

P.P.P.P.P.S. Go Celtics!

