

Friday, June 17, 2022

Mayor's Update



Our Vaccine Clinic for Youngsters

All youngsters 6 months old and above may be eligible for COVID-19 vaccines as early as Saturday. The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) [today authorized emergency use](#) of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for children as young as six months old.

The CDC is anticipated to review the recommendation tomorrow, Saturday, June 18. If the CDC agrees with the recommendation, children age 6 months through 4 years old will be eligible to get a Pfizer vaccine, and children and adolescents age 6 months through 17 years old will be eligible to get a Moderna vaccine.

The Newton Health and Human Services Department is once again partnering with the Holtzman Medical Group to offer COVID-19 vaccines to young children, pending CDC recommendations.

Our vaccine clinic for youngsters will be held at the Newton Early Childhood Program at 150 Jackson Road on Wednesday, June 22 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Appointments will be available for first dose Moderna vaccine for children 6 months to 5 years old only. Second dose appointments will be on July 20 at the same location. Registration for the second dose will be done at the first dose clinic. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

COVID-19 Case Data

Newton had an increase in confirmed cases of COVID-19 this week with 198 confirmed cases reported from June 9 - June 15 compared to 141 over the previous seven days. (These numbers, while directionally correct, do not include most of the people testing positive with home rapid antigen tests.)

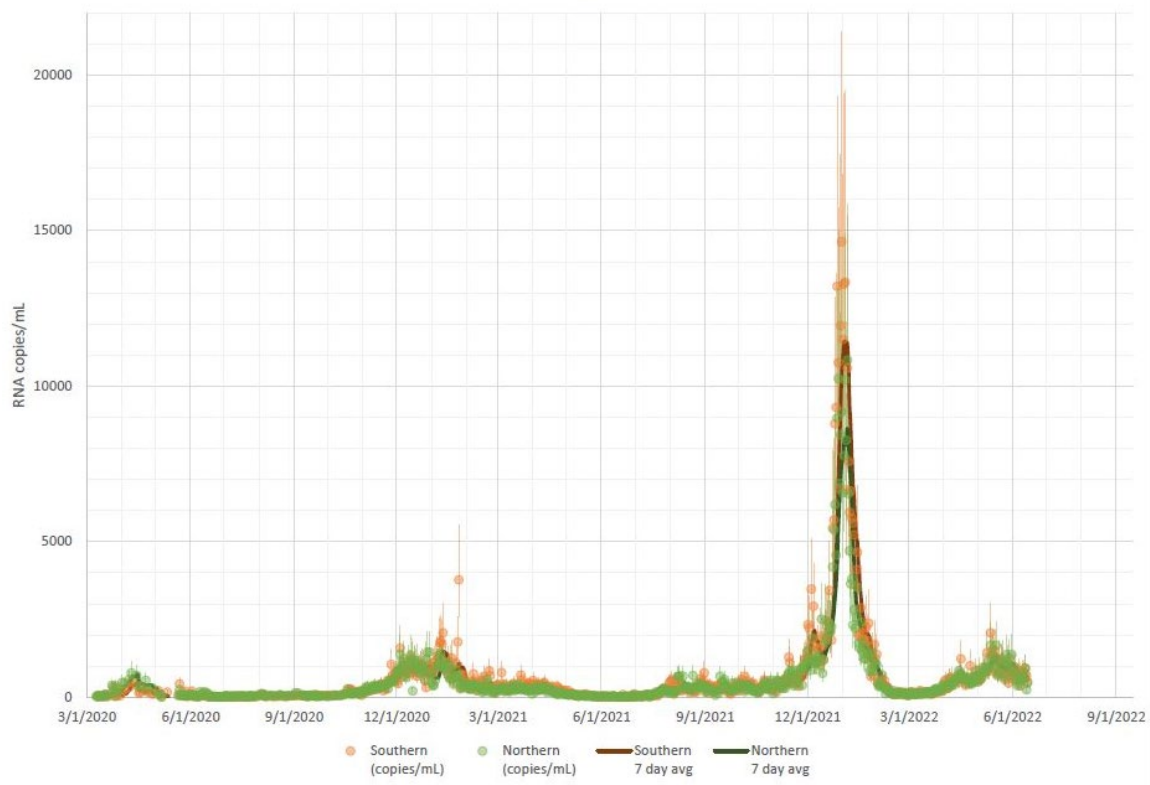
Newton-Wellesley Hospital is caring for a total of 13 patients who have tested positive for COVID-19, one of whom is in the ICU, as of Tuesday, June 14. Approximately half of these hospitalized patients are admitted primarily for COVID-19 symptoms. The hospital reports that over the past week the volume of COVID-19 patients has been as high as 19, and that overall, they have had

a slight decline in the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19. In addition, the hospital reports that, in general, fewer COVID patients are being cared for in the ICU than in previous surges.

The data about Newton from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's two-week tracking period from May 29 through June 11 shows our incident rate in Newton, which measures the number of cases per 100,000 population, has decreased to 24.8 from 30.1 last week. Our positivity rate is 6.3% of the 5,611 tests performed on Newton residents, slightly down from last week's 6.5% (6,493 tests). Notably, the number of pcr tests administered has declined a lot. For example, during the two-week tracking period from Sept. 26 to Oct. 9, 2021, there were 28,885 tests administered to Newton residents. Many of us are using rapid antigen tests now and the results are not necessarily reported.

The latest MWRA wastewater data from Tuesday, June 14 shows the amount of COVID-19 decreasing. With fewer pcr test data, the MWRA wastewater information is an important indicator of the level of COVID-19 in Greater Boston. Click [here](#) to see the data.

MWRA COVID-19 Wastewater Data



The toll this pandemic is taking continues. This week we lost another two of our family members, friends and neighbors in Newton who died with COVID-19. Altogether we are mourning the loss of 204 Newtonians.

Newton Public Schools

The Newton Public Schools had 77 cases among students and 21 among staff from May 26 to June 1. (Over the previous seven days, there were 109 cases among students and 37 among staff.)

Save with Newton Power Choice

Great news: Participating in our Newton Power Choice program is much less expensive for the next six months than remaining on Eversource Basic Service, even when opting up to 100% renewable power. The State just approved a new high for the price of Eversource Basic Service residential electricity for July through December 2022 at 17.9 cents/kWh.

For comparison, here are the Newton Power Choice residential rates (through January 2024) compared to Eversource's 17.9 cents/kwh summer rate:

- Standard/Default rate with 82% "green" renewable power = 13.5 cents/kwh
- 100% "green" renewable power = 14.4 cents/kwh
- Basic rate with State-minimum of 20% "green" renewable power for 2022 = 10.6 cents/kwh

NEWTON POWER CHOICE PRICES (July – December 2022)



13.452 ¢/kWh



14.357 ¢/kWh



10.646 ¢/kWh

Newton Power Choice is the City's electricity supply program for our residents and businesses. The program is a form of group electricity purchasing known as electricity aggregation. Our program provides an opportunity for Newtonians to significantly increase both their own and our community's investment in clean energy.

With Newton Power Choice, Eversource delivers the electricity; customers continue to contact Eversource for power issues; and Eversource will continue to bill them. The difference with Newton Power Choice is that the City of Newton selects the supplier of the electricity for customers rather than leaving it up to the utility.

The City of Newton has been the leader in the State in choosing the highest percentage of renewables of any city or town's electricity aggregation program since signing the first Newton Power Choice contract in November 2018.

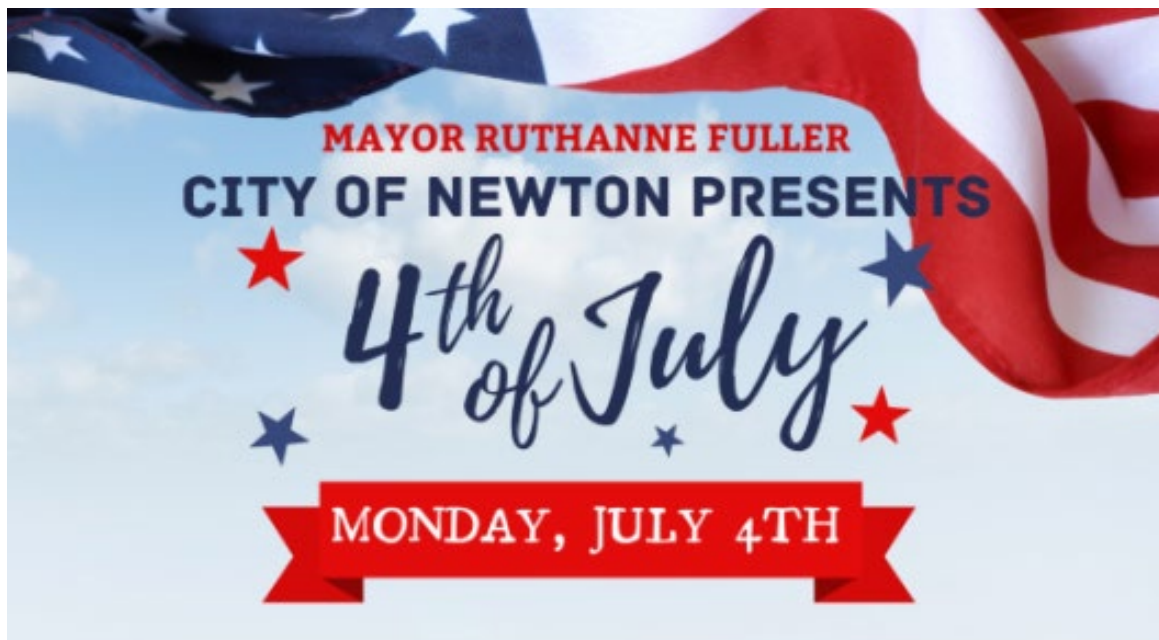
Our current Newton Power Choice contract includes 82% local renewable sources such as wind and solar as the Standard/Default for our electricity supply.

This means that on Newton Power Choice for July through December 2022, if you use 550 kwh of electricity per month (i.e., the median non-low-income Newton use), you'll save relative to Eversource Basic Service:

- \$24.20/month at the NPC Standard/Default level
- \$19.25/month at the NPC 100% Green level
- \$40.15/month at the NPC Basic level

Please note that the figures above are monthly. At 100% Green, as the median electricity user in Newton, you'll save approximately \$115 over the coming six month period. But, remember that as Eversource's prices will continue to change, future savings from Newton Power Choice cannot be guaranteed. You can switch from Newton Power Choice back to Basic Service at any time, without any fee.

Learn more about Newton Power Choice and consider opting up to 100% green electricity [here](#).



Newton's July 4th Fireworks Are Back

After two years off, our fireworks spectacular is back at 9:00 p.m. on Monday night, July 4, over Albemarle Field/Halloran Field ([250 Albemarle Road](#)) in Newtonville.

This will cap a day full of fun.

Kids Morning begins our Independence Day festivities from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Newton Centre playground "bowl" off Tyler Terrace. Join in the patriotic costume promenade, the decorated bicycle parade, or bring your loyal companion to the grand pet parade. Enjoy music, crafts and free ice cream courtesy of Cabot's.

Then head over to Albemarle Field/Halloran Field where the fun starts at 1:00 p.m. with carnival rides and an open air market with handmade and international crafts. The band [East Coast Soul](#) will start playing at 6:30 p.m. until it's time for the pyrotechnics to begin at 9:00 p.m.

It's road work season and we're doing a lot of work. Check the Department of Public Works' [Construction Map](#) and [Construction Schedule](#) to keep track of what's happening.



Remembering Those Lost

Two hundred and four flags are on the lawn of Newton City Hall by the COVID-19 memorial plaque and the American Elm planted one year ago to honor the lives of family members, friends and neighbors who have died with COVID-19 since we lost the first Newtonian in April of 2020.

We're grateful to Newton Boy Scout Troop and Pack 355 for the help in placing them.

The tree, planted by the City of Newton, stands as a living memorial to the lives lost during the Coronavirus pandemic.

We've left a jar of markers by the flags. Please feel free to use one to commemorate the lives of those you miss. Write a name on one of the flags, a message, a date, or whatever you may wish to memorialize the person you remember. We'll leave the flags out through July 4.

Even as we continue to learn to live with this virus, we remember those we lost and the many among us mourning.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. Trash and recycling next week will not be impacted by the Juneteenth holiday on Monday, so be sure to set your trash and recycling out on your regular trash day. **Yard waste** collection, however, will be pushed back one day. If your collection day is Monday, set your yard waste out on Tuesday and so on through the week with Friday yard waste being collected on Saturday. Check the collection calendar easily by downloading the Recycle Right Newton app on your smartphone by clicking for [iOS](#) or [Android](#). You can set up reminders and also use the Recycle Right search tool to find out how to dispose of an item correctly.



P.P.S. The swim season in Newton is here. Gath Pool and Crystal Lake are open on limited schedules from 4:00 p.m. to dusk. The full summer hours start on Monday, June 27. Find the schedule for Gath Pool [here](#), and for Crystal Lake [here](#). Memberships for both are available for purchase online [here](#).

P.P.P.S. The Newton Farmers' Markets open for the season on Saturday, June 25 at Newton North High School, [352 Lowell Ave.](#), from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, June 28 at Cold Spring Park, [1094 Beacon St.](#) from 1:30 to 6:00 p.m. Come shop for everything from fish, wine and coffee to veggies, fruits, sweets and bagels through mid-October.





P.P.P.P.S. Still looking for a great summer job? The City of Newton is looking for additional camp staff to work at various camps this summer. Camp Director, Assistant Director, Specialist and Senior Counselor positions are available. Fill out an application online [here](#).

P.P.P.P.P.S. Interested in a **new community garden** at Spears Parks on the north side of the City at the corner of Washington Street and Walnut Park? Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture Department is holding a virtual community meeting to discuss the garden project on Thursday, June 30. Register in advance at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0191_T92SVuZBLY6y_mS0Q. Find more information about this and other Parks, Recreation and Culture projects [here](#).

P.P.P.P.P.P.S. Interested in **MBTA Green Line station accessibility**? Attend the MBTA's virtual public meeting on Thursday, June 23 to learn more about the 75% design plans to make Beaconsfield, Chestnut Hill, Eliot and Waban Stations accessible. Register for the meeting [here](#), and learn more about the MBTA Green Line Transformation Program [here](#).

P.P.P.P.P.P.P.S. Have you seen the **large-scale, colorful butterflies** across Newton? They're part of the Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture Department's *Flutter* display. They will be fluttering through September at City Hall, Kennard Park, Cold Spring Park, Upper Falls Greenway, Coletti-Magni Park, and Farlow Park. Join us for an opening reception with the artists at City Hall on Tuesday, June 21, at 2:00 p.m.

