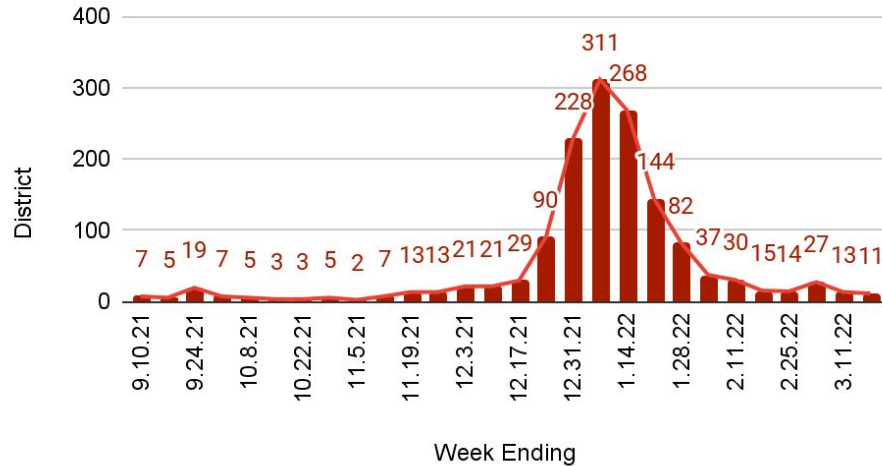


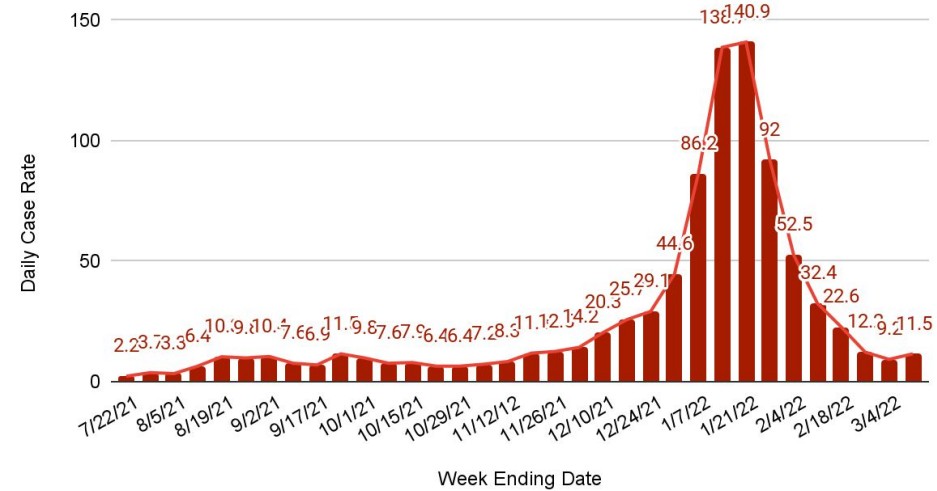
Superintendent's Update 3/3/22



APS COVID Cases



Arlington Average Daily Case Rate / 100k



Additional Updates

- Strategic Planning Update: Watch for an Invitation to Participate!
- Girls' & Boys hockey teams headed to finals
- 6 National History Day OMS/Gibbs Student Projects go to State Competition
-



APS Revised Masking Recommendation: Background



- Wednesday, February 16th, 2022, the Arlington Board of Health lifted the Town of Arlington Masking Requirement for public spaces.
- Effective Monday, February 28th, the DESE mask requirement for schools was lifted across the state, at which point masking requirements in schools became a local decision.
- Effective Friday, February 25th, CDC no longer recommends universal masking in schools or on school transportation, but still requires universal masking on public transportation.
- Effective Friday, February 25th, CDC issues new “community level” tool to help guide decision-making about necessity of COVID-19 restrictions based on “hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area,” and recommends that case rates no longer be as heavily weighted in determinations about COVID-19 restrictions at the local level.

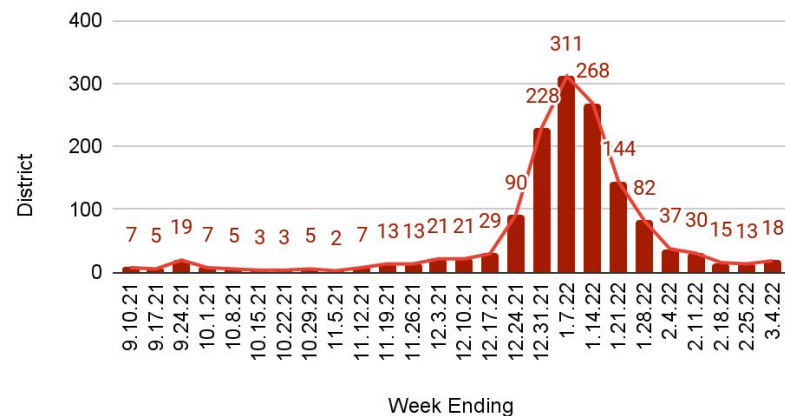
Per the CDC’s new risk calculation tool, Middlesex County is considered to have LOW levels of COVID-19.

APS Revised Masking Recommendation: Data



1. APS vaccination rates for eligible students range from 85-94%;
2. The APS staff vaccination rate is 97.9%;
3. Approximately 70% of all APS students & staff are participating in weekly PCR pool testing;
4. The number of positive pools and cases in the schools, town, county, and state have dramatically decreased;
5. 80% of students and staff are participating in the at-home testing program; and
6. COVID-19 levels in our area have reached their lowest levels since July of 2021, according to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.

APS COVID Cases



APS Revised Masking Recommendation: Details



Effective March 7th, 2022, masks will be optional for all students and staff in the Arlington Public Schools, except in the following situations, where masks will continue to be required:

1. All staff at Menotomy Preschool and APS Daycares, *except when instructionally appropriate and beneficial for staff to remove masks, based on staff's professional judgment;*
2. All students at Menotomy Preschool and APS Daycares who are between the ages of 2-5 and are able to wear masks. Families may apply and qualify for a [special mask exemption](#) for their student at Menotomy Preschool and APS Daycares. **The masking requirements at Menotomy Preschool and in APS Daycares will be revisited at least monthly;**
3. On all school buses and transportation vans through at least the month of March;
4. In all school health offices and medical waiting rooms; and
5. For COVID-19 positive individuals who return to school as part of our test-to-return program during days 6-10, except when eating, drinking, or outdoors.

APS Revised Masking Recommendation: Continued Mitigation



The following APS COVID-19 mitigation measures will continue:

1. Weekly pooled testing;
2. In-school and at-home symptomatic testing;
3. [APS Test-to-return](#) for individuals who test positive for COVID-19;
4. [APS At-home Testing Program](#);
5. Regular replacement of MERV-13 air filters on all air filtration systems in our schools (filters last replaced in January 2022, and will be replaced again in April 2022); and
6. Use of stand-alone HEPA air filters in all instructional spaces.

All students and staff should continue to report positive COVID-19 results on the [APS COVID-19 Reporting Form](#).

APS Revised Masking Recommendation: Continued Mitigation



Throughout the pandemic, APS has utilized various strategies when outbreaks have occurred in our schools. We are defining an “outbreak” as a localized instance of multiple cases in a single classroom or school, with evidence of school-based person-to-person transmission. Each time there is an outbreak, we collaborate with the Arlington Department of Health and Human Services and on occasion DESE to determine next steps. It is our intention to avoid imposing additional restrictions and to avoid actions that result in loss of time in school; however, in the event it becomes necessary, **APS will keep the following tools in our “COVID-19 Outbreak Response Toolbox:”**

- The ability to flexibly re-impose masking restrictions when the alternative may be missed days of school for students in a classroom or school where an outbreak occurs;
- The ability to flexibly re-impose physical distancing and cohorting restrictions in individual classrooms, lunch rooms, or schools;
- The ability to repeat-test consented students in classrooms where outbreaks occur; and
- As a last resort, the ability to close a classroom or school when ventilation is compromised or when outbreaks occur.

APS Revised Masking Recommendation: Supporting Students and Staff

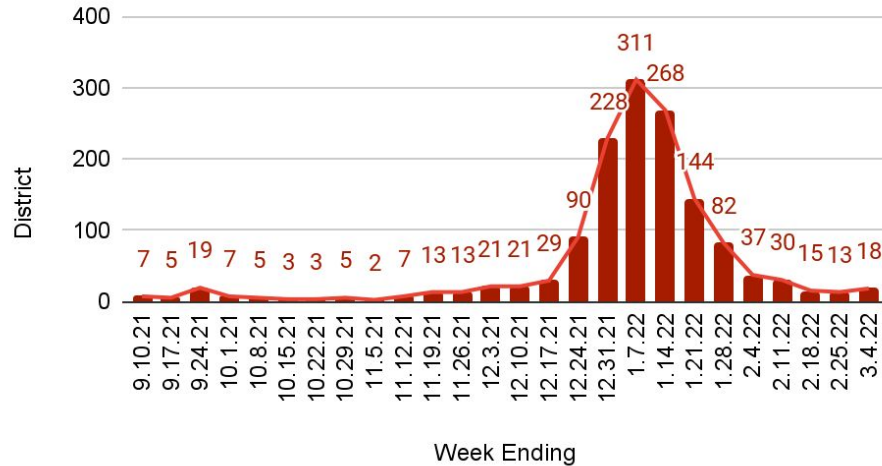


- Talking points and suggestions were shared with administrators on Tuesday 3/1;
- Building and Department administrators are working with with social work, guidance, and nursing teams at their schools to adapt and provide these resources to teachers and answer questions;
- Talking points include, but are not limited to:
 - Masks will soon be optional to wear.
 - Some people are comfortable with the option of removing their mask, while others are not.
 - There may be multiple reasons why individuals choose one option over the other.
 - We need to be respectful & accepting of everyone's personal choices.
 - People may choose to wear their masks sometimes and remove them other times.
 - We should not judge an individual's choice or pressure someone to choose a certain way.
 - The science and professional organizations tell us it is safe for those to choose to remove their masks.
 - If you are ever unsure about your own choice or want to talk to someone about the change in choices, your teachers, nurses, and social workers are always happy to talk with you.

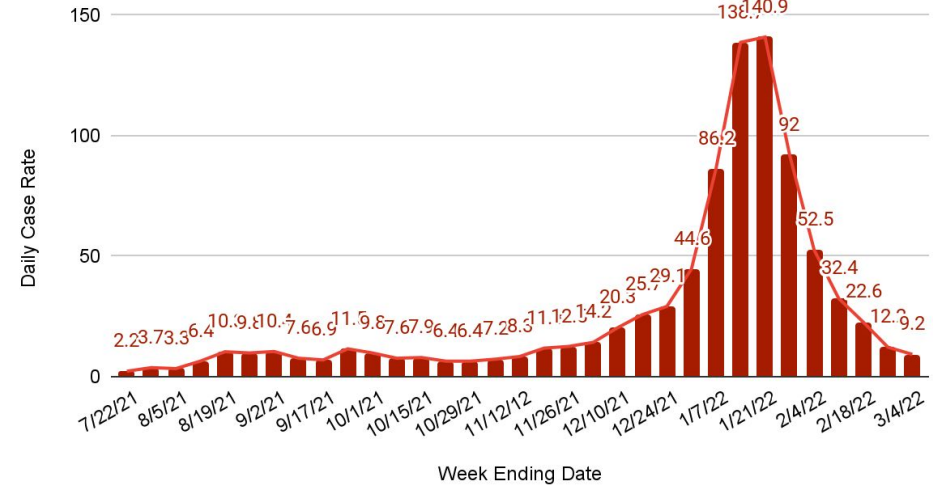
Superintendent's Update 3/3/22



APS COVID Cases



Arlington Average Daily Case Rate / 100k



Additional Updates

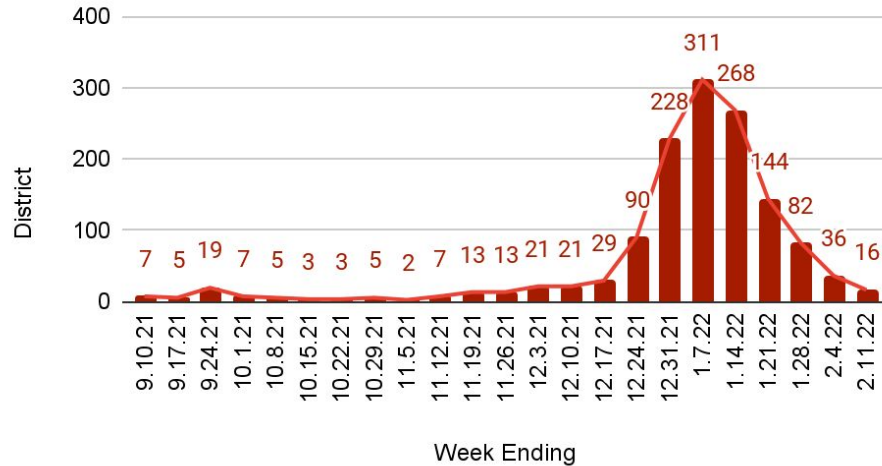
- New AHS STEAM Wing opens for classes!
- Strategic Planning Update
- Leadership Instructional Rounds Feb/March: A Focus on The Instructional Task
- Enrollments:
 - 378 K as of 2/28/22
 - First round buffer zone assignments to be completed by 3/4/22



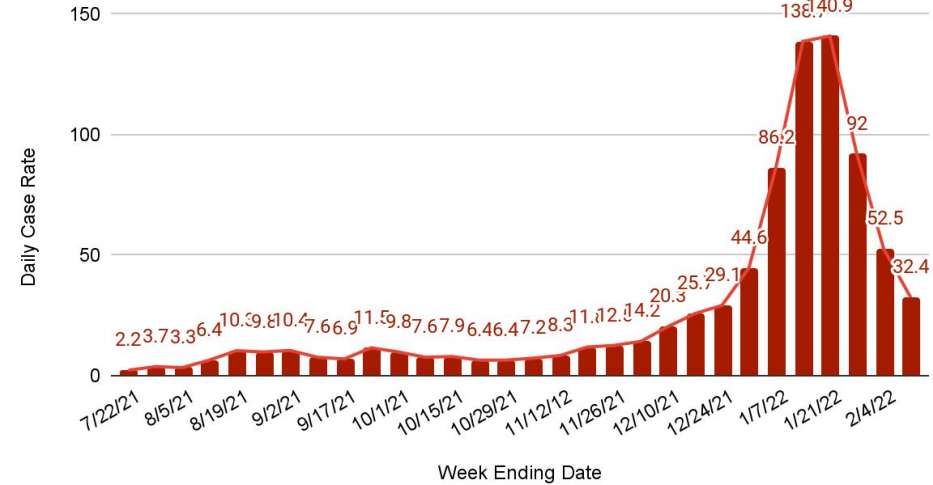
Superintendent's Update 2/10/22



APS COVID Cases



Arlington Average Daily Case Rate / 100k



APS Vaccination Rates



School/Grade:	As of Date	# Vaccinated	# Eligible	Rate
*Menotomy:	12/15/21	12	20	60.0
Bishop	12/15/21	336	391	85.9
Brackett	12/15/21	417	442	94.3
Dallin	12/15/21	379	429	88.3
Hardy	12/15/21	363	410	88.5
Peirce	12/15/21	291	331	87.9
Stratton	12/15/21	403	455	88.6
Thompson	12/15/21	431	506	85.2
Gibbs	12/15/21	416	451	92.2
Ottoson	12/15/21	814	907	89.7
AHS	12/15/21	1359	1489	91.3

COVID-19 Updates



February 1st, 2022 Protocol Adjustments:

- Implementation of Revised Testing Program;
- Discontinuation of contact tracing; teachers no longer required to keep and share strict seating charts;
- Students may mix across groups and classrooms;
- Field trips and assemblies are allowed;
- Volunteers are allowed and must comply with APS COVID-19 Visitor Policies and Protocols;
- Community events are allowed.

4,125 Staff and Student
Consents for At-home Testing
as of 2/7

New Form for Reporting BOTH:
New cases
All Test-to-Return Results

Masking requirements and
adjustments will be
considered in partnership and
alignment with the Arlington
Dept and Board of Health

APS Updates



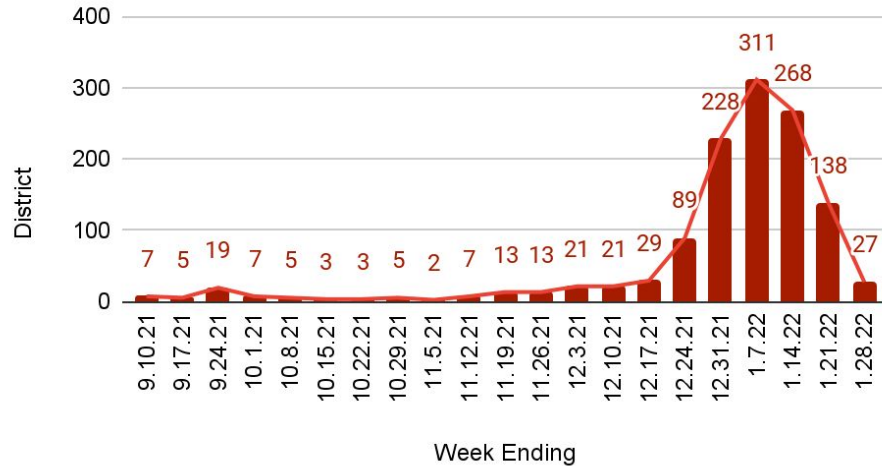
- Collaboration with MGH on a manuscript detailing APS's Test-to-Return Program, in partnership with Arlington Dept of Health. Results to be shared with DESE (pre-print) and submitted to journals for possible publication this spring;
- Longview Education awarded opportunity to conduct APS District Equity Audit;
- RFP for Strategic Planning Facilitator to be publicized early next week;
- MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's local special education determination under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): Arlington Public School District Meets Requirements (MR);
- New Teacher Leadership Partnership with Brandeis University Teacher Leadership Graduate Program; and
- Enrollments: K (253) and Overall (in Novus)



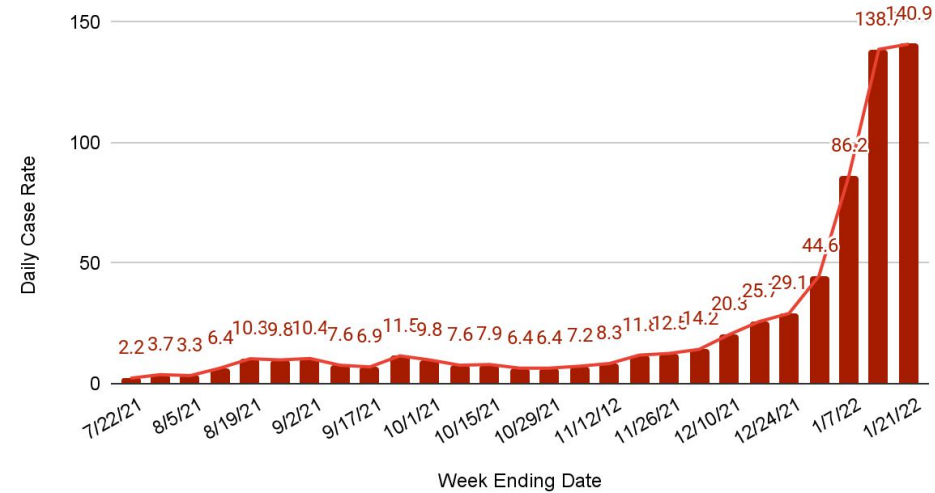
Superintendent's Update 1/13/21



APS COVID Cases



Arlington Average Daily Case Rate / 100k



APS Revised Testing Program



Goal: To focus on surveillance and response as opposed to rigorous tracing and testing for close contacts, who rarely contract COVID-19 from in-school contacts. To continue to track and monitor outbreaks and respond accordingly.

Changes:

- Continuation of weekly pooled testing in all schools;
- Continuation of symptomatic testing in all schools;
- Implementation of New At-home testing once per week for all consented staff and students;
- Continuation of surveillance and tracking of cases and monitoring of trends;
- Discontinuation of Test & Stay;
- Discontinuation of *Centralized* Test-to-Return at AHS, replaced by use of at-home school-distributed iHealth tests for Test-to-Return of positive individuals (see [Revised APS Protocol A](#)); and
- Discontinuation of contact tracing.

2,095 Staff and Student
Consents for At-home Testing
as of 1/25

New Form for Reporting BOTH:
New cases
All Test-to-Return Results

New Protocols go into Effect on
2/1/2022

APS Updates



- APS Awarded \$350,000 from DESE in a Competitive Grant: Supporting Students' Social Emotional Learning, Behavioral & Mental Health, and Wellness through Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (SEL & Mental Health Grant; funds to be expended by June 2022;
- Gibbs and AHS to be used as polling locations in April, September, and November;
- Potential Partnership with Brandeis University Teacher Leadership Graduate Program;
- AHS Project Forum 1/25/22;
- Enrollments:
 - 6002 Students as of 1/25/22;
 - Increase of 161 students since 10/1/20;
 - Increase of 40 students since 12/11/21;
 - Since 12/11 - 16 secondary, 17 elementary, 1 OOD, 6 PreK

Budget Priorities from Arlington SEPAC



- More collaborative planning time between General Education and Special Education Teachers;
- Time for staff to get together for transition planning between each level, and/or time for staff to attend ALL transition IEP meetings;
- Access to reading intervention, planning time with aides who implement support, and training for aides who deliver interventions; and
- Hiring/staff diversity and consider disability status as one of the identities that need representation among our staff.

Also: SEPAC community survey shared in communications with families, SEPAC website, and district social networks; please participate!

APS Revised Protocol A: Test-to-Return



Return to school: On day 11 OR on days 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10, provided the Individual:

- Has tested negative on a rapid antigen test; and
- Has been without fever for 24 hours (and without taking fever-reducing medications); and,
- Has experienced improvement in other symptoms; and
- Can mask for 5 additional days when around others, except when eating. If a student cannot mask, follow DESE protocol/FAQ.

More Information about TtR:

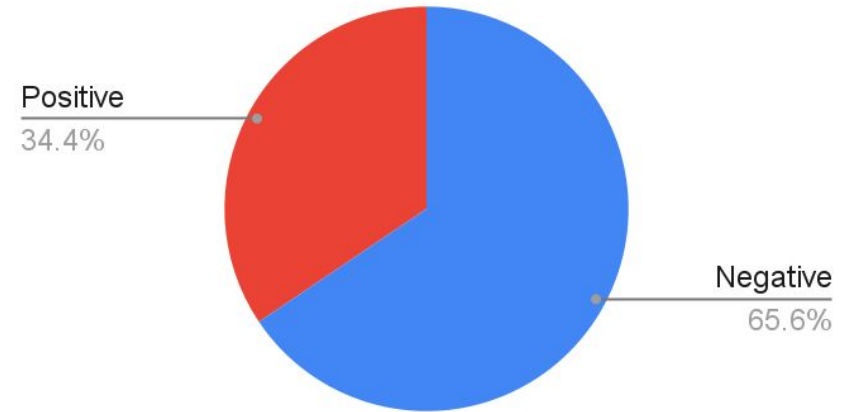
- Only APS rapid antigen tests must be used for return testing after an infection;
- Students may only “test to return” one time between days 6 and 10;
- Students who test positive must continue to quarantine until Day 11;
- Students who test negative may attend school the following day

For the month of January, “Test to return” will take place at Arlington High School from 3:30-4:30pm Monday-Thursday.

Why Test-to-Return?

[CDC Quarantine and Isolation Guidelines](#): “If an individual has access to a test and wants to test, the best approach is to use an antigen test towards the end of the 5-day isolation period. Collect the test sample only if you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved. ***If your test result is positive, you should continue to isolate until day 10. If your test result is negative, you can end isolation, but continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public until day 10.***”

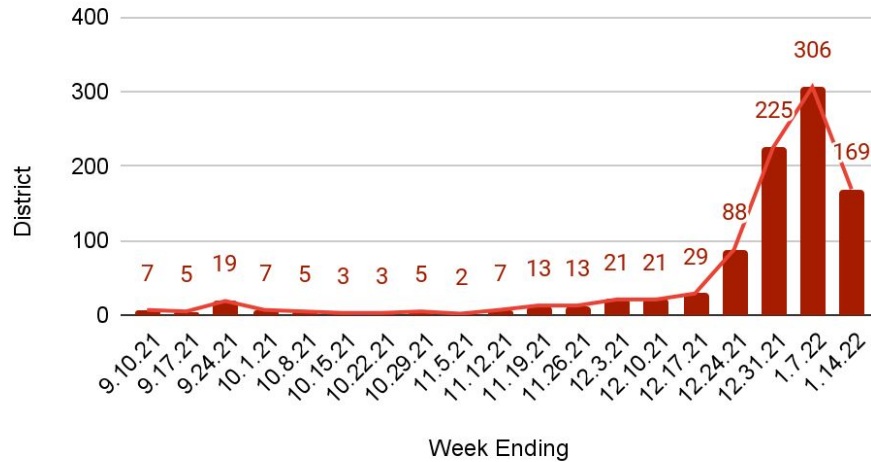
APS Test-to-Return Results



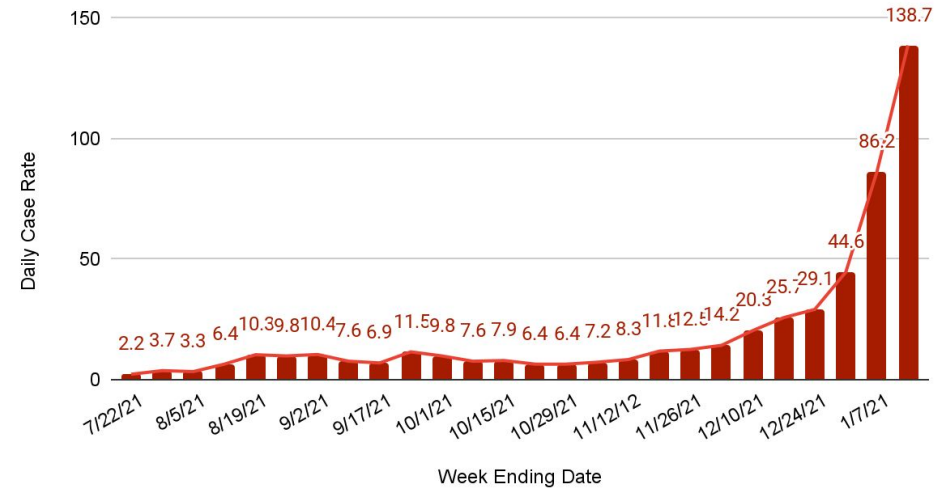
Superintendent's Update 1/13/21



APS COVID Cases



Arlington Average Daily Case Rate / 100k



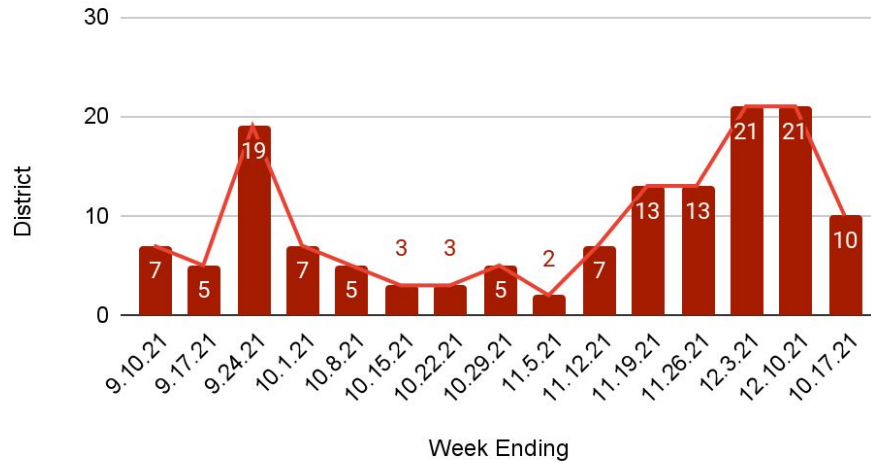
Superintendent's Update 12/16/21



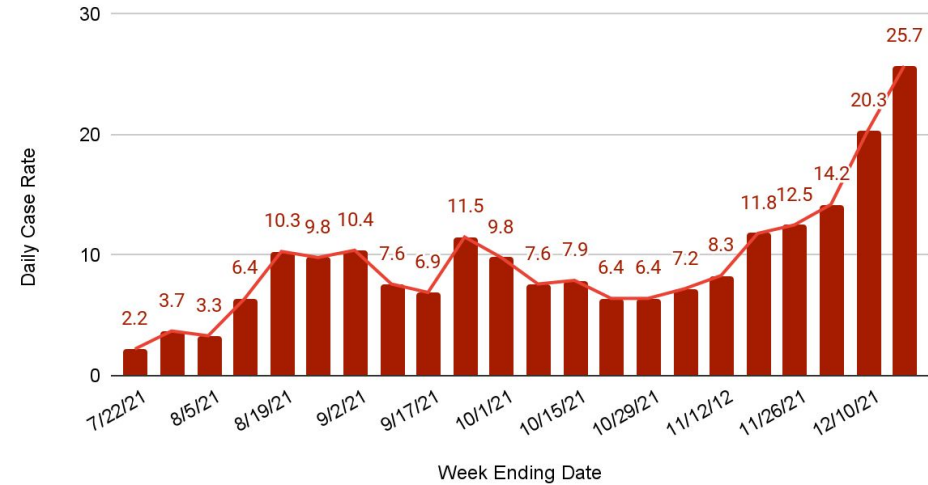
- APS Revised Protocol A Pilot to Extend to at Least Feb 1
- Received: High-Quality KN95 Masks for Staff
- Received: High-Quality KN95 Masks for Students
- Expecting: ~9,000 Home Tests for Staff and Families
- Expecting: Additional Binax for Test to Return
- Thank You: Coverage Assistance from Staff and the Community
- Equity Audit Update and IDEAS I & II Courses for Staff
- Strategic Planning Update: Facilitator RFP to Post
- Budget Planning: Spring Implementation of Staff Roster Review and Position Control
- Delay Formative Assessment Submission

Superintendent's Update 12/16/21

APS COVID Cases



Arlington Average Daily Case Rate / 100k



Superintendent's Update 12/16/21



Vaccination Rates for APS Students

School/Grade:	As of Date	# Vaccinated	# Eligible	Rate
*Menotomy:	11/10/21	4	8	50.0
Bishop	11/10/21	309	391	79.0
Brackett	11/10/21	377	442	85.3
Dallin	11/10/21	355	429	82.8
Hardy	11/10/21	324	410	79.0
Peirce	11/10/21	272	331	82.2
Stratton	11/10/21	364	455	80.0
Thompson	11/10/21	396	506	78.3
Gibbs	11/10/21	375	451	83.1
Ottoson	11/10/21	804	907	88.6
AHS	11/10/21	1335	1489	89.7

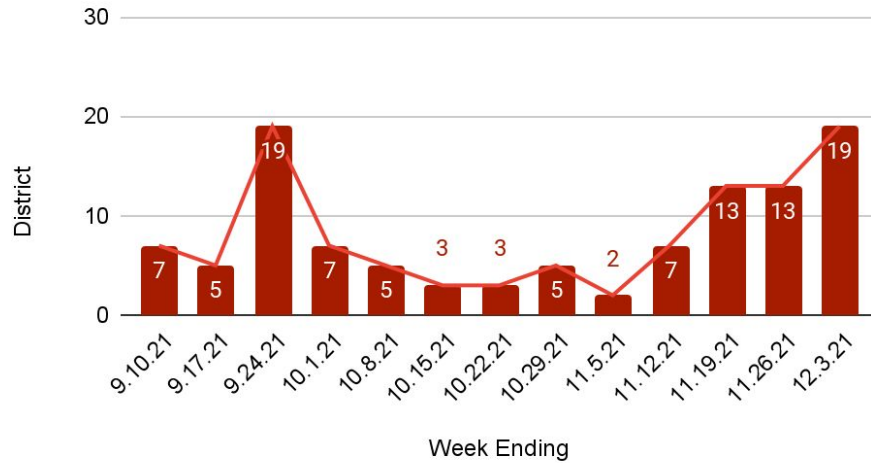
Superintendent's Update 12/16/21

- AHS Winter Concert, 12/15/21
- Arlington Education Foundation “District Vision and Strategic Planning Grant” for \$117,400. An invitation to apply for participation in the strategic planning team will be advertised in January.
- APS Awarded an FY22 Teacher Diversification Pilot Program grant for \$42,821. This grant will support unlicensed APS staff who identify as people of color to acquire their professional license.
- Vendors interviewed with representative stakeholder committee for APS Equity Audit today, 12/16/21
- TikTok / Social Media Nationwide Safety Threats
- 36 Open Positions
- Snow Days
- Enrollments

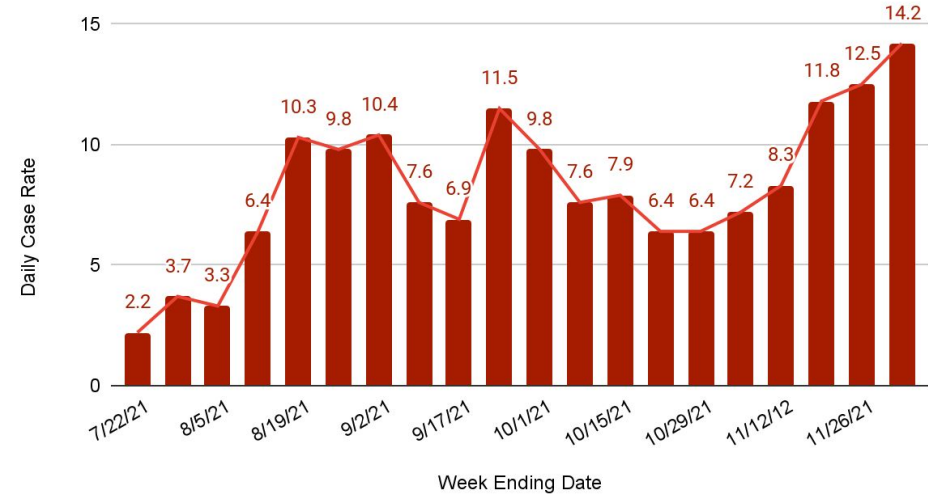


Superintendent's Update 12/2/21

APS COVID Cases



Arlington Average Daily Case Rate / 100k



Superintendent's Update 12/2/21



- APS Receives \$326,579 for electric school buses, including charging stations. These will replace two older diesel busses in our fleet.
- December Culture and Climate Survey Update
- Second set of Leadership Instructional Rounds at Gibbs (11/30) and Ottoson (12/8).
 - Focal Topic: Embedded and Explicit Instruction in Social and Emotional Learning
 - Thank you to Gibbs Teachers Nina Martorana (PE) and Caitlin Russell (Reading) for facilitating an RC model advisory lesson!
- Equity Audit and Strategic Planning Update
- Enrollments

Superintendent's Update 11/18/21

COVID-19 Status Updates:

- Vaccination Clinics (Thank You Arlington Health Department and APS Staff!)
- Thompson Ventilation, Cases, and Dismissal 11/15
- Considerations for COVID-19 Restrictions
- Taking Precautions this Holiday Season:
 - Vaccinate all eligible members of your household prior to travel or family gatherings.
 - Wear masks during and after travel.
 - Test for COVID-19 before returning to school.
 - Test for COVID-19 again on day 5 following travel.
 - Actively monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 following travel.
 - Use mitigation strategies in public areas while traveling, such as masking, regardless of the vaccination status.



Superintendent's Update 11/18/21



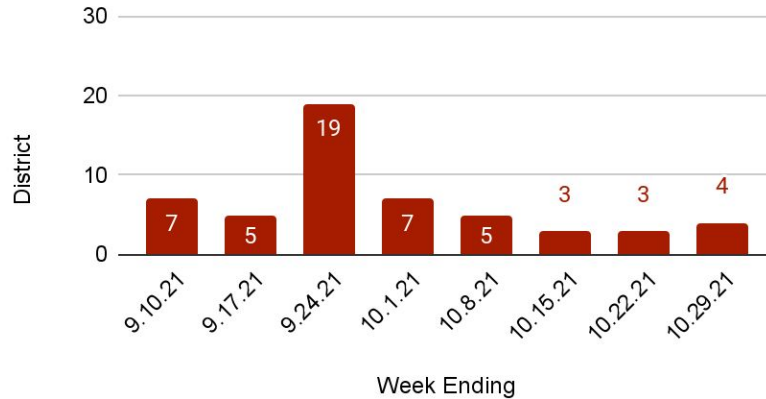
- December is “Feedback Month:”
 - Panorama survey to all staff, students, and families;
 - Time set aside for staff and students to complete their surveys;
 - New categories added to this year’s survey to help us assess school climate, teacher-student relationships, sense of belonging, rigorous expectations, and school safety;
 - Follow-up action planning at the building level planned for January-February;
 - Results to be used in district strategic planning efforts this spring-summer.
- Congratulations to all of our Fall Athletics Teams on a Spectacular and Record-Breaking Season!
- Upcoming Districtwide Equity Audit: RFP to be posted soon on Town Website.
- Ottoson Fall Play: *Us and Them*
- Enrollments
 - Active Enrollment Spreadsheet
 - October 1 Summary Report
 - Projections Status Update (M. Mason)



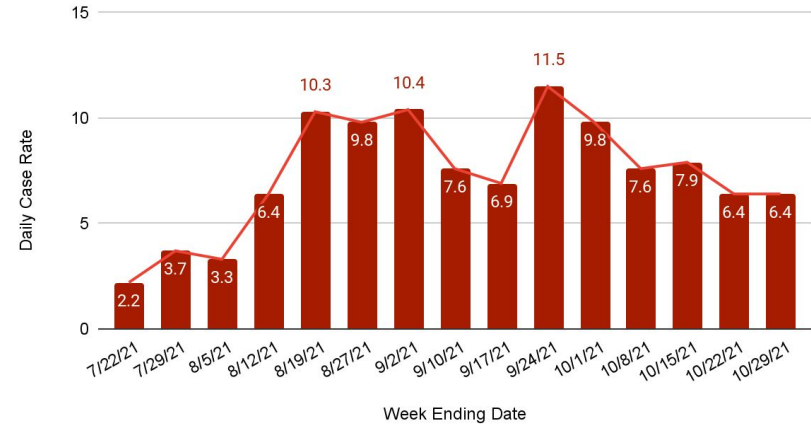
Superintendent's Update 10/28/21

COVID-19 Update:

APS COVID Cases



Arlington Average Daily Case Rate / 100k



Superintendent's Update 10/28/21



Entry Plan:

- Fall family and staff listening sessions begin next week; these will have focal themes of DEI, partnering with families, allocation of resources, supporting staff, and professional development and teacher leadership.
- Student focus groups scheduled at all levels, school visits underway, and fall family/student/staff surveys currently in development.

Hiring Challenges and Vacancies:

- APS currently has 41 open positions posted.
- We are actively hiring for multiple positions and all levels of experience; we ask that the community please share widely!
- Hiring shortage mirrored in other neighboring communities.

Superintendent's Update 10/28/21



Good news items:

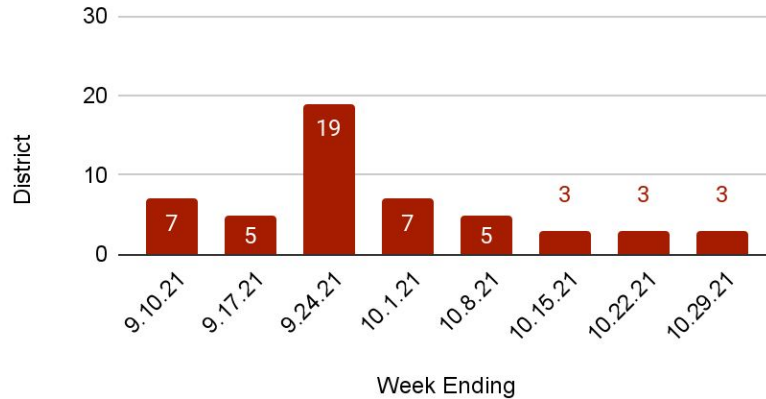
- We will be providing grab-and-go lunches on all school days, including early release days: this is an adjustment from the SC-voted calendar. As a reminder, all lunches and breakfasts are free this year to all students and breakfasts are served at all schools.
- We are preparing for COVID-19 Vaccination clinics throughout the district. Clinics will take place in November following the approval of vaccines for ages 5-11, and more information will be sent to families as soon as the vaccines are approved.

Superintendent's Update 10/14/21

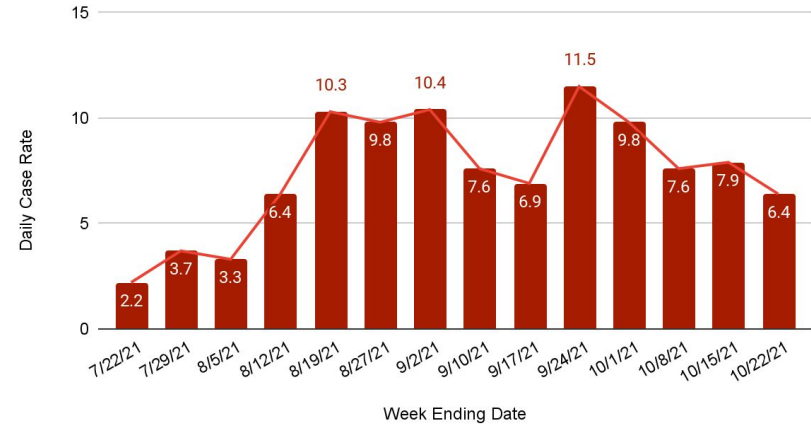


COVID-19 Update:

APS COVID Cases



Arlington Average Daily Case Rate / 100k



Superintendent's Update 10/14/21



Masking Considerations

- Town mandate still in effect until Middlesex county is categorized as a county with “moderate” or “low” spread for at least 2 consecutive weeks (currently “substantial”)
- When town mandate is lifted, we will consider multiple factors before making masks optional, including:
 - Current rate of participation in COVID-19 pooled testing at each school (currently below 80% at AHS and Ottoson);
 - Current vaccination rate of students and staff at each school (currently above 80% at Ottoson and AHS);
 - Vaccination eligibility and rates for all students across the system;
- Any determinations about mask requirements will be made in full consultation and collaboration with the Arlington Department of Health and Human Services and Board of Health, as well as the APS Nursing Department.

Superintendent's Update 10/14/21



- AHS Varsity Teams having a great season with a combined 56-14-6 Record (W-L-T), 80% win percentage. Boys' Soccer is Undefeated! Currently 10-0-2
- Looking forward to attending *Metamorphoses* fall play this weekend, performances on Saturday and Sunday at 12pm and 4pm. Email Lianna Bessette for tickets or more information: lbessette@arlington.k12.ma.us
- Observations of Indigenous Peoples' Day in APS: Thank you to Librarians and APS Social Studies Departments!
- Welcome to the team Kris Comeforo, Superintendent Intern
- Enrollments



ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
