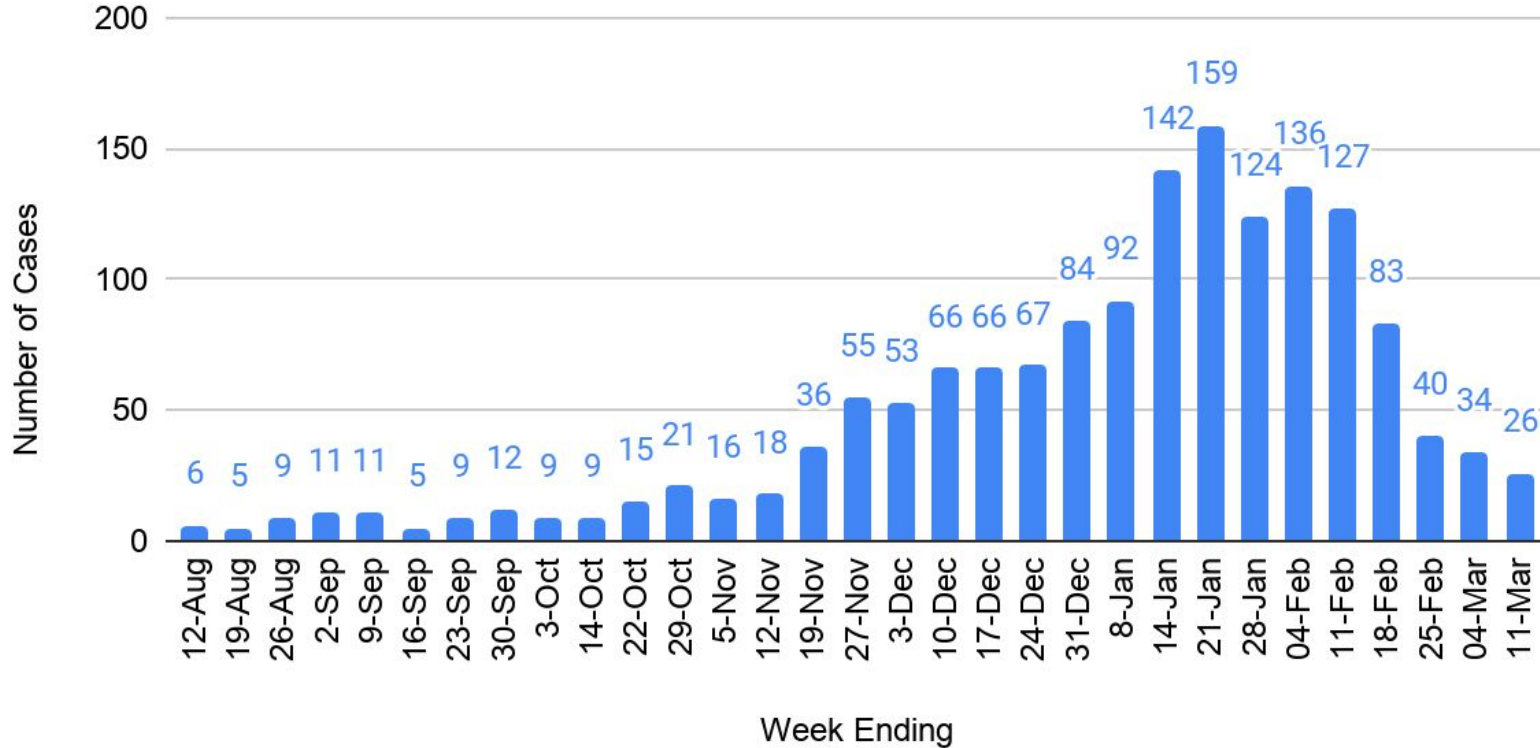


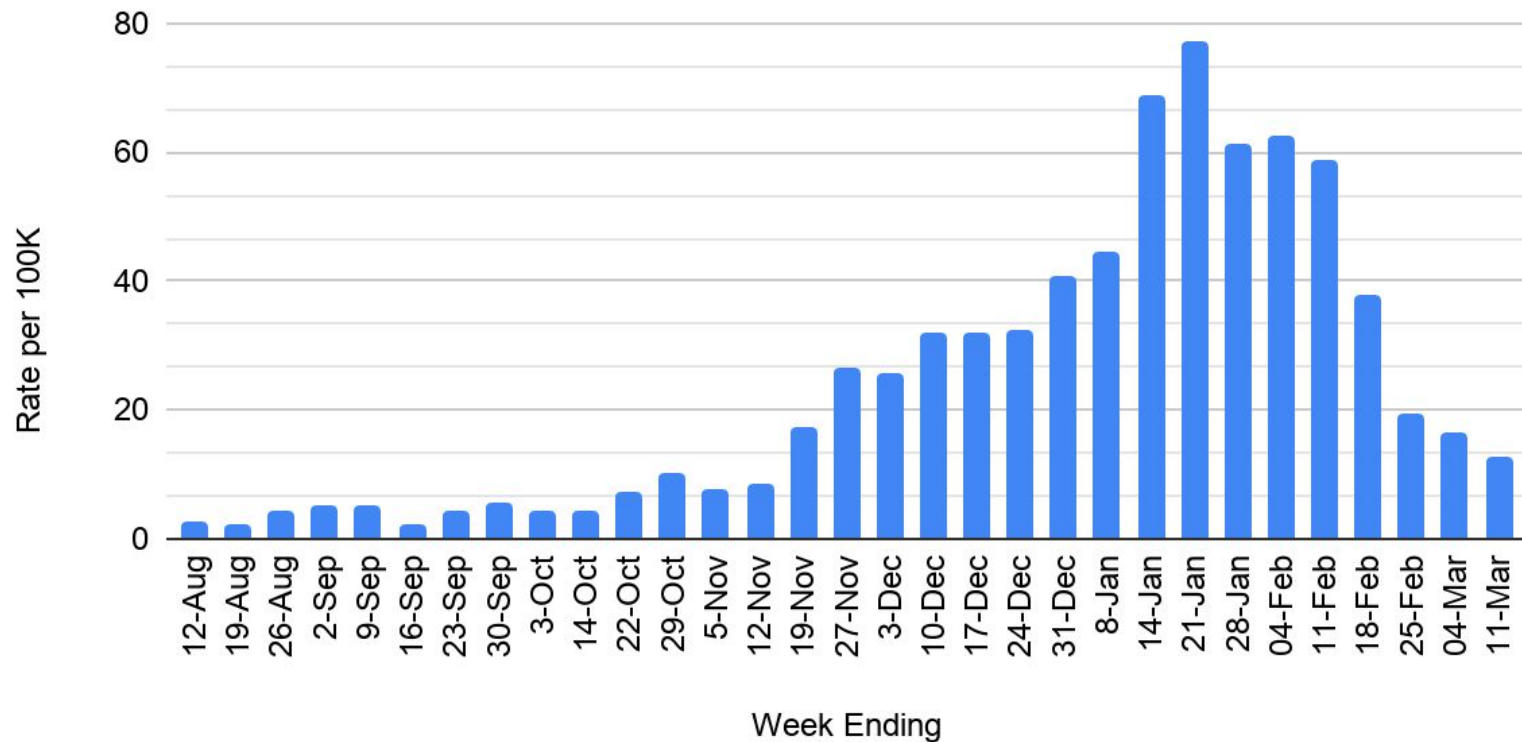
WW COVID Case Count

Prior 14 days



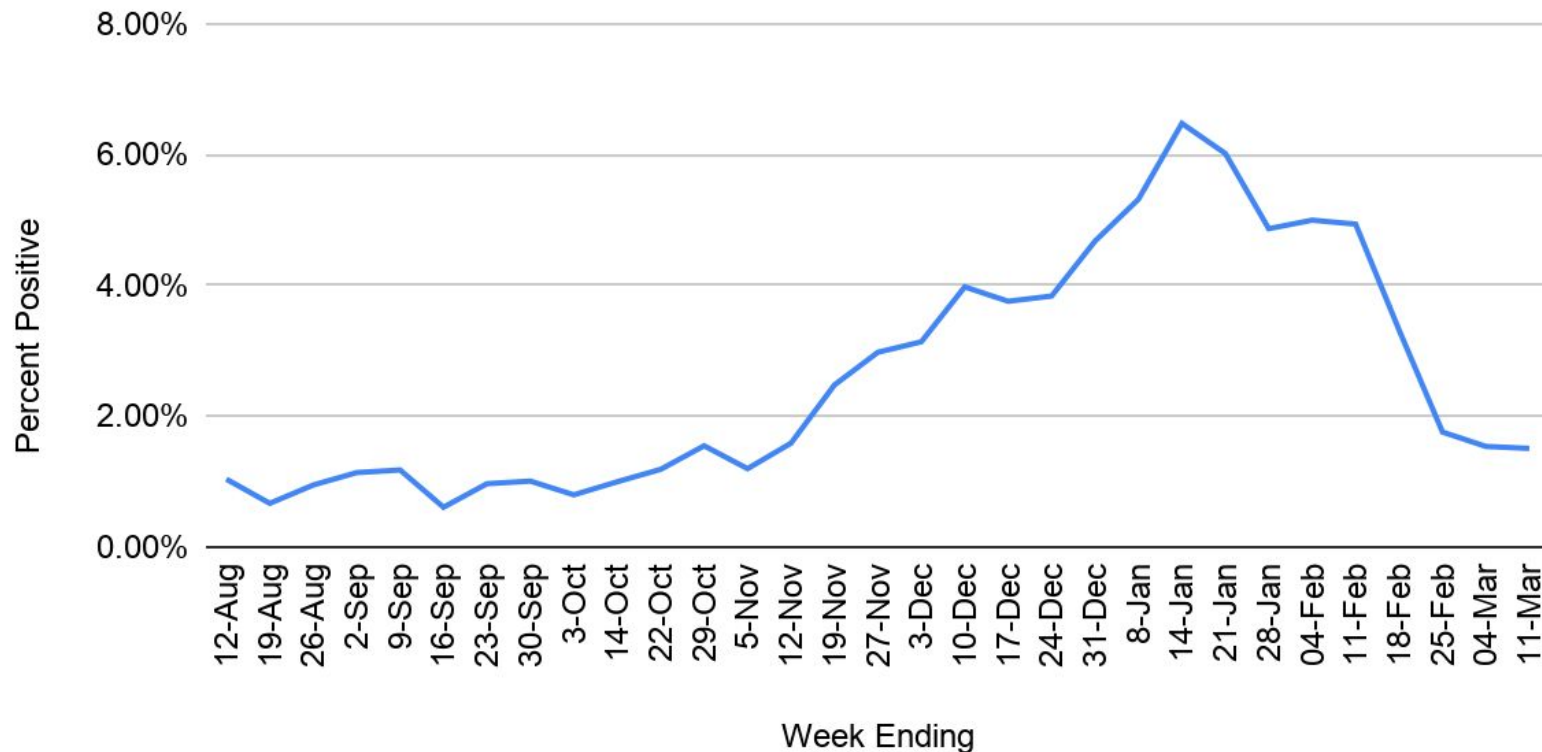
WW Average Daily Incidence Rate

Prior 14 days



WW Percent Positivity

Last 14 days



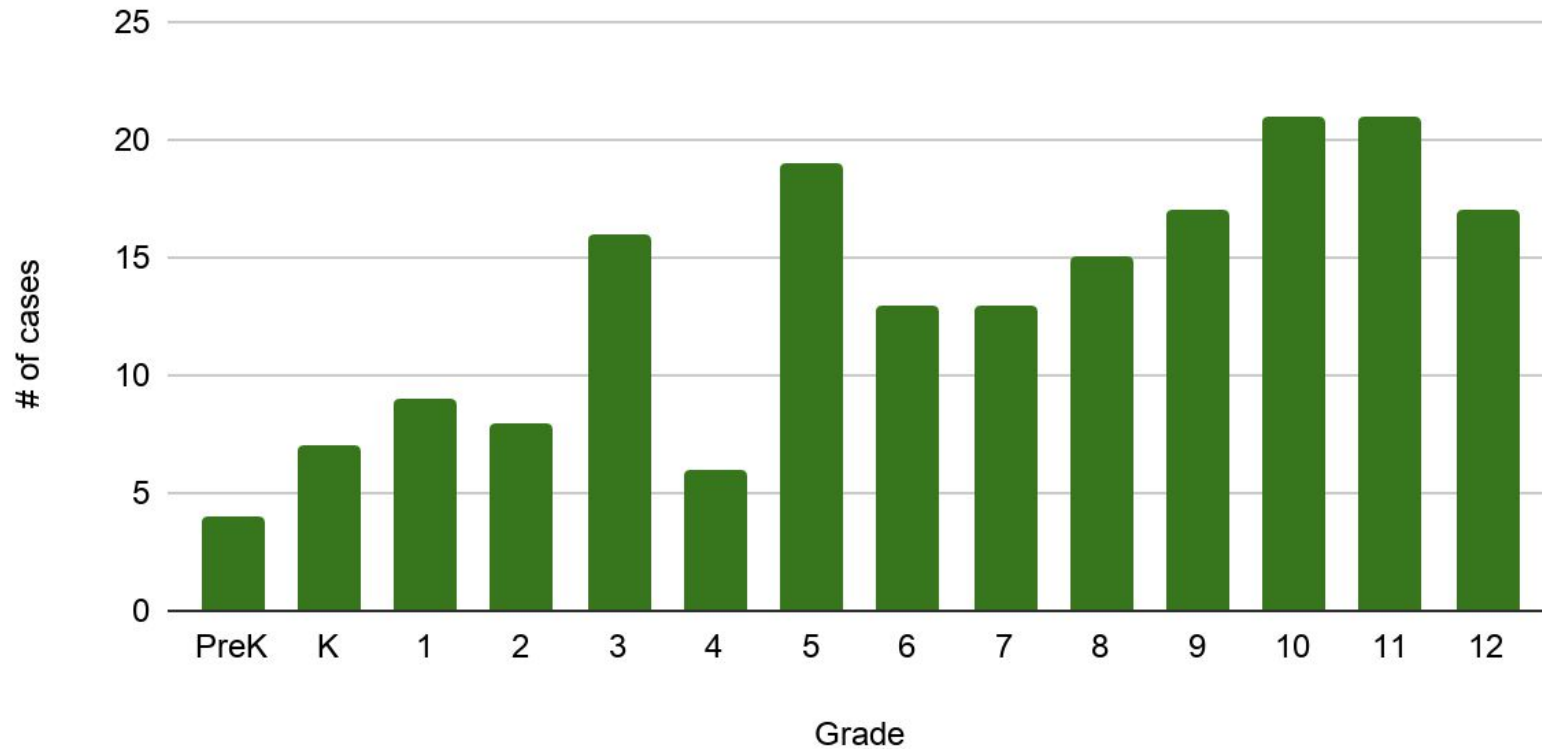
The WPS COVID Team:

So far this school year:

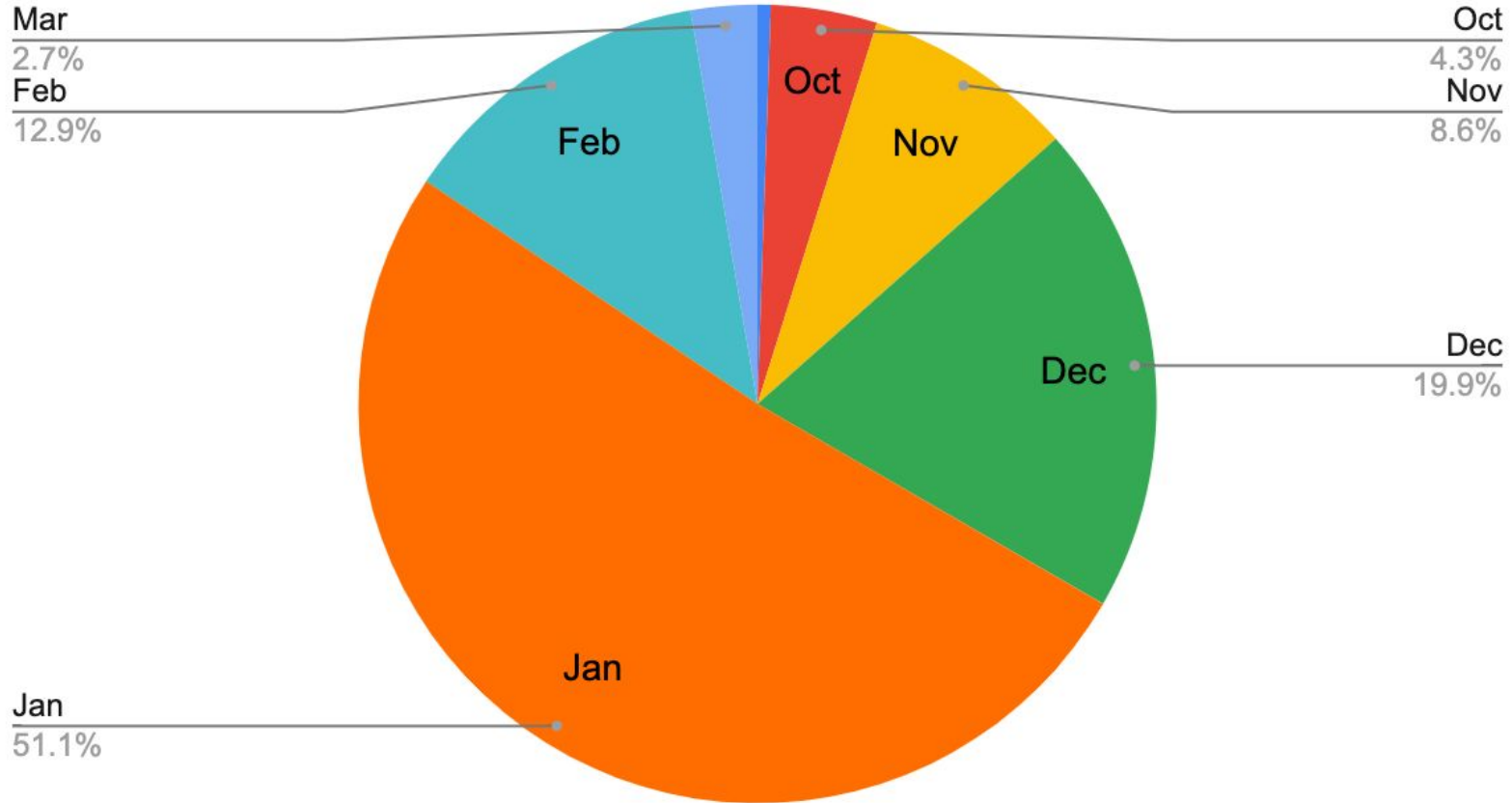
- 217 positive cases (students and staff)
- 1871 students and staff tracked by team (positive cases, close contact, travel, symptomatic)
- 512 consultations

Positive Case to Date

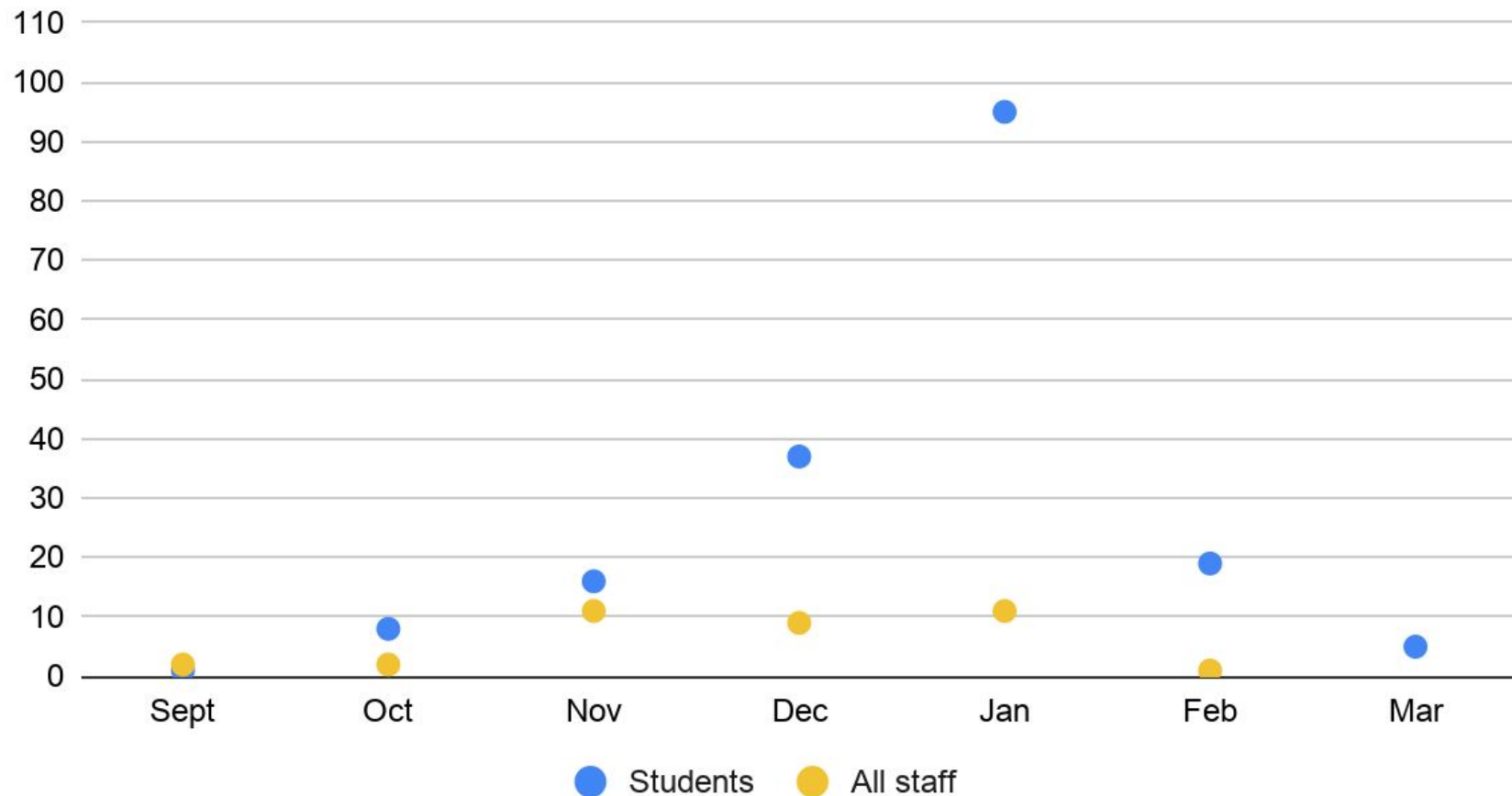
By Grade



Positive Student Cases by Month



Positive COVID Cases by Month



What we know from contact tracing:

- The vast majority of cases is due to household transmission or indoor, maskless gatherings.

Quarantines (monthly snapshot)

SC date	# of students in quarantine	# of staff in quarantine
Oct. 8th	30	20
Nov. 12th	49	20
Dec. 10th	32	14
Jan. 14th	103	16
Feb. 11th	36	6
Mar. 11th	9	4

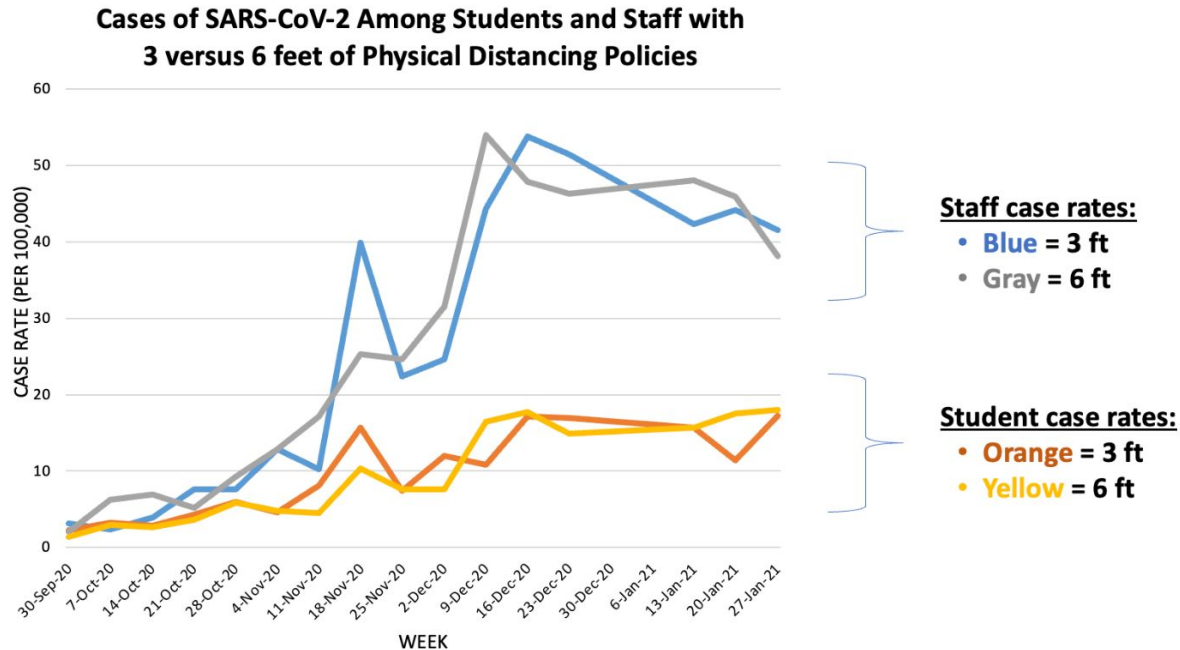
Is there evidence of in-school transmission?

- Of all of the students and staff who have been designated close contacts as a result of possible in-school exposure:
 - No elementary or high school students or staff have subsequently tested positive.
 - There was one case at the preschool where a class was quarantined after a student tested positive. One of the other students subsequently tested positive.
 - There was one case at TMS where a teacher and student working one-on-one (at less than 6 ft.) for an extended period of time both tested positive.
- This analysis includes specialized programs and the preschool where maintaining 6 ft of physical distance is not possible.

Safety Mitigation Measures:

- Masks
- Handwashing
- Staying home when symptomatic
- Contact tracing
- Physical distancing (3 ft. minimum during instructional time, 6 ft. during lunch, snack, and mask breaks)
- **Weekly COVID testing**

Study of Massachusetts data indicates no substantial difference in cases among students or staff with 3 versus 6 feet of distance since schools re-opened



Source: Polly van den Berg, MD; Elissa M. Schechter-Perkins, MD, MPH; Rebecca S. Jack, MPP; Isabella Epstein, MPP; Richard Nelson, PhD; Emily Oster, PhD; Westyn Branch-Elliman, MD, MMSc. [SARS-CoV-2 Cases in Students and Staff in Massachusetts with Variable Distancing Policies](#). Infection control plans for Commonwealth school districts with any in person learning were collected, with universal masking for students in grade 3 and higher and universal masking for staff mandatory. 243 districts were included, comprising 520,129 students and 6,227,765 student learning weeks, and 97,679 staff and 1,313,532 staff learning weeks. SARS-CoV-2 cases in students and staff in districts with in-person learning with different distancing policies were compared.

King-Philip Regional (Grades 7-12)

- Have had students in-person at 3ft since Columbus Day.
- Given their large class sizes and small classroom sizes, they couldn't even do hybrid at greater than 3 ft. (e.g. HS classes of 34.)
- The teacher has 6 ft of space at front of classroom.
- They have had a school go remote twice due to gatherings in the community and a need to do contact tracing.
- Of the 2280 students and staff, they have had 78 positive COVID cases.
- Of the 78 cases, there are two cases that they think *might* be in-school transmission.

Shawsheen Technical High School

- Have had students in-person since the start of the school year at 3ft.
- 3 ft. is the distance both in the classrooms and in the shops.
- Of the 1300 students and 250 staff, they have had 42 positive cases.
- They do not have evidence of in-school transmission:
 - None of their close contacts have tested positive.

Table 2. Recommended Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and K-12 School Learning Modes by Level of Community Transmission for Schools That Do Not Implement Expanded Screening Testing

Low Transmission ¹ Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
<p>All schools: Universal and correct use of masks is required; physical distancing; handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine.</p> <p>Diagnostic testing²: Symptomatic students, teachers, and staff and close contacts referred for diagnostic testing</p>			
<p>K-12 schools open for full in-person instruction Physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible³</p>		<p>Elementary schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance⁴ Physical distancing of 6 feet or more is required</p>	
		<p>Middle and high schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance Physical distancing of 6 feet or more is required</p>	<p>Middle and high schools in virtual only instruction unless they can strictly implement all mitigation strategies, and have few cases; schools that are already open for in-person instruction can remain open, but only if they strictly implement mitigation strategies and have few cases⁵</p>

Over 300 doctors have signed a letter supporting in-person learning with mitigation measures, including 3 feet of distance between students when masked

EXCERPTS FROM FEBRUARY LETTER (emphasis added)

Dear Commissioner Riley,

We are a group of **infectious diseases physicians, pediatricians, and public health experts** from across the state of Massachusetts. We write to express our concerns with the Return to School guidelines recently released by the CDC on Feb 12, 2021, and to **reinforce our conviction that the guidelines set out by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in June 2020 are more appropriate to guide Massachusetts....**

Massachusetts has implemented broad, effective mitigation measures in its schools throughout the state.... Many of these recommendations are in full force, which make closer spacing between students when masked (i.e. when not eating) both reasonable, and much needed to increase in-person learning in many current classroom configurations....

Massachusetts private and public schools have opened with as little as 3 feet of distance between students and have proven that with these other mitigation measures, in-school transmission is exceedingly rare. The closer spacing fails when these other mitigation pieces are not in place....

We have also seen that the risks to students of not being in school are dramatic. Students are more isolated learning from home, and consequently suffer more mental health issues, as well as physical health concerns, increased rates of non-accidental trauma, and learning loss. Remote learning is not a reasonable long-term substitute for in person school. **Every effort must be made to return the students of Massachusetts to in-person education in order to combat these other concerns, that are also of public health importance....**

Recommendation:

- Students in all grades attend school in-person 5 days per week, beginning April 5th.
- Student desks spaced at least 3 ft apart.
- Students spaced 6 ft. apart when eating or taking a mask break.
- To the extent possible, eating and mask breaks outdoors.
- In grades 4-12, students will be able to “zoom” into class when quarantined or home for COVID-related reasons, with the approval of the WPS COVID Team.
- Grades K-3 will continue to have access to a remote learning coach when in quarantine or home for COVID-related reasons.
- Students in the fully remote model may remain fully remote for remainder of the year.

School Hours:

- The premise in the Fall Reopening Plan was to create schedules that worked for all 3 possible models. The plan was approved by DESE.
- DESE announced on Tuesday that it would be transitioning away from the “emergency” provisions created prior to the start of the school year and meet the state’s requirements for full-time learning. (K-8: average of 5 hours per day, 9-12: average of 5.5 hours per day)
- This requirement goes into effect:
 - K-5: April 5th
 - 6-8: April 28th
 - 9-12: TBA some time in April with 2 weeks of lead time
- Westwood anticipated this possibility during collective bargaining and planning and created new schedules to meet the requirement.

School Hours:

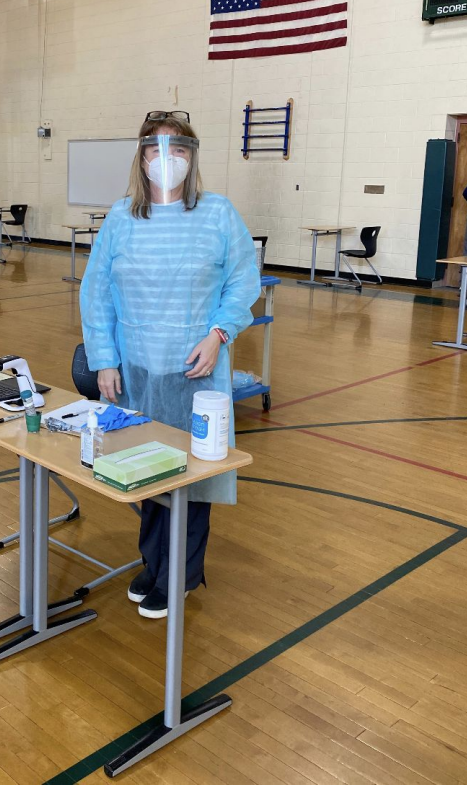

- Elem: 8:45 am -2:30 pm (includes lunch) [Wed: 8:45 am -12:45 pm, no lunch]
- TMS: 7:45 am-1:45 pm (includes lunch) [Wed: 7:45 am-12:10 pm, no lunch]
- WHS: 7:25 am-1:15 pm (no lunch) [Wed: 7:25 am-12:55 pm, no lunch]

Calendar Adjustments:

- The March 10th professional day has been rescheduled for April 28th.
 - No school for students.
 - At the elementary level, the day will be used for parent-teacher conferences.
- The professional day originally scheduled for May 12th will be a day of school for students.
 - This day will serve as the makeup for the Feb. snow day.
 - The last day of school students will, therefore, be Wed., June 16th as originally scheduled.

More details coming...

- Principals will send home information tomorrow and will be available to answer questions.
 - Elementary: Contact building principal
 - MS: Parent Q&A, Thursday, 3/18, 11:00-12:00 (will be recorded)
 - HS: Parent Q&A, Tuesday, 3/16, 6:00-7:00 pm (will be recorded)
- Issues people have asked about...
 - Yes, there will be ample time for students at the MS and HS to safely snack during the day.
 - Yes, HS students will still be able to leave the building during free periods (unless their parents opt them out).
 - There will be a change in HS science labs...labs will be done within the long class block (no double lab periods)
 - MS blocks will be shortened by 11 minutes, and a support block (formerly “X-block”) will be reinstated as a time for intervention, small groups, individual support, etc.
 - There will be a large tent at the MS for use during lunch (and also at Sheehan).
 - Yes, we’re keeping K-4 at 6 ft. if at all possible.

Sealing, sorting and
conducting COVID-19
testing? Simple.

**STOP
SWAB
& GO!**

Attention WHS Students:

We now have Student COVID testing available here in school.

Where: Guidance Lobby
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays
Time: 11:15-1:00

Please ask your parent/guardian if you are registered and if not please register. Thank you for participating!!!!!!!



Student COVID Testing Program:

Percentage of Students Registered:

Preschool	34%		
Elementary	29%	Deerfield	34%
		Downey	20%
		Hanlon	24%
		MJ	32%
		Sheehan	35%
Middle School	35%		
High School	34%		