

- Jan 12-18 – 387 cases – 6.33%
- Jan 19-25 – 212 cases – 2.87%
- Jan 26 – Feb 1 – 243 cases – 4.48%
- Feb 2 – 8 – 433 cases – 7.76%
- Feb 9 – 15 – 463 cases – 7.44%
- Feb 16 - 22 – 156 cases – 3.60%
- Right now we are at 69 cases with a positivity rate of 2.15%, since Feb 23rd.

The data for wastewater last week were significantly lower than the previous week. The samples deployed on Monday and collected yesterday will probably be available later today, 3/2.

UMass's extremely easy access to convenient testing, along with the wastewater data and adaptive testing has allowed the campus to continually monitor cases. We believe it is important to continue to employ these strategies for the remainder of the semester.

During this semester there have been no reported hospitalizations among faculty, staff, or students.

Further Rationale

Effective February 28th, the K-12 mask mandate was lifted in the Commonwealth. As his rationale, the Governor cited students' mental health, high vaccination rates, and other available tools to deal with the pandemic. The Governor issued that announcement on Feb 8th when the state's 7-day positive rate was 4.09%. Today it is 1.89%.

Nearby communities:

- Amherst: tentatively planning to announce on March 10 that their mask mandate will be lifted effective March 14.
- Hadley: Hadley Board of Health Indoor Mask Mandate was Lifted as of March 1, 2022 and March 7, 2022 for Schools.
- Sunderland: Effective March 1st, 2022, the Board of Health rescinded their December 2021 mask mandate for all public and private indoor spaces open to the public in the Town of Sunderland. Sunderland Elementary School and other individual buildings and businesses may have their own mask policies.
- Holyoke: Effective March 1, 2022, the City of Holyoke Board of Health lifted their indoor mask mandate. They have transitioned into a mask advisory for those with a weakened immune system, are at risk for severe disease, or the unvaccinated.
- South Hadley: The South Hadley Board of Health announced their mask mandate will end this Saturday, March 5, 2022. They plan to follow the state advisories moving forward.

Other UMass campuses:

- UMass Lowell- Mask wearing is optional. Effective: 2/28/2022
- UMass Medical- Mask wearing is optional. Effective: March 1st. Unvaccinated must continue to wear masks.
- UMass Dartmouth- Mask wearing is optional. Effective: 2/28/2022
- UMass Boston- Considering dropping mandate when Boston changes its city-wide restrictions. Unions have expressed concerns. No final decision yet