

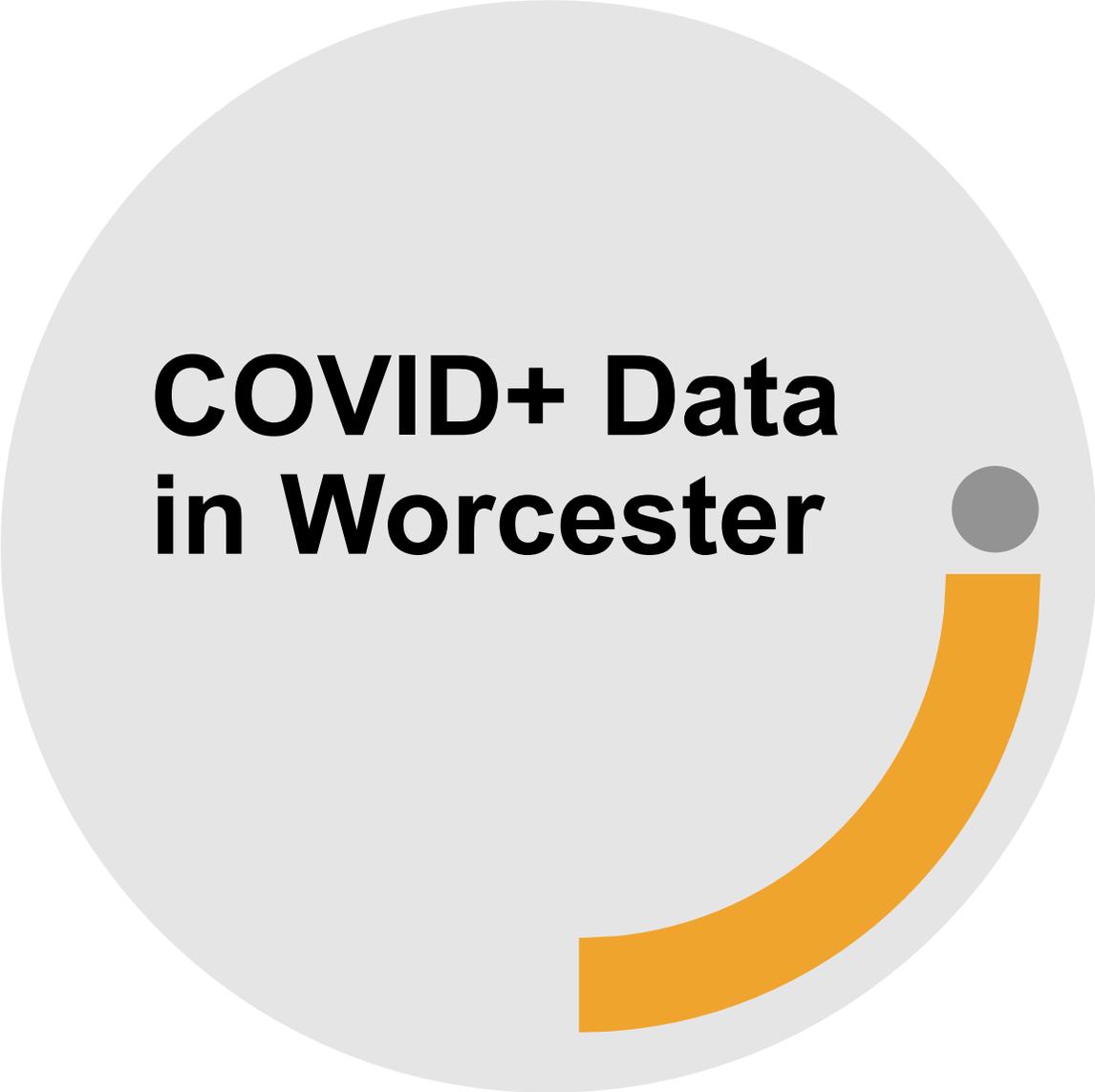


The City of  
**WORCESTER**

Department of Health and Human Services for the City of Worcester  
Commissioner Dr. Castiel  
Domenica Perrone, Project Manager

Impact of COVID-19 on Black people in  
Worcester and Access to Vaccines

January 4, 2020



# COVID+ Data in Worcester

## Sources:

- Worcester Department of Public Health (12/30)
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health (12/24)
- UMMHC The Office of Clinical Integration (12/22)

Population			
Group	Under 10K	10K-50K	Over 50K
Grey	Less than or equal to 10 total cases	Less than or equal to 10 total cases	Less than or equal to 15 total cases
Green	Less than or equal to 15 total cases	<10 avg cases/100k AND >10 total cases	<10 avg cases/100k AND >15 total cases
Yellow	Less than or equal to 25 total cases	≥10 avg cases/100k OR ≥5% pos rate	≥10 avg cases/100k OR ≥ 4% pos rate
Red	More than 25 total cases	≥10 avg cases/100k AND ≥5% pos rate	≥10 avg cases/100k AND ≥4% pos rate

As of 12/30/20, there have been **14,534** total confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Worcester.



## Count and Rate of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Tests Performed in MA by City/Town, January 1, 2020 – December 22, 2020

City/Town	Total Case Count	Case Count (Last 14 Days)	Average Daily Incidence Rate per 100,000 (Last 14 days) <sup>1</sup>	Relative Change in Case Counts <sup>2</sup>	Total Tests	Total Tests (Last 14 days)	Total Positive Tests (Last 14 days)	Percent Positivity (Last 14 days)	Change in Percent Positivity <sup>3</sup>
Williamstown	146	24	23.9	Higher	44468	1895	26	1.37%	Higher
Wilmington	1069	268	78.3	Higher	23217	3095	292	9.43%	Higher
Winchendon	274	53	35.2	Lower	8437	1001	55	5.49%	Lower
Winchester	596	174	55.8	Higher	32161	4715	190	4.03%	Higher
Windsor	6	0	0	Lower	545	64	0	0%	Lower
Winthrop	1278	255	96.5	Lower	39022	4958	323	6.51%	Higher
Woburn	2222	508	87.4	Higher	47975	6861	577	8.41%	No Change
<b>Worcester</b>	<b>13435</b>	<b>2295</b>	<b>85.6</b>	<b>Lower</b>	<b>417354</b>	<b>38001</b>	<b>2562</b>	<b>6.74%</b>	<b>Higher</b>
Worthington	19	<5	20.5	Lower	1014	129	5	3.88%	Lower
Wrentham	529	89	56.4	Higher	15790	1927	94	4.88%	Higher
Yarmouth	543	182	54.0	Higher	19189	2822	206	7.30%	Higher
Unknown <sup>4</sup>	928	196	*	*	188056	18219	206	*	*
<b>State</b>	<b>322652</b>	<b>61603</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>Lower</b>	<b>10399569</b>	<b>1170158</b>	<b>71906</b>	<b>6.14%</b>	<b>Higher</b>

<sup>1</sup>Address information for these cases is currently being obtained.

State EOC Report Released 12.24

CDC Week	Date Range	Patients Positive by Molecular Method	Patients Negative by Molecular Method	Other Molecular Results*	Total Molecular	Percent Positive Molecular
23	MAY31 - JUN06	148	1434	1	1583	9.35%
24	JUN07 - JUN13	111	1727	3	1841	6.03%
25	JUN14 - JUN20	73	1834	1	1908	3.83%
26	JUN21 - JUN27	73	1371	2	1446	5.05%
27	JUN28 - JUL04	40	1478	1	1519	2.63%
28	JUL05 - JUL11	60	2090	1	2151	2.79%
29	JUL12 - JUL18	58	3062	4	3124	1.86%
30	JUL19 - JUL25	90	1910	1	2001	4.50%
31	JUL26 - AUG01	90	2420	6	2516	3.58%
32	AUG02 - AUG08	53	2816	1	2870	1.85%
33	AUG09 - AUG15	59	3811	5	3875	1.52%
34	AUG16 - AUG22	83	5637	3	5723	1.45%
35	AUG23 - AUG29	85	3706	0	3791	2.24%
36	AUG30 - SEP05	116	3931	2	4049	2.86%
37	SEP06 - SEP12	138	2241	1	2380	5.80%
38	SEP13 - SEP19	105	2703	4	2812	3.73%
39	SEP20 - SEP26	118	2408	3	2529	4.67%
40	SEP27 - OCT03	151	2497	5	2653	5.69%

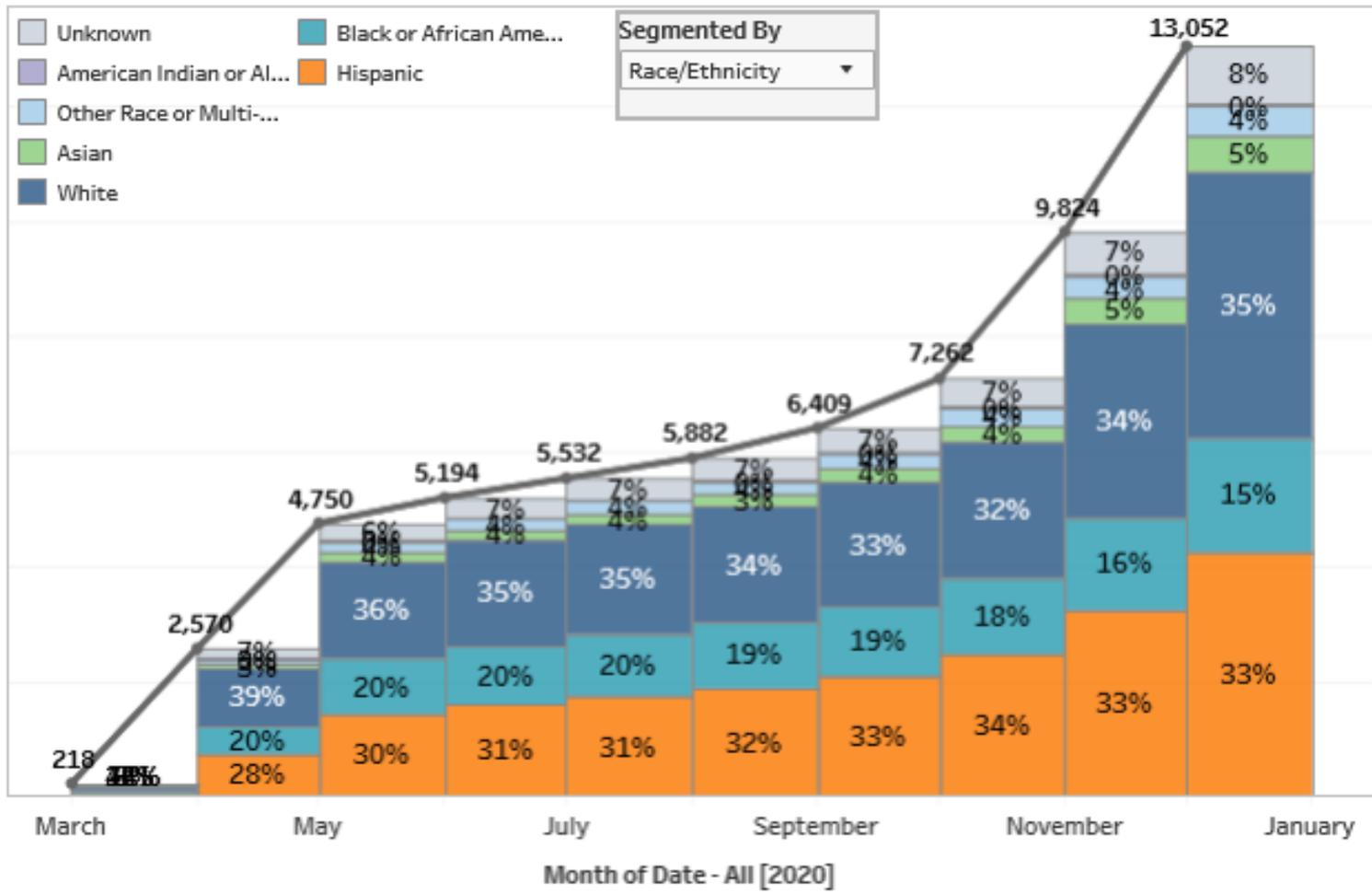
MAR29 - APR04	253	684	2	939	26.94%
APR05 - APR11	443	866	0	1309	33.84%
APR12 - APR18	656	1262	2	1920	34.17%
APR19 - APR25	676	1492	17	2185	30.94%

47	NOV15 - NOV21	667	3388	13	4068	16.40%
48	NOV22 - NOV28	668	2358	8	3034	22.02%
49	NOV29 - DEC05	1211	3428	13	4652	26.03%
50	DEC06 - DEC12	1258	3245	23	4526	27.79%
51	DEC13 - DEC19	1091	2647	26	3764	28.99%
52	DEC20 - DEC26	938	2393	11	3342	28.07%
53	DEC27 - JAN02	453	1074	8	1535	29.51%
		14608	100741	211	115560	13%

# Black or African American Individuals make up 13% of the City's Population and 18% of the City's COVID+ Cases (12/21)

Ethnicity - All	% of WORCESTER City	% of COVID+ by Ethnicity*	Total # of COVID+
Hispanic or Latino	21%	37%	4,242
Not Hispanic or Latino	79%	63%	7,244
Unknown		100%	1,563
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,049</b>

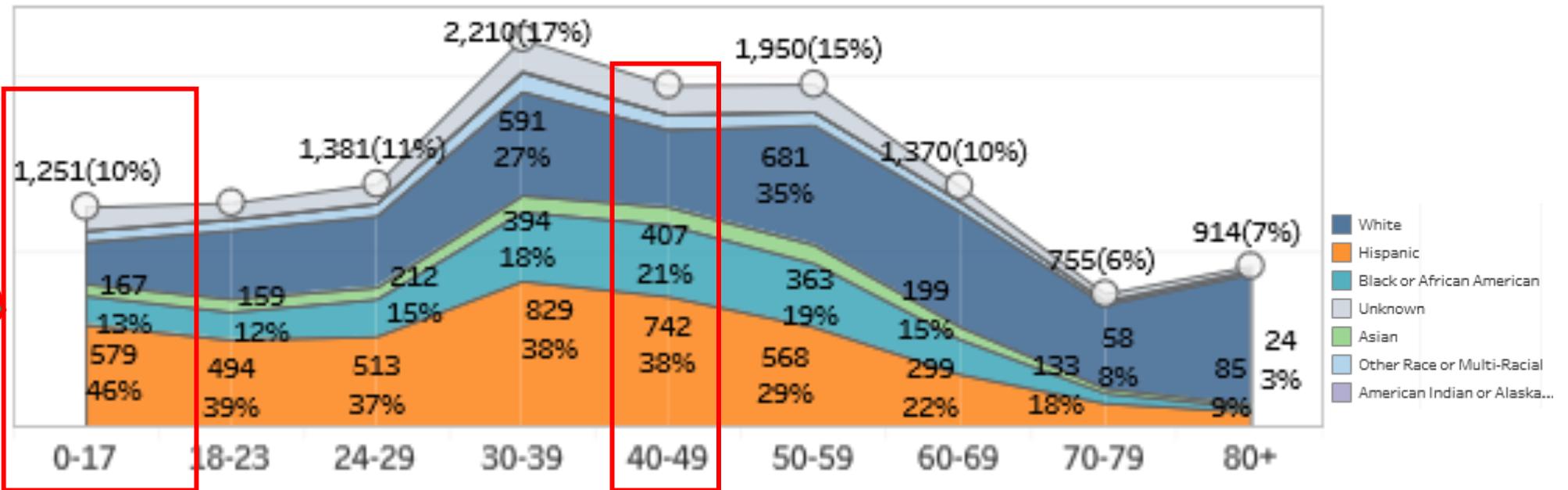
Race - All	% of WORCESTER City	% of COVID+ by Race*	Total # of COVID+
White	69%	49%	5,730
Other	10%	28%	3,265
<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>2,120</b>
Asian	8%	5%	630
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	0%	40
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%	0%	14
Unknown		100%	1,253
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,052</b>



The Black Community is seeing less positivity in the second wave (15% of total) vs. the first wave (20% of total)

The Black Community has seen the largest population of positive cases among the 40-49 year old age group (21%)

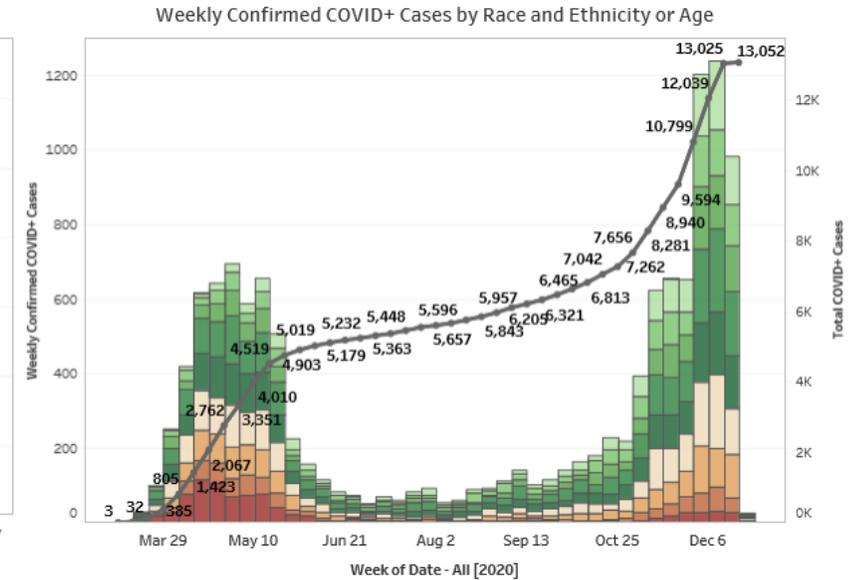
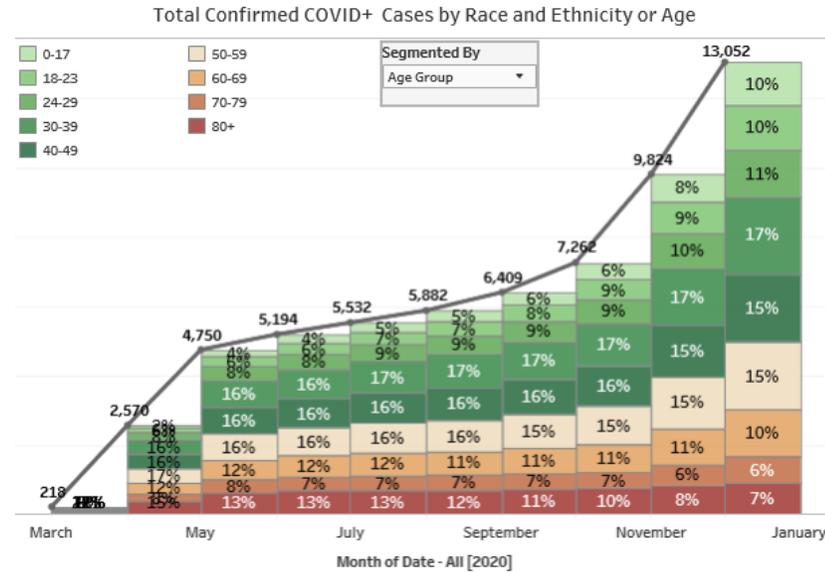
Total COVID+ by Age Group and Race Ethnicity



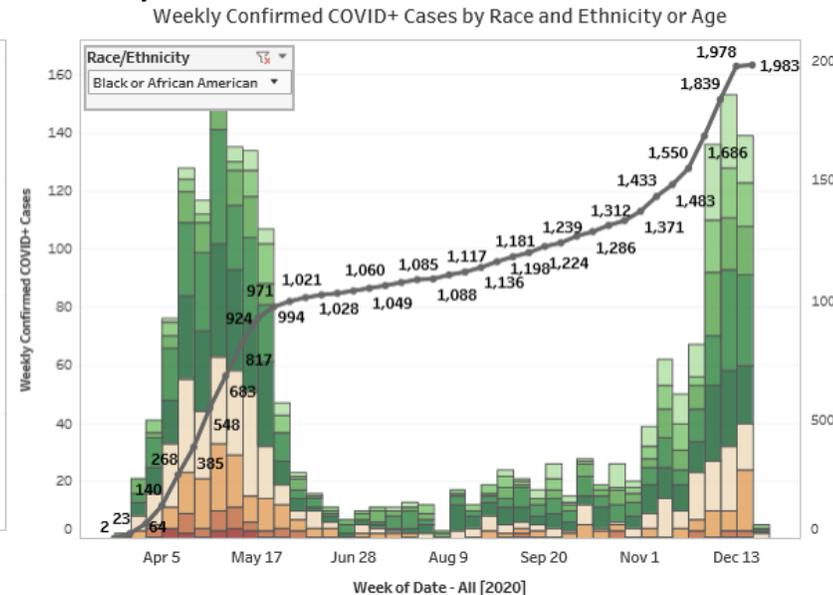
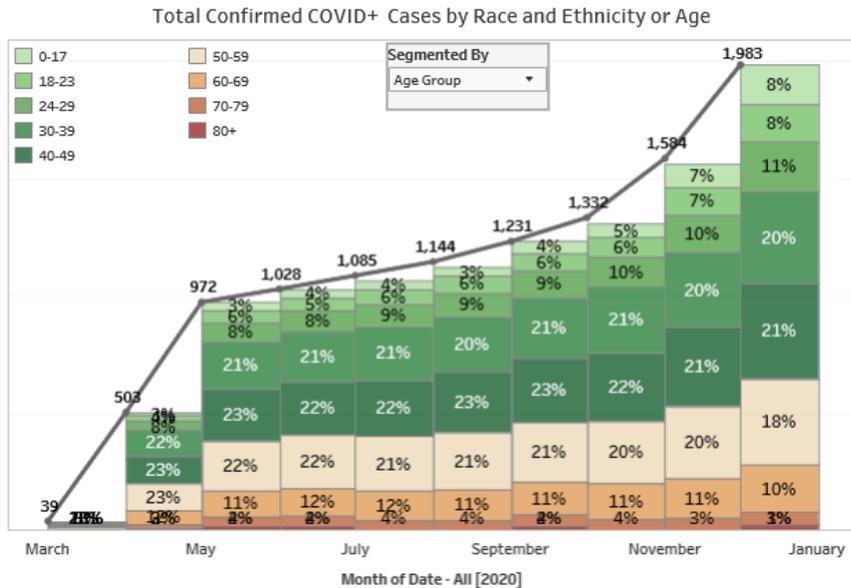
Youth 0-17 make up **10%** of the City's Total COVID+ Cases. Black youth make up **13%** of this total.

# All Race and Ethnicities

Positivity among All Races including the Black Race has been increasing over time in the younger age groups 0-17, 18-23 and 24-29



# Black Race Only

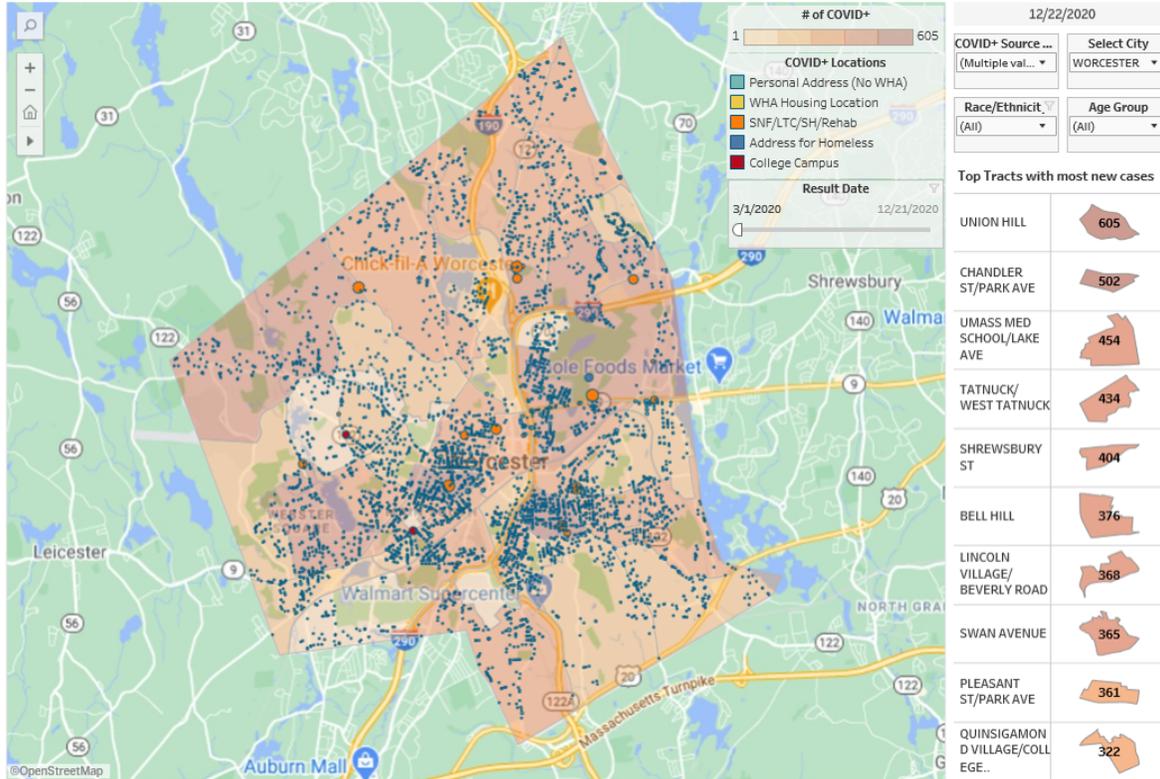


Cases per week are surpassing the first wave with the younger population (green) most heavily affected

Note: Green Bars Include Covid Positive Cases Below Age 50, Tan/Orange Bars are Age Group Above Age 50

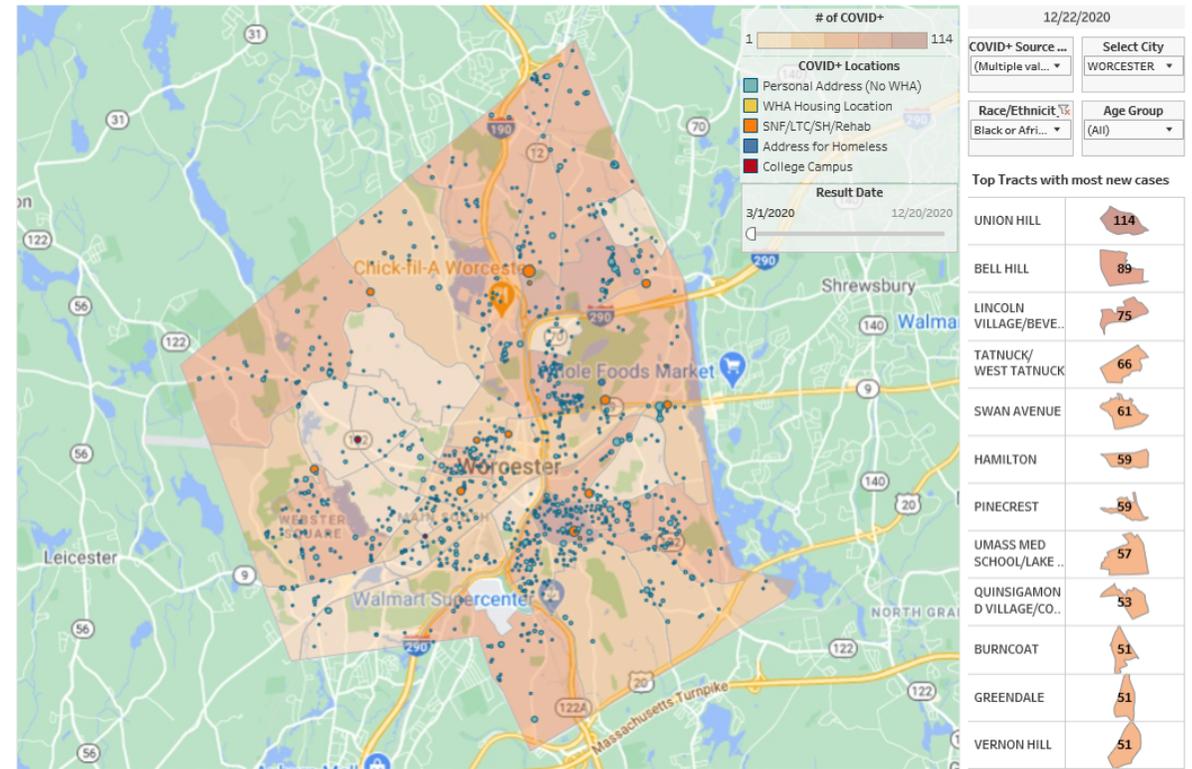
Union Hill is the top neighborhood for COVID+ cases for all cases, as well as for the Black Population

### All Cases YTD

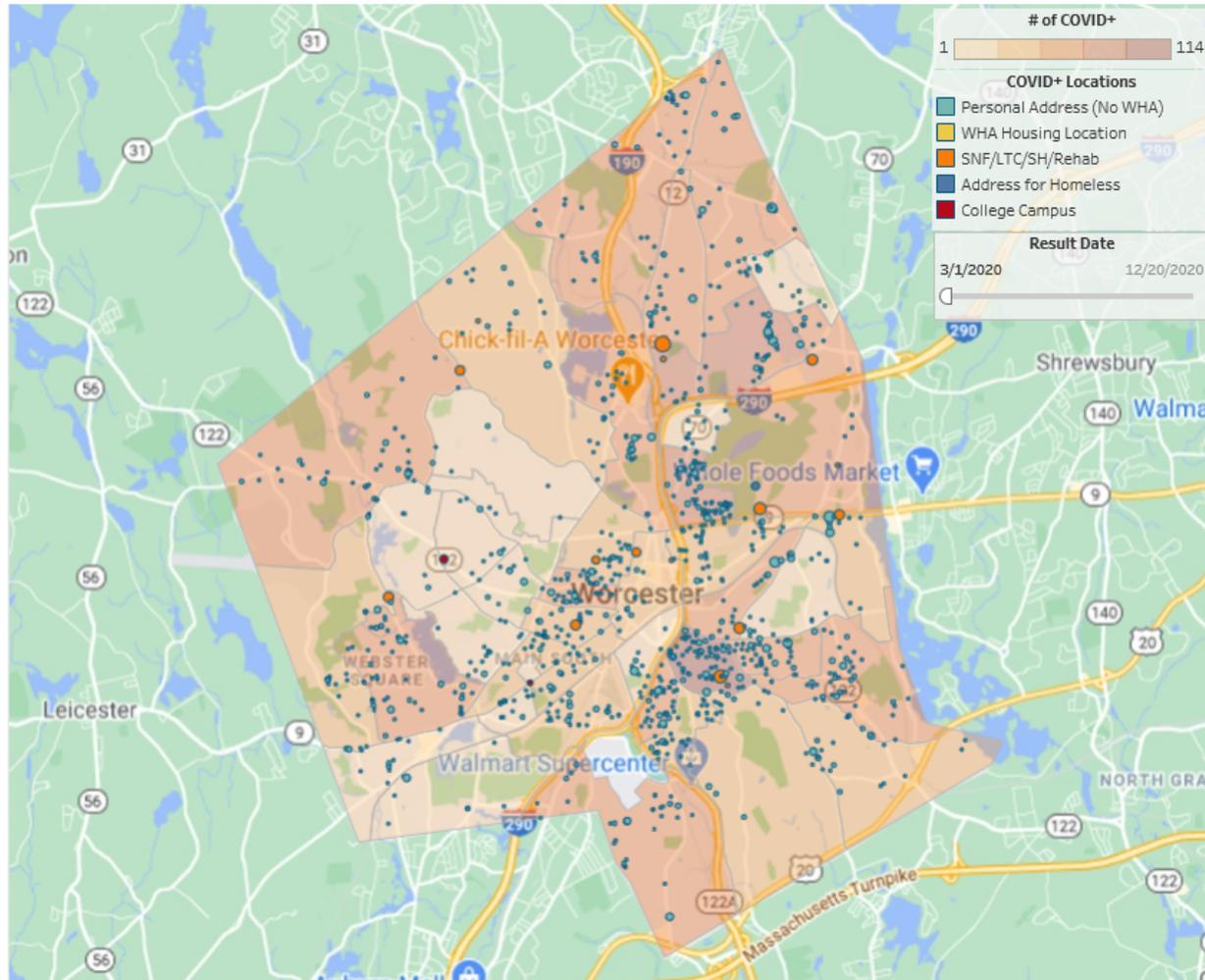


**Top 3:** Union Hill; Chandler St./Park Ave; UMass Med. School/Lake Ave.

### Black Cases YTD



**Top 3:** Union Hill; Bell Hill; Lincoln Village



12/22/2020

COVID+ Source ...  
(Multiple val... ▼

Select City  
WORCESTER

Race/Ethnicit...  
Black or Afri... ▼

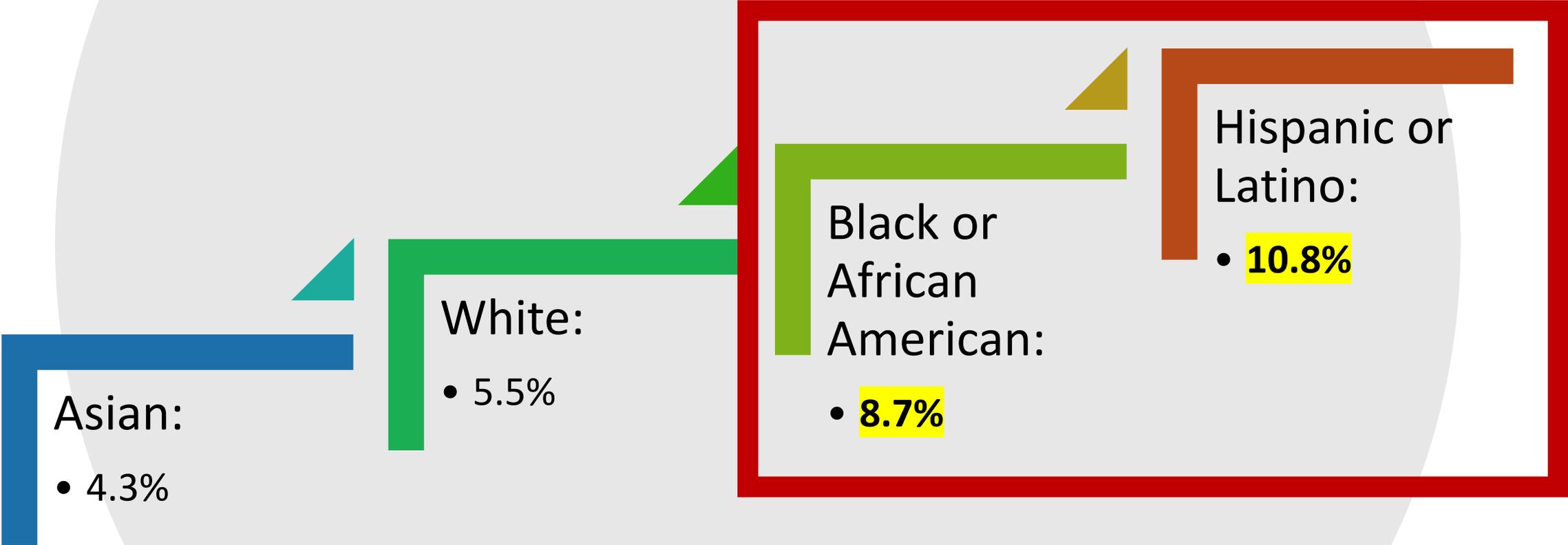
Age Group  
(All)

Top Tracts with most new cases:

UNION HILL	114
BELL HILL	89
LINCOLN VILLAGE/BEVE...	75
TATNUCK/WEST TATNUCK	66
SWAN AVENUE	61
HAMILTON	59
PINECREST	59
UMASS MED SCHOOL/LAKE...	57
QUINSIGAMON D VILLAGE/CO..	53
BURNCOAT	51
GREENDALE	51
VERNON HILL	51

Black Covid Positive Cases are Most Prevalent Union Hill, Bell Hill, and Lincoln Village

# Prevalence Rate of COVID-19 in Worcester is 7.1% for the City's total population





## PHASE ONE

In order of priority

- Clinical and non-clinical healthcare workers doing direct and COVID-facing care
- Long term care facilities, rest homes and assisted living facilities
- Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- Congregate care settings (including corrections and shelters)
- Home-based healthcare workers
- Healthcare workers doing non-COVID-facing care



## PHASE TWO

In order of priority

- Individuals with 2+ comorbidities (high risk for COVID-19 complications)
- Early education, K-12, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works and public health workers
- Adults 65+
- Individuals with one comorbidity



## PHASE THREE

Vaccine available to general public

**December - February**

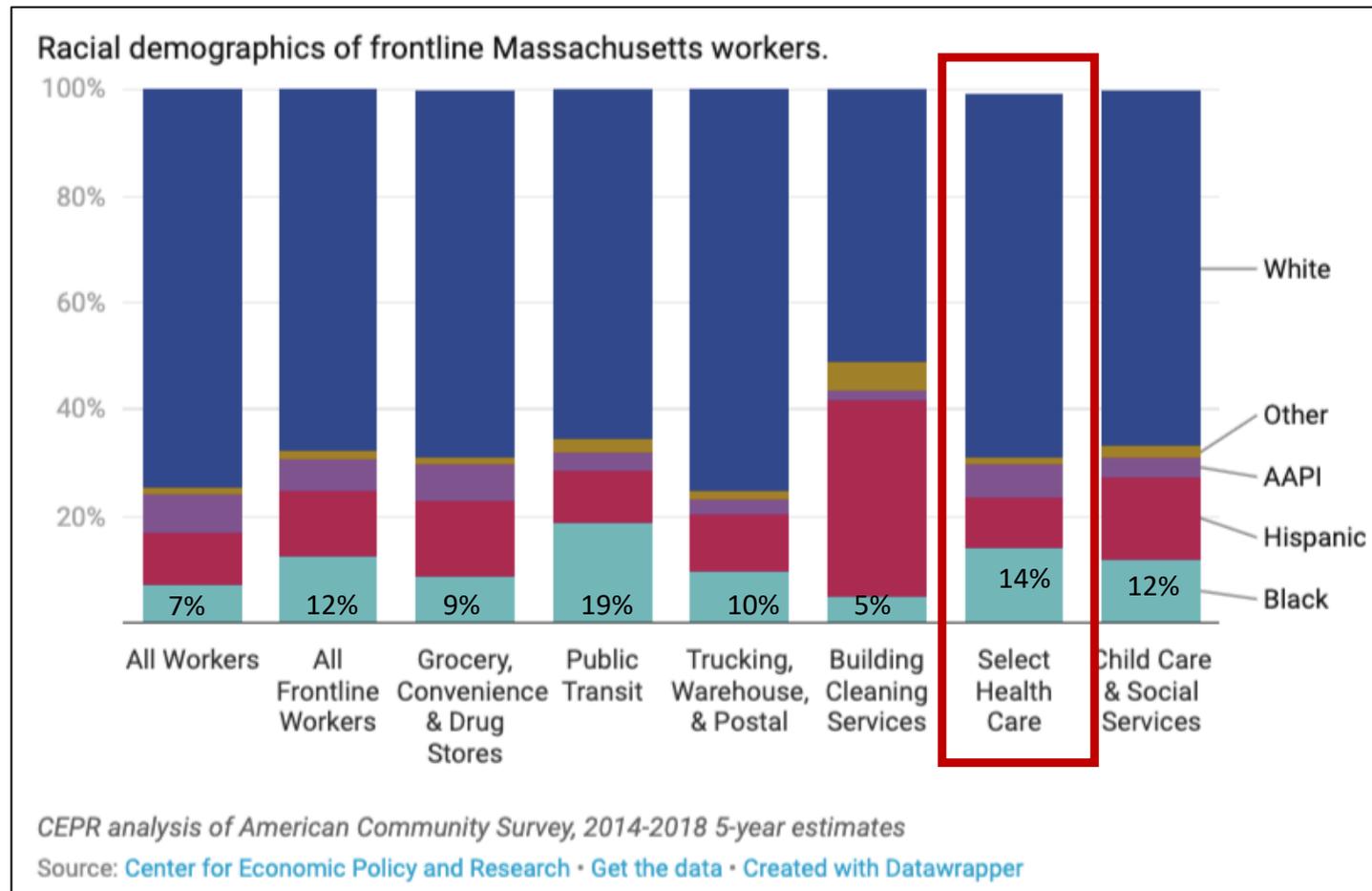
Estimated timeframes

**February - April**

**April - June**

When can I get the vaccine?

Our state workforce is 25 percent people of color, but those in frontline industries are 32 percent people of color.



# Phase 1: (December 2020 – February 2021)

**Step 1:** Clinical and non-clinical health care workers doing direct and COVID-facing care

**Step 2:** Long term care facilities, rest homes and assisted living facilities

**Step 3:** Emergency medical services, police, and fire

**Step 4:** Congregate care settings

**Step 5:** Home-based health care workers

**Step 6:** Health care workers doing non-COVID-facing care

Including: COVID-19 testers; COVID-19 vaccinators and support staff for a COVID vaccination clinic; Medical Reserve Corps who are called up to vaccinate or other COVID facing direct care work; COVID facing Hospice/palliative care professionals; COVID facing laboratorians; COVID facing imaging professions; emergent employees (manufacturing COVID vaccine)

Including: all interfacility transport workers, MedFlight staff

Including: Shelters and Corrections

Including: PT/OT/SLP therapists who work with medically complex home students

## Step 6: Health care workers doing non-COVID-facing care

Dentists/dental students	Medical students	Physical therapists	Interpreters who work in hospitals	Behavioral health clinicians not already covered in congregate care or direct care
Non- COVID facing Laboratorians	Blood donation workers	Organ donation procurement worker	Hospice/palliative care professionals	Non-COVID facing Imaging Professionals
	Dialysis center workers and patients	Audiologists and speech and language pathologists	Podiatrists	

*(unless routinely working with COVID-19 positive or suspect patients, in which case should be considered COVID-facing)*

# Phase 1 Vaccination Settings:



Most health care workers and first responders will be vaccinated at their place of employment

Individuals living and working in long term care will be vaccinated as part of the Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program (CVS and Walgreens)

Vaccination for individuals in other congregate settings (e.g., group homes, shelters, corrections) will be coordinated by the management of those facilities

Many additional vaccination administration sites will be made available for other populations

# Phase 2: (February-March 2021)

Step 1: Individuals with 2+ co-morbid conditions (high risk for COVID-19 complications)

Step 2: Other workers

- Including: early education, K-12, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, restaurant and cafe workers; employees across the food, beverages, agriculture, consumer goods, retail, and foodservice sectors; meatpackers; sanitation, public works and public health workers, vaccine development workers, food pantry workers, Uber/Lyft/ride share services/pharmacy delivery drivers (under transit/transportation workers), workers in the passenger ground transportation industry (e.g. paratransit for people with disabilities, food delivery, non-urgent medical transport; convenience store workers (under grocery workers); water and wastewater utility staff

Step 3: Adults 65+

Step 4: Individuals with one co-morbid condition

# CDC's Comorbid Diseases and Conditions

Adults of any age with the following conditions are at increased risk of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher but < 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Severe Obesity (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

# CDC's Comorbid Diseases and Conditions

Adults of any age with the following conditions **might be at an increased risk** for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19:

- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Hypertension or high blood pressure
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
- Neurologic conditions, such as dementia
- Liver disease
- Overweight (BMI > 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, but < 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)
- Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder)
- Type 1 diabetes mellitus

## Phase 3: (Starting April 2021)

- The vaccine is expected to be available to the general public.
  - Including: Higher education workers, including administrators, teaching and non-teaching staff; Bottled beverage industry workers; Veterinarians; Funeral directors and funeral workers; 911 Dispatch employees
- Phase 3 vaccination settings:
  - Once the vaccine is available to the general public, public vaccine clinics will be available on the CDC's interactive website: [vaccinefinder.org](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/downloads/#vaccinefinder). You will also be able to check with your primary care provider, local pharmacy or local health department.

Contact us with  
questions!

- Commissioner Dr. Castiel: [castielm@worcesterma.gov](mailto:castielm@worcesterma.gov)
- Domenica Perrone, Project Manager: [perroned@worcesterma.gov](mailto:perroned@worcesterma.gov)
- State's Vaccine Roll-Out Phases will be updated Tuesdays and Thursdays by 5pm in response to questions submitted via [COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov](mailto:COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov).
- Public vaccine clinics will be available on the CDC's interactive website: [vaccinefinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org)