

# NEQCA COVID-19 Update

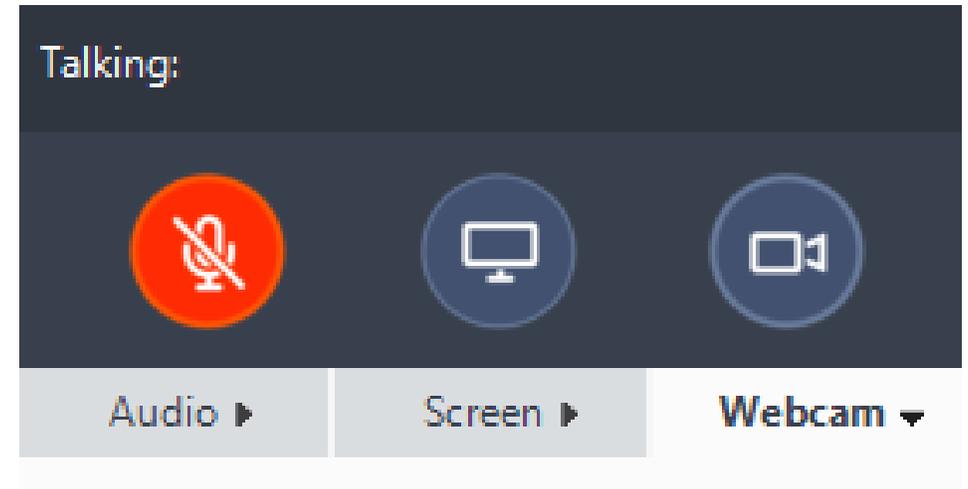
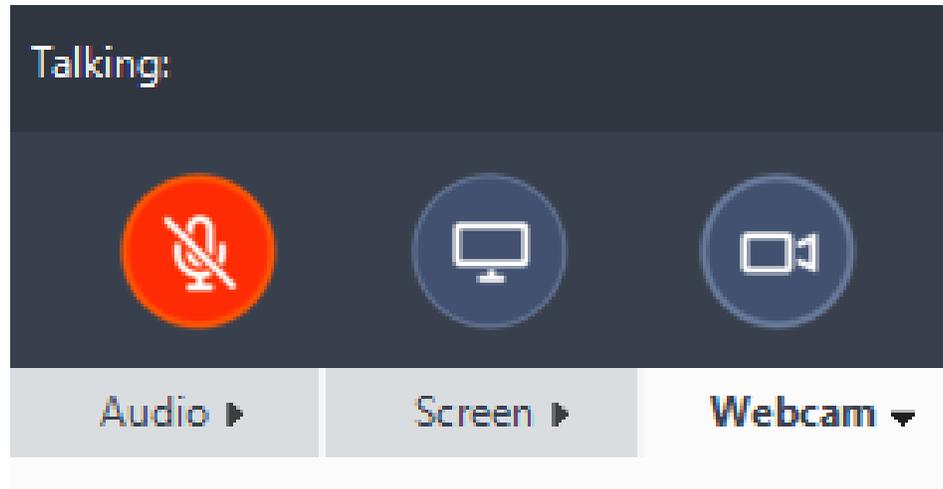
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**New England Quality Care Alliance**

May 20, 2021

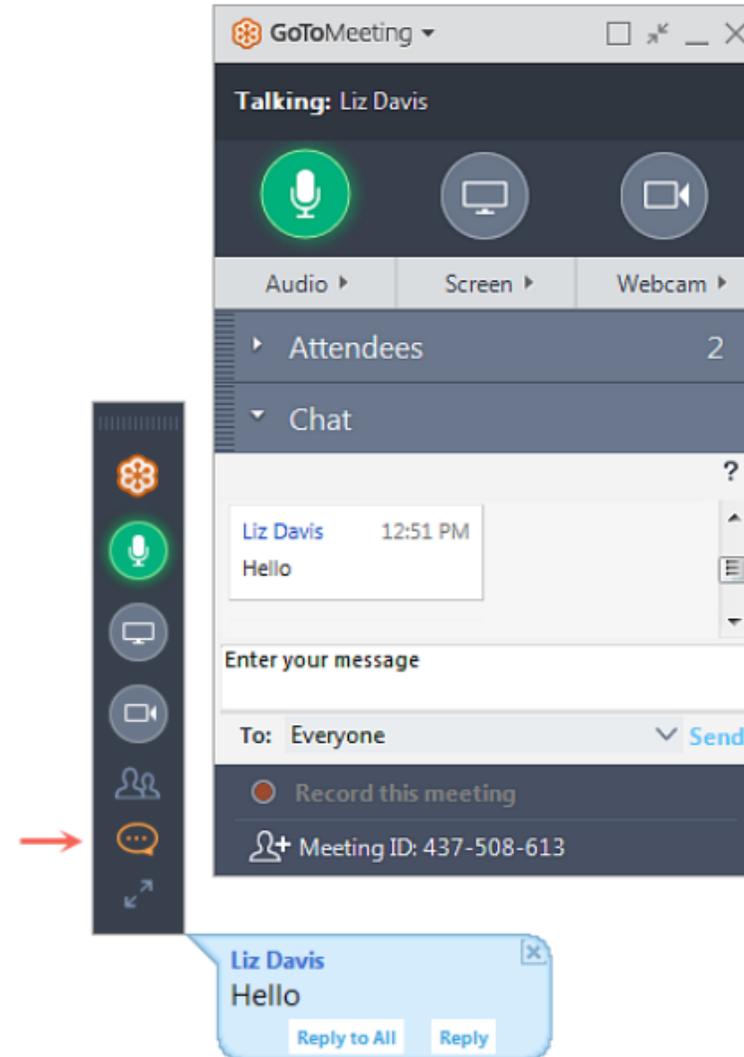
# Please Mute

# No Webcam



# To Ask A Question

- Please use the “chat” feature to submit your question
- A moderator will then pose your question(s) to the presenters



# Opening Comments

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**Joseph Frolkis, MD, PhD**  
CEO and President

# Agenda

- Situational Update: The Numbers
- Updates
  - Epidemiology and Transmission
  - Diagnostic Testing
  - Clinical Course and Complications
  - Vaccines
- Reopening and new CDC recommendations on mask use
- How to get more people vaccinated
- Helpful Resources

# COVID-19 Update

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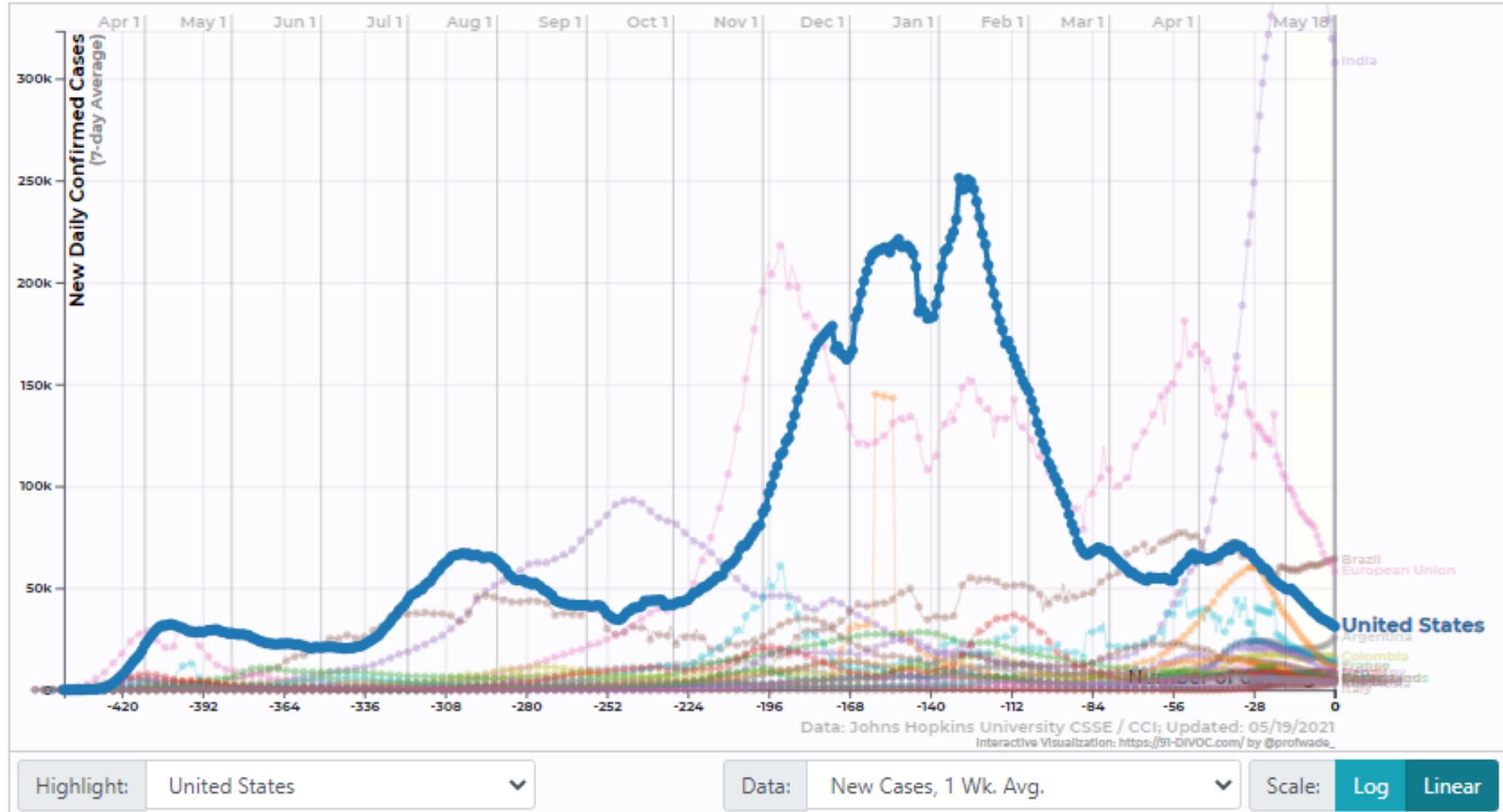
**Ben Kruskal, MD**

Senior Medical Director

# Situational Update: The Numbers

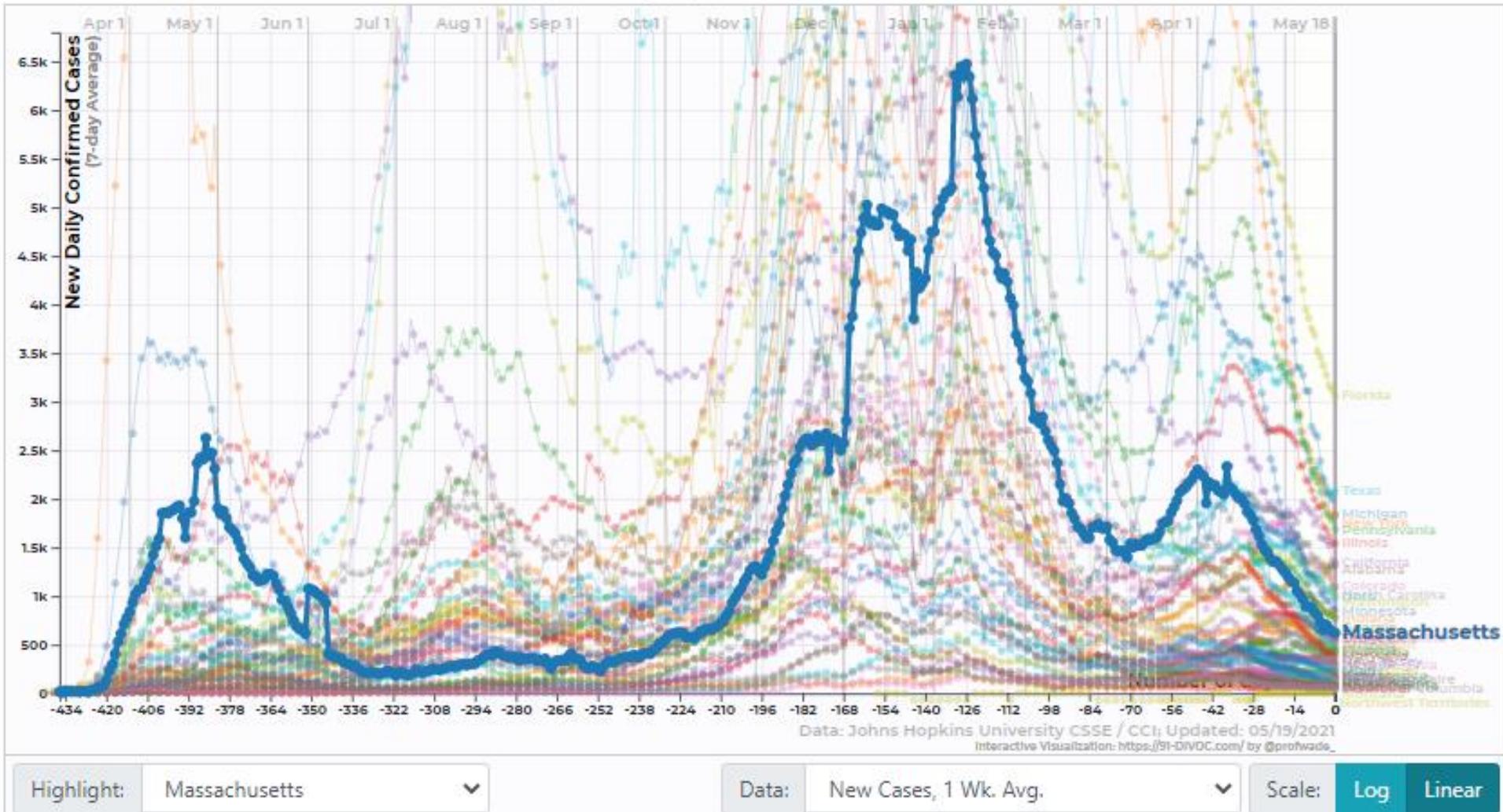
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# New Confirmed COVID-19 Cases per Day



<http://91-divoc.com/pages/covid-visualization/>

# New Confirmed COVID-19 Cases per Day by States/Territories

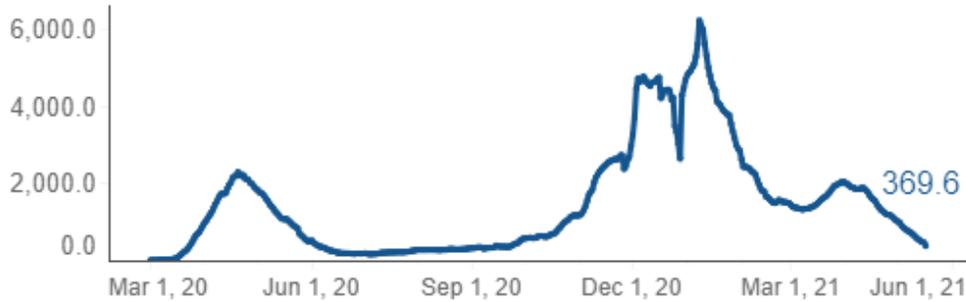


<http://91-divoc.com/pages/covid-visualization/>



### Cases

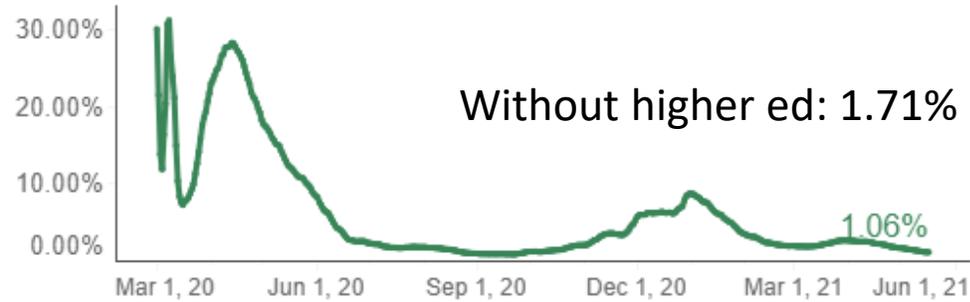
7-day average of COVID-19 confirmed cases



The lowest observed value was 156.7 on 7/4/2020.

### Testing

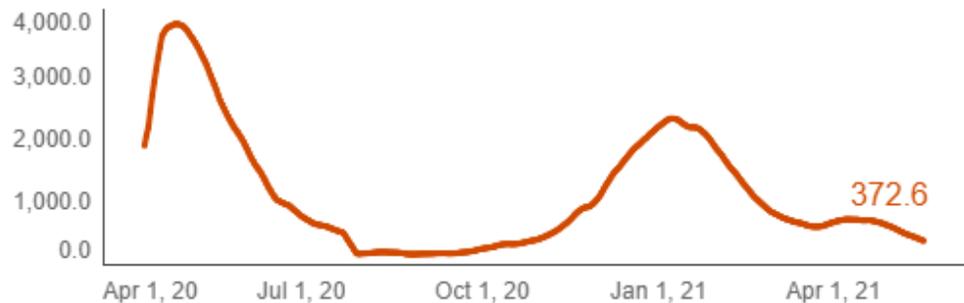
7-day weighted average percent positivity



The lowest observed value was 0.77% on 9/21/2020.

### Hospitalizations

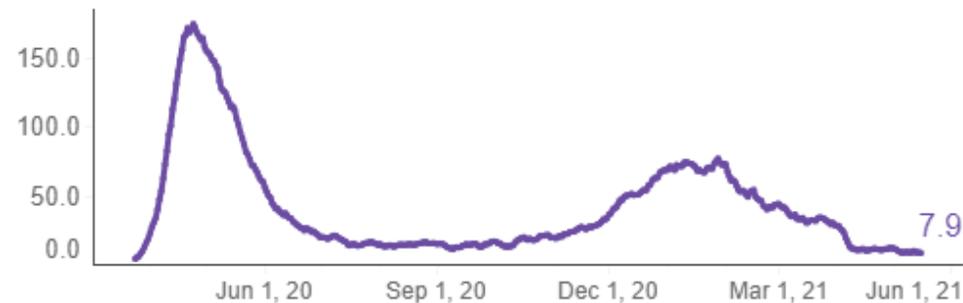
7-day average of hospitalizations



The lowest observed value was 155.3 on 8/26/2020.

### Deaths

7-day average of confirmed deaths

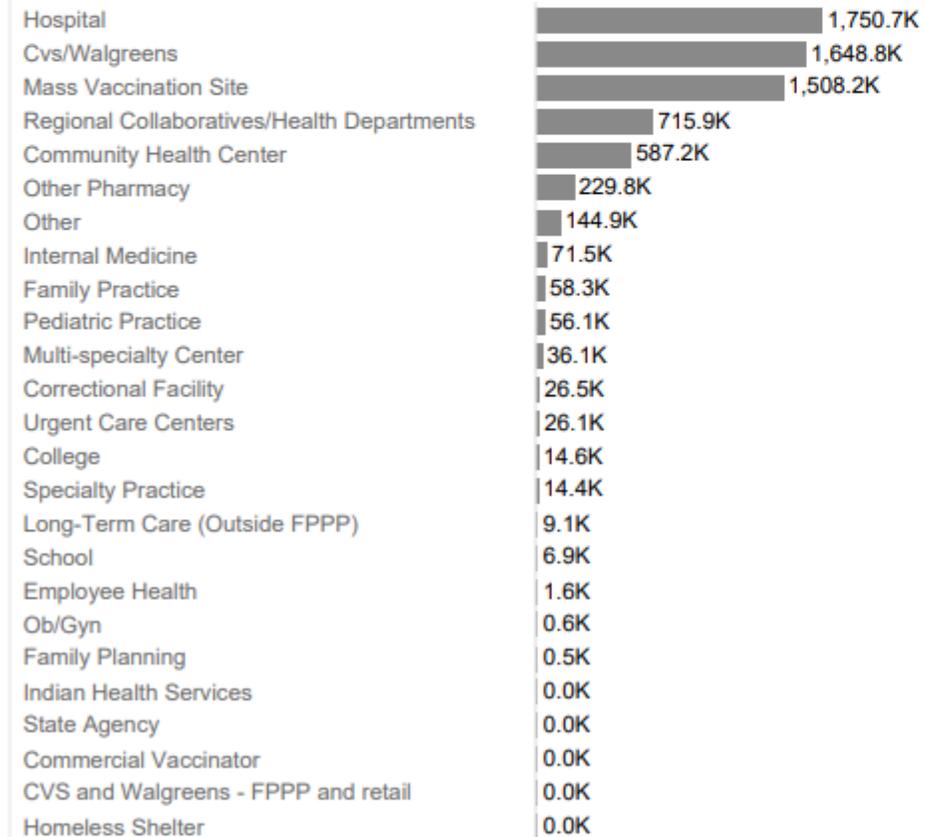


The lowest observed value was 7.9 on 5/16/2021.

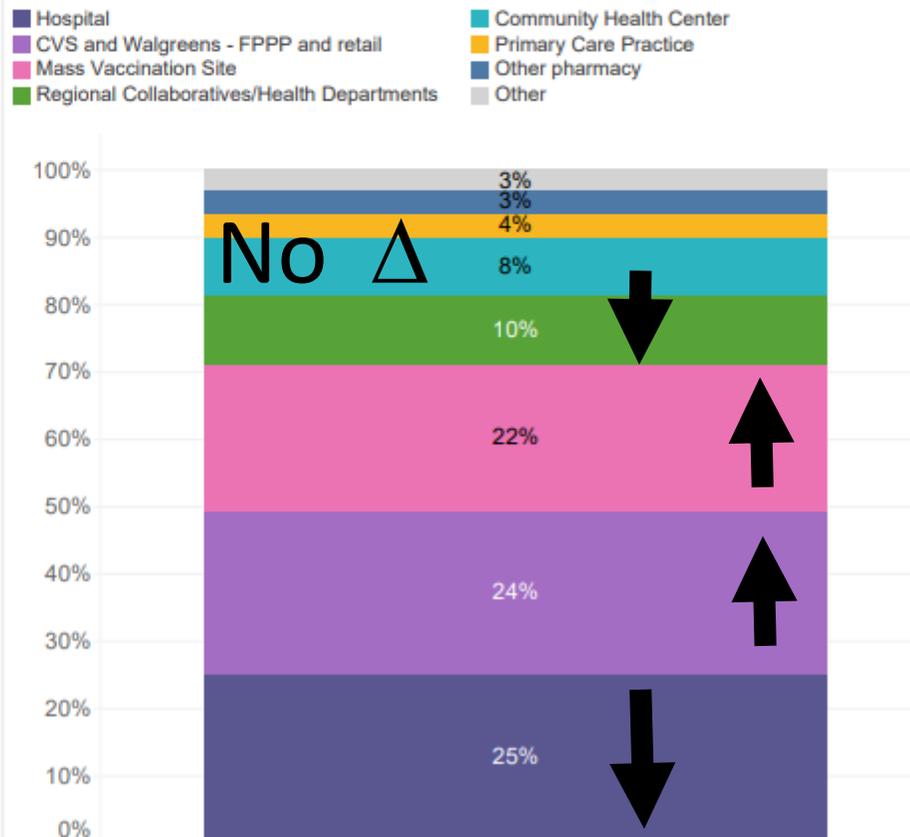
# Total COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered by Practice Type

Data as of May 11, 2021

**Total COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered by Practice Type (cumulative)**



**Total COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered by Grouped Practice Type (cumulative)**



As of 5/13:  
% of doses shipped that have been administered  
**6.91M/8.22 = 84%**

\*\*\*\*\*

**44% (3.05M) of Massachusetts' population is fully vaccinated**

# Updates: Epidemiology and Transmission

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# SARS-CoV-2 Variant Strains

- B.1.1.7 (UK): Rapidly increasing, majority of new cases in many states including:
  - MI, MN, GA, FL ~75% of all cases in these states
  - MA, PA, IN, IL ~50%
- B.1.351 (South Africa): Scattered cases in the US
  - Pfizer vaccine demonstrated excellent protection in South Africa, where placebo groups showed B.1.351 as the dominant strain
- P.1 (B.1.1.28, Brazil): MA is US epicenter
- CAL.20C (B.1.427, B.1.429) (California)
- B.1.526 (NYC): Rapidly increasing in NYC
- **B.1.617 (India): “Double mutant”**
- Vaccine susceptibility: Most reports are in vitro studies, which are not definitive predictors of actual protection. Empiric protection against variant strains (e.g. B.1.351 Pfizer South Africa data above) is what we need to know.

# Duration of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) Infectivity: When Is It Safe to Discontinue Isolation?

- Infectivity correlates with viral load (VL) (rough inverse correlation with PCR cycle threshold, Ct); kids have lower VL than adults.
- Symptoms (vs none) associated with higher VL
  - Severity is associated with a higher VL
- Urine and feces may contain viral RNA (PCR+), but do not transmit.
- Transmission is rare >10 d (mild disease) or >15 d (severe disease) after sx onset; 20 d is longest interval for transmission seen.
- Persistent PCR+ is fairly common and beyond these intervals is not associated with infectivity.

Clinical Infectious Diseases 2021;72(8):1467–74

# COVID-19 Transmission in Cars

- Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 on a Patient Transport Van
  - We report 2 episodes of potential SARS-CoV-2 transmission from infected van drivers to passengers despite masking and physical distancing.
  - Clinical Infectious Disease  
<https://academic.oup.com/cid/advance-article/doi/10.1093/cid/ciab347/6248519>
- Isolation of SARS-CoV-2 from the air in a car driven by a COVID patient with mild illness
  - Our data highlight the potential risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission by minimally symptomatic persons in the closed space inside of a car and suggest that a substantial component of that risk is via aerosolized virus.
- International Journal of Infectious Diseases <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2021.04.063>

# Updates: Diagnostic Testing

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# Abbott BinaxNow

## Antigen test available OTC, in stores now



- \$23.99 for two tests
- Self-collected nasal swab; 15 minutes incubation until result

<https://www.cvs.com/shop/abbott-binaxnow-covid-19-antigen-self-test-2-tests-for-serial-testing-prodid-550147>

# FDA Advises Against Use of SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Test Results to Evaluate Immunity or Protection From COVID-19, Including After Vaccination

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-brief-fda-advises-against-use-sars-cov-2-antibody-test-results-evaluate-immunity-or-protection>

# Updates: Clinical Course and Complications

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## Community-acquired Coinfection in Coronavirus Disease 2019: A Retrospective Observational Experience

- Hospitalized patients, March to mid April 2020
- Screened for viral or bacterial co-infection
- 4% of patients overall } had co-infection
- 40% of ICU patients }
- Typical respiratory viruses, pneumococcus, staph, Proteus

Clinical Infectious Diseases 2021;72(8):1450–2

## Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) Associated Mucormycosis (CAM): Case Report and Systematic Review of Literature

- Risk factors: DM, glucocorticoid use for Covid
- Anatomic location: sinonasal/orbital/intracerebral, pulmonary
- Environmental filamentous fungi including Aspergillus and many other species
- Presenting sx: sinonasal-unilat facial swelling, HA, sinus congestion, black lesions on skin of nose or intraoral
- Pulmonary: fever, cough, chest pain, SOB

Mycopathologia <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11046-021-00528-2>

# Updates: Vaccines

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# Vaccines for Teens

- Pfizer announced their mRNA vaccine protected 100% of 12-15 y/o from symptomatic COVID-19
  - Higher antibody titers than adults
  - **Safety profile similar to adults**

NEJM Journal Watch 3/31/2021

- Moderna and Johnson&Johnson/Janssen are in Phase 3 trials for teens now, expect to finish by end of summer 2021
- Risk/benefit ratio is different for teens: serious disease rare in kids
  - Severe acute Covid 3% of kids with Covid (vs. 20% in adults)
  - MIS-C <1% of kids with Covid

# COVID-19 Vaccine in Immunocompromised Patients

- There are no specific safety concerns with US licensed COVID-19 vaccines in immunocompromised patients
  - Solid organ or BM/HSC transplant and immunosuppression
  - Hematologic malignancy
  - Severe HIV
  - Congenital immune deficiencies
  - Anti-B-cell agents (rituximab, ocrelizumab)
  - *Other immunosuppressive agents*
- All likely impair the immune response to the vaccine. People who are immunocompromised are generally urged to get the vaccine for whatever degree of protection they may gain, but should maintain full precautions as if unvaccinated.

# Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS)

- Presents with
  - Cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) OR
  - Splanchnic vein (mesenteric, portal, etc.) thrombosis
  - Possibly pulmonary embolism or typical LE DVT
- Associated with autoantibodies against platelet factor 4 (similar to autoimmune heparin-induced thrombocytopenia)
- Patients should be alerted to the following symptoms within 14 d of these two vaccines and should consult a clinician immediately if they have:
  - Petechiae or bruising
  - SOB/chest pain
  - LE edema
  - Persistent severe abdominal pain
  - Unabating severe headache or backache
  - New focal neurologic symptoms or seizures
- Treatment should avoid heparin and warfarin; direct oral anticoagulants are recommended (DOAC)

# TTS, continued

- CVST risk (from a preprint)

- Baseline (no known precipitant) 0.4 per million people per 2 wks
- Following mRNA and AZ vaccines 4 (\*J&J likely similar)
- With Covid-19 illness 40

- Preprint <https://osf.io/a9jdq/>

- Expert commentary <https://www.sciencemediacentre.org/expert-reaction-to-preprint-looking-at-incidence-of-rare-cerebral-venous-thrombosis-cvt-following-covid-19-infection-compared-to-incidence-after-vaccination-or-influenza/>

# Practical Issues

1. There is no clear need for booster doses of vaccine at this time.
  - Duration of immunity for mRNA vaccines is at least 6 months with no waning
  - So far, vaccines are providing sufficient protection against current variant strains
2. Vaccines are finally coming to PCP practices! Vaccine will be shipped in 100 dose increments (Moderna, adult only practices) or larger batches (Pfizer, practices administering to children)
  - Practices will have to affirm in writing (via form on DPH website) that they can immunize that number of patients within 10 days

# Reopening and New CDC Recommendations on Mask Use

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# New CDC recommendations on mask use for fully vaccinated people for life in general

- If you are fully vaccinated, you can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic.
- Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations; including local business and workplace guidance.
- You will still be required to wear a mask on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States, and in U.S. transportation hubs, such as airports and stations.
- These recommendations can help you make decisions about daily activities after you are fully vaccinated. **They are *not* intended for healthcare settings.**

# Symptoms of and exposures to Covid-19 in fully vaccinated people

- You should still watch out for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you've been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.
- If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
  - However, if you live or work in a correctional or detention facility or a homeless shelter and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.

# Health care settings: Minimal change in rules

- Recommendations for [use of personal protective equipment by HCP](#) remain unchanged.
- Fully vaccinated HCP with [higher-risk exposures](#) who are asymptomatic, do not need to be restricted from work for 14 days following their exposure, but should be tested immediately and again 5-7 days after exposure.
- HCP who have traveled should continue to follow CDC [travel recommendations and requirements](#), including restriction from work, when [recommended for any traveler](#).

# How to get more people vaccinated: Start by understanding

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# Meet the Four Kinds of People Holding Us Back From Full Vaccination

By Sema Sgaier

May 18, 2021

## The New York Times

In the United States overall...

**8% are Watchful.** They're waiting to see what happens next.



**9% are Cost-Anxious.** They want the vaccine but can't afford the time or cost.



**4% are System Distrusters.** They feel the health care system doesn't treat them fairly.



**14% are Covid Skeptics.** They don't believe the threat.



# The “cost-anxious”

## *They Haven't Gotten a Covid Vaccine Yet. But They Aren't 'Hesitant' Either.*

The New York Times 5/12/2021

- Census estimates 30 million are willing, but haven't gotten vaccine yet due to access/convenience
- **Make it easier**
- Uber and Lyft- offering free rides to vaccine sites until July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Mobile vaccine units

# COVID-19 VACCINE CONFIDENCE TOOLKIT



- Best Practices for Having Vaccination Conversations →
  - Non-judgmental listening
  - Informed decision-making
  - Equity in access
- What's In The Toolkit
  - Conversation Guide
  - Suggested language for addressing specific questions or concerns
  - Patient-facing handout →

## COVID-19 VACCINES

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine will help protect you, your family and community by stopping the spread of the virus. It will help us get back to activities like family gatherings and travel.



## COVID-19 VACCINES WORK

**The vaccines protect you very well against the worst effects of COVID-19.** If you get the vaccine, you are very unlikely to need hospital care or die from COVID-19.



## COVID-19 VACCINES ARE SAFE

**Hundreds of millions of people have gotten the vaccines so far.**

COVID-19 vaccines can't make you sick with COVID-19.

Some people have flu-like reactions after getting the vaccine. These reactions are normal. They mean that the vaccine is helping your body build protection against COVID-19.

Serious reactions to the vaccine are very rare (about 1 in a million). So are allergic reactions. Just in case, you will be watched for 15 minutes after receiving the vaccine. The CDC continues to check on people who get the vaccine.



## COVID-19 VACCINES ARE BACKED BY SCIENCE

**Medical experts have worked on the science behind the COVID-19 vaccines for many years.**

Experts built on this science to make the COVID-19 vaccines quickly. Governments gave more money than usual for vaccine research. The FDA cut some red tape out of the vaccine approval process without cutting the science.

Many healthcare workers have gotten the COVID-19 vaccine. They trust the vaccine to protect themselves, their families, and their patients.

# COVID Collaborative

## SOME of the members...

- Global Vaccine Inequity
- Rapid Action Consortium (Economy)
- Infection Prevention and Control in Schools
- Presidential PSAs
- Vaccine Education Initiative
- Call to Action (Governors)



American Academy  
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



America's Health  
Insurance Plans



Robert Wood Johnson  
Foundation



American  
Heart  
Association.



WWW.NAACP.ORG

NAACP



The Black Faith Community on COVID-19 Vaccines | COVID-19 Vaccine Education Initiative | Ad Council



GetVaccineAnswers.org | The Latest COVID-19 Vaccine Information



For Physicians & Nurses: Answers to COVID-19 Vaccination Questions for HCPs | Ad Council



Former Presidents and COVID-19 Vaccine Facts | Ad Council and COVID Collaborative



Back in the Game :90 | COVID-19 Vaccine Education Initiative | Ad Council



Worship :60 | COVID-19 Vaccine Education Initiative | Ad Council

# The New York Times

## How to Talk to Someone Who Doesn't Want the Vaccine

By Arnaud Gagneur and Karin Tamerius

May 20, 2021

To help you learn the basics of a method that works, we've created a vaccination chatbot based on the principles of motivational interviewing, a research-backed approach for encouraging people to get vaccinated that's used by health care professionals to harness people's innate drive for change.

Hey! 🙌

I heard you just got vaccinated.

Aren't you scared?

I've heard a lot about it that makes me think it's a bad idea. 😞

Oh 😞 you've heard some things that make you worried and unsure?

# Helpful Resources

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# NEQCA COVID-19 Vaccine Resources Webpage

[www.neqca.org/Resources/COVID-19-Vaccine-Resources](http://www.neqca.org/Resources/COVID-19-Vaccine-Resources)



## COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES

### Other COVID-19 Resources



Last updated 5/13/2021

**NEW:** 5/13 NEQCA COVID-19 Vaccine Briefing ([Click here for archived issues](#))

**NEW:** 5/7 Mass DPH Weekly Provider Bulletin on COVID-19 Vaccination ([Click here for archived issues](#))

**PLEASE NOTE:** Information on this website is intended for members of the NEQCA Network. Individuals (patients) seeking COVID-19 health information should consult their primary care physicians or visit the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#) or [Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

- Updated regularly
- Latest NEQCA and MA DPH Briefings
- Tools for communicating with patients about COVID-19 vaccination

# Now Available On NEQCA.org

## EpicEdge Community

### PROGRAMS & SERVICES

#### EPIC FOR COMMUNITY PRACTICE PROVIDERS



#### About EpicEdge Community

With the move to Epic, Wellforce has the opportunity to extend the ambulatory module into the community and allow independent providers to implement the Epic EHR product at an affordable cost. This extension of Epic in the community can offer your practice the full benefits of Epic's proven EHR:

- **True Coordination of Care** - Follow your patient's progress across the entire Wellforce continuum as well as from many health care systems in our geographic area and across the United States.
- **Improved Efficiency** - Access and review patient data for your patients who have been seen by other physicians using Wellforce EpicEdge Community without the need to re-

#### Programs

- Referral Management
- Practice Advancement
- Quality Improvement
- Pharmaceutical Care and Cost Management
- Care Management
- Healthcare Information Services
- Risk Adjustment Coding

#### Epic

- Arcadia Population Health
- Behavioral Health

#### Service

- Telehealth Services

### NOW AVAILABLE: EpicEdge Community Orientation Session Presentation



[neqca.org/Programs-And-Services/Programs/Epic](https://neqca.org/Programs-And-Services/Programs/Epic)

# Now Available On NEQCA.org

## Arcadia Population Health

The screenshot shows the NEQCA website header with the logo, navigation menu (ABOUT NEQCA, PROGRAMS & SERVICES, RESOURCES, CAREERS), and a search bar. The main content area is titled "PROGRAMS & SERVICES" and features a sub-section for "ARCADIA POPULATION HEALTH". The text describes NEQCA's population health management programs and the adoption of the Arcadia platform. A list of programs is provided on the right side of the page.

**NEQCA**  
New England Quality Care Alliance  
Affiliated with **Tufts** Medical Center

ABOUT NEQCA | **PROGRAMS & SERVICES** | RESOURCES | CAREERS

NEQCAnet Login | Contact Us  
Search...

### PROGRAMS & SERVICES

#### ARCADIA POPULATION HEALTH

NEQCA's population health management programs – such as pharmaceutical cost management and care management support for high-risk patients – have delivered quantifiable benefits for both patients and providers since 2009.

The NEQCA **Board of Trustees** unanimously voted in 2019 to enhance our Network's capability to excel in value-based care by adopting the Arcadia population health management platform.

The decision to choose Arcadia followed a comprehensive multi-year review of leading population health tools. Headquartered in Massachusetts, Arcadia has experience connecting to many of the electronic health records in use throughout our Network, including Epic. Arcadia offers a suite of tools to help us aggregate, analyze and act on data at the point-of-care in ways that will positively impact patients and drive contract value. Additionally, Arcadia is nationally recognized for its best-in-class customer service.

#### Programs

- Referral Management
- Practice Advancement
- Quality Improvement
- Pharmaceutical Care and Cost Management
- Care Management
- Healthcare Information Services
- Risk Adjustment Coding
- Epic
- Arcadia Population Health**
- Behavioral Health

### NOW UNDERWAY:

March 31 – June 30

Training Sessions for LCO Leaders  
(Medical Directors, Administrators)

Please see the Arcadia page for a full calendar and recordings of the sessions.

[neqca.org/Programs-And-Services/Programs/Arcadia-Population-Health](https://neqca.org/Programs-And-Services/Programs/Arcadia-Population-Health)

# Save The Date:

## NewCo Clinically Integrated Network Forum



The image shows a screenshot of the Wellforce website. At the top left is the Wellforce logo, which consists of the word "wellforce" in a lowercase sans-serif font followed by four colored dots (orange, red, orange, red) arranged in a cluster. To the right of the logo are two navigation links: "About" and "Members". Below the navigation is a large blue banner with the text "Clinically Integrated Network" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Underneath the banner is a white section with the heading "A Distinctively Different Population Health Enterprise" in a bold, dark blue font. Below the heading is a paragraph of text: "Our Clinically Integrated Network comprises private practice and employed physicians, and community and academic providers who have come together as equal partners in".

**Wednesday, May 26**  
6p.m. – 7p.m.

**For More Information:**

[wellforce.org/physicians/clinically-integrated-network](https://wellforce.org/physicians/clinically-integrated-network)

# Reminder:

## Complete Press Ganey Engagement Survey

**Survey Launch: Monday, May 17**

### Access:

Keep a lookout for reminder message on Monday, May 24. Please check your spam folders for the link.

### Confidentiality:

Your survey responses are confidential and will not be identified to you, but what you share will help us to better support you and your patients.

### Your Voice Matters:

Your feedback will guide our organization's efforts to define and create a culture of inclusion, where our physicians and their patients can thrive.



Your feedback has a direct impact on improvements we put in place to make us a better organization.

*Your Voice Matters.*

*Participate in our upcoming engagement survey!*





**You're Invited:**  
**Facebook Live Event**  
**on Vaccines for**  
**Spanish Speakers**

**Wednesday, June 2**  
**Noon**

<https://www.facebook.com/tuftsmedicalcenter/>