



*MEMORANDUM*

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**TO:** Select Board

**FROM:** John C. Curran, Town Manager

**CC:** Clancy Main, Assistant Town Manager  
Andrew Levine, Director of Administrative Services

**SUBJECT:** Town Manager's Report, January 10, 2022

**DATE:** January 6, 2022

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**Standard and Poors Rating Agency Call**

The Town is going out to bond for several projects as well as rolling over a \$7.5 million BAN for the high school project. The BAN is being rolled over because the MSBA audit is not complete for the high school. When it is complete the Town will borrow long term for the remainder of the project.

The Town is borrowing Long Term for the Fire Station, the demo projects and a small amount for the Middlesex Turnpike Project. The call went well with S&P and we expect to maintain an excellent AA2 rating. They will announce this by January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**ARPA Funding**

The Town is receiving \$12,962,698.56 from ARPA. The County share of \$6,481,349.28 has already been received by the Town. The remainder will be wired next year. The first \$10 Million of ARPA spending is recognized as lost revenue and therefore the spending requirements are extremely flexible. The intent proposed here is to fund the listed projects and the remaining balance would offset the cost of the Forced Sewer Main Project approved at Town Meeting. Some of these numbers are estimates and are subject to change but this is the list of projects that would be funded.

ARPA Funding	\$ 12,962,698.56
Vaccine and testing clinics	100,000
Boston Road non-qualifying Expenses	1,200,000
HVAC Town Hall	1,600,000
HVAC Library	1,800,000
Public Safety First Responder Communications	1,000,000
Howe	500,000
Sewer Construction	6,762,699
Total Spending	\$ 12,962,698.56

### **Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB)**

The OPEB liability for the Town has decreased from \$258 Million to \$248 Million. This \$10 Million decrease is attributed to two things. The recent changes in policy that changed the reimbursement rates for new employees to a Town obligation of 70% instead of 90%. Additionally, the Town balance in the OPEB Trust Fund is at \$10.5 Million. This balance is due to the policy of appropriating 15% more than the previous year's appropriation. This year the Town appropriated \$1.749 Million to the Trust Fund. This is good news.

### **PHR**

The general contractor bids were submitted last week and Quirk Construction was the low bid. They came in around \$600,000 under including all bid alternates. All reference checks in the industry and former projects all checked out positively. This was fantastic news and the Town will be meeting with Quirk in the next few weeks. Mobilization is expected to start around March.

The Town is also exploring the possibility of working with Shawsheen on the project. Left Field our OPM and Warner Larson the Architect will be meeting with Shawsheen on Friday.

### **Howe School**

The Howe School project is starting to visually and structurally take off. Repointing of the building is almost complete. Steel has shown up at the site and is started to be erected. Also, as a few of you saw the floorboards were unstable. These have now been reinforced and framing will be soon follow. After that it is 6 months to the expected completion date.

### **Hybrid Setup**

Installation for all arrived parts will be completed on Monday. This will allow the Town to conduct hybrid meetings in the Select Board Meeting Room, 210, and the Auditorium. Training will take place mid-week for staff and BATV. If possible I would like to have a working session on the 17<sup>th</sup> for all members of the Board to try out the setup at home and in person. The Town is still awaiting one final piece of equipment that will allow for meetings not broadcasted by BATV to easily use the hybrid setup. The outstanding piece is a microphone that would be mounted underneath the tv's and at the Boards dais that would be able to easily pickup sound in the room. This would allow anybody to easily use the hybrid setup.

### **Masonic Hall**

The Town will be having a kickoff meeting with PRA to start the process of studying the building. This should take place over the next few months. I would request that a member of the Board be designated to participate in these meetings when possible to act as a liaison.

### **Capital Facilities Meeting**

The Town recently spoke with BH+A. They are in the process of finalizing their presentation. The next meeting is currently being scheduled.

### **COVID-19 Update**

The Town has more positive cases than any other time in the pandemic. The hospitalizations is equal to 1. This is the only silver lining is that the veracity of the virus has been in check. On Saturday the Town conducted a vaccine clinic for 5-11 year old children and 170 kids were given second doses.

There is a high rate of COVID among employees in Town Hall and Public Safety. We are still operating at full capacity. Residents are encouraged to uphold social distancing practices during this particularly virulent time.

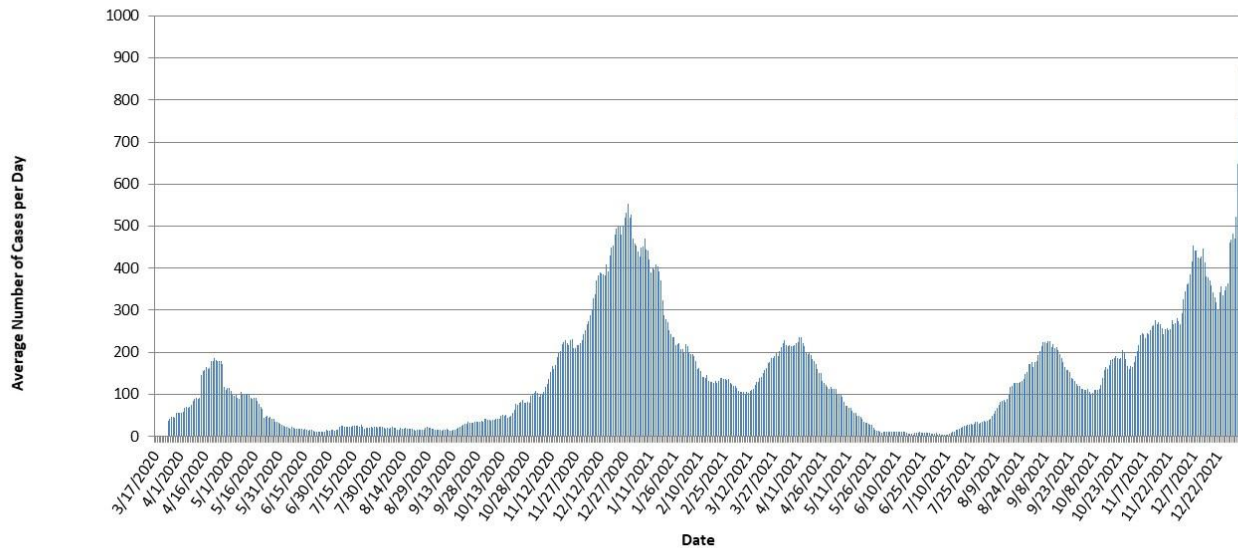


Long Term Care Facilities	138
Middlesex House of Corrections	207
Health Care Workers	137
Apartment Complexes	526
Deaths	37
Active Cases	294
Recovered Cases	6,812
Total Cases to Date	7,143
Cases per 100,000	148.22
Seven Day Case Average	121.00
Number of Cases last 14 days	874
Positivity Rate	15.53%
<b>Billerica Status</b>	<b>High Transmission</b>
Vaccination Rate (1+ shot)	78%
Vaccination Rate (2+ shots)	70%
Boosted	30%
Break through % since July	33%
Current Hospitalizations	1
7 Day Cumulative per 100K	392

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

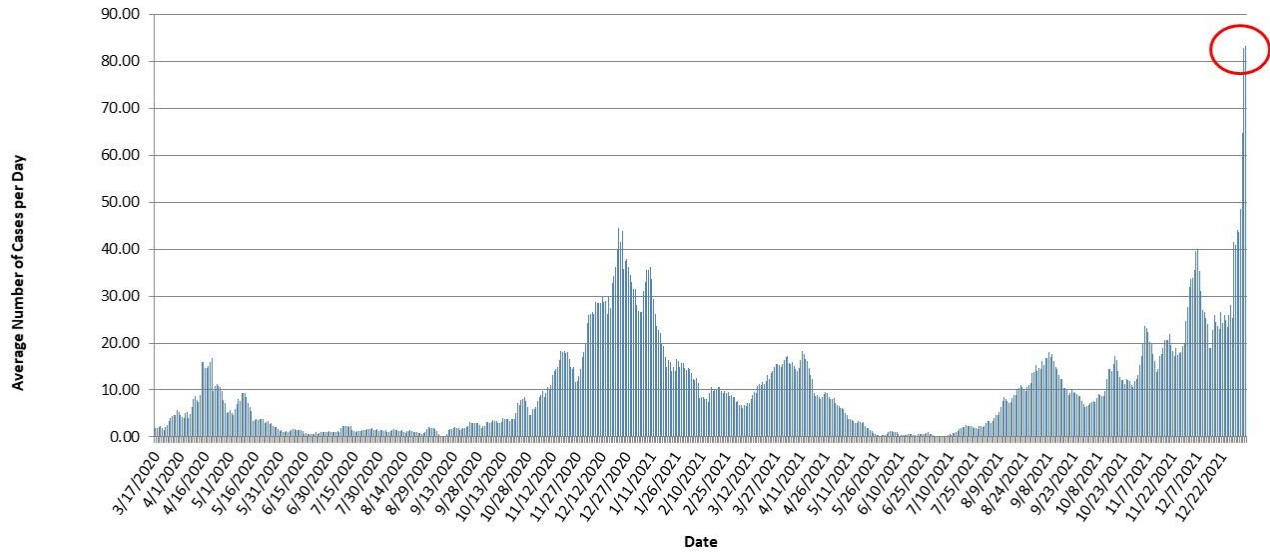
Source: Billerica Board of Health

**Town of Billerica COVID 19 Cases  
Active Cases (As of January 5th)**



Source: Billerica Board of Health

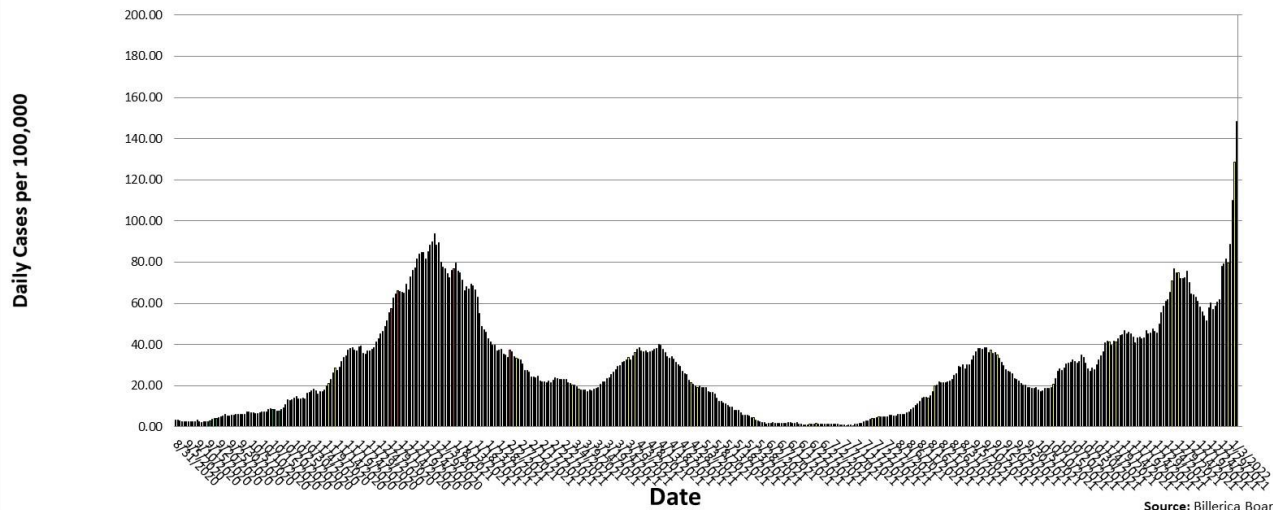
### Town of Billerica 7-Day Average As of January 5th



Source: Billerica Board of Health

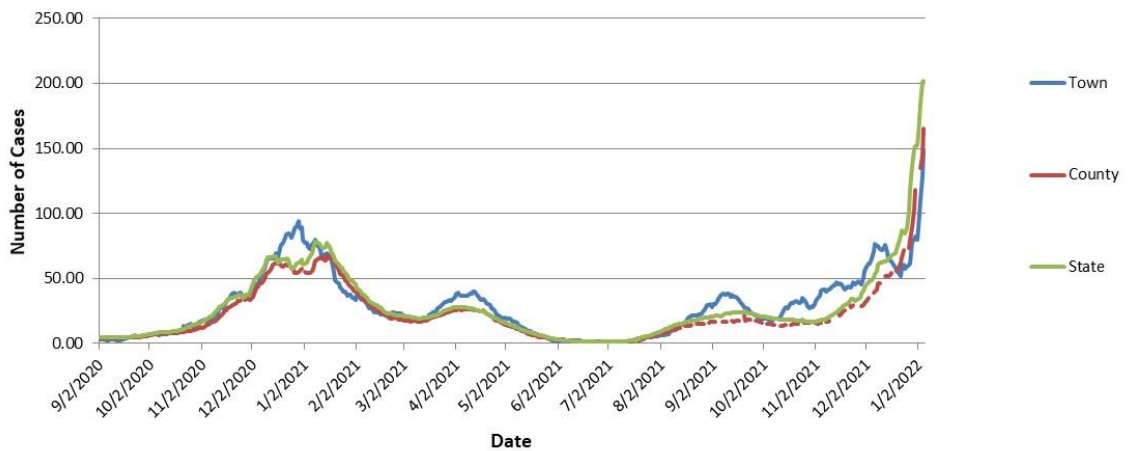
### Town of Billerica Average Daily Cases per 100,000 People

Billerica's positivity rate is 15.53%



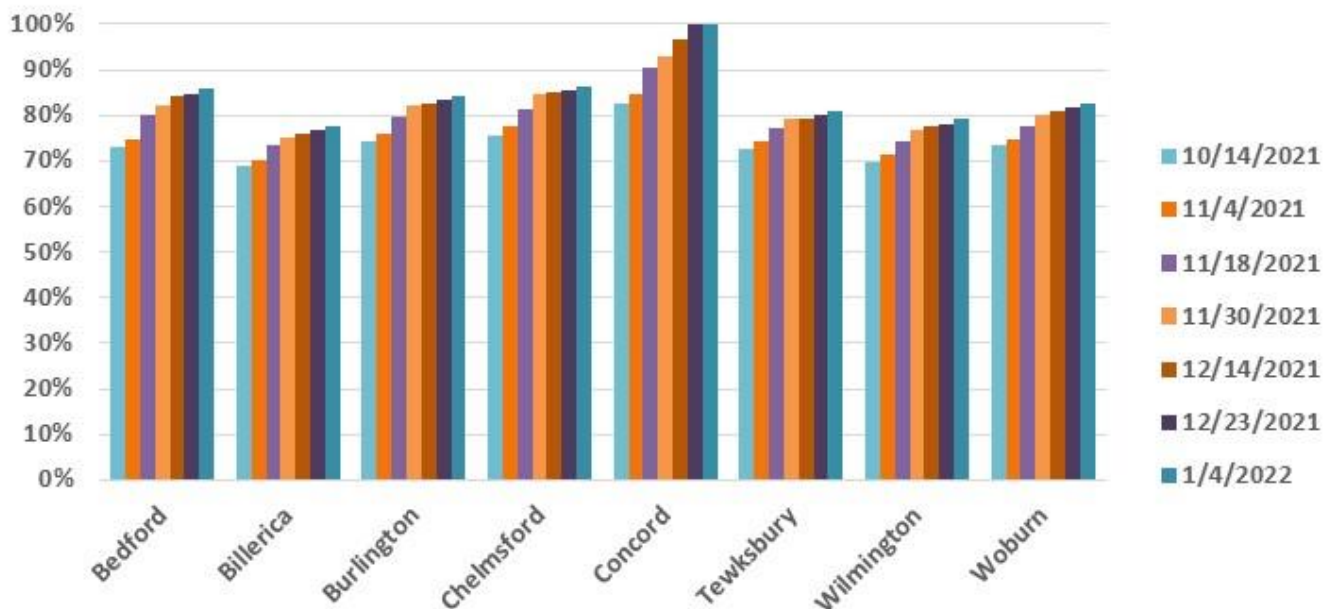
Source: Billerica Board of Health

### Billerica vs. County and Commonwealth Average Cases per 100,000 people over 14 days



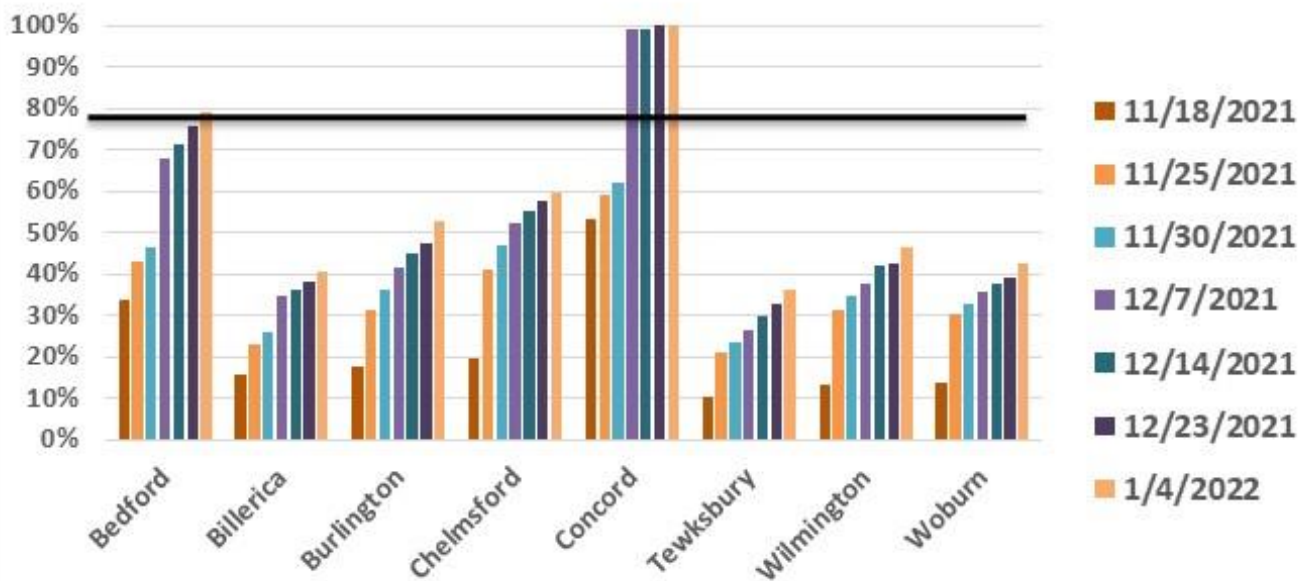
Source: Billerica Board of Health

### Total Vaccinated with one dose % As of January 4, 2022

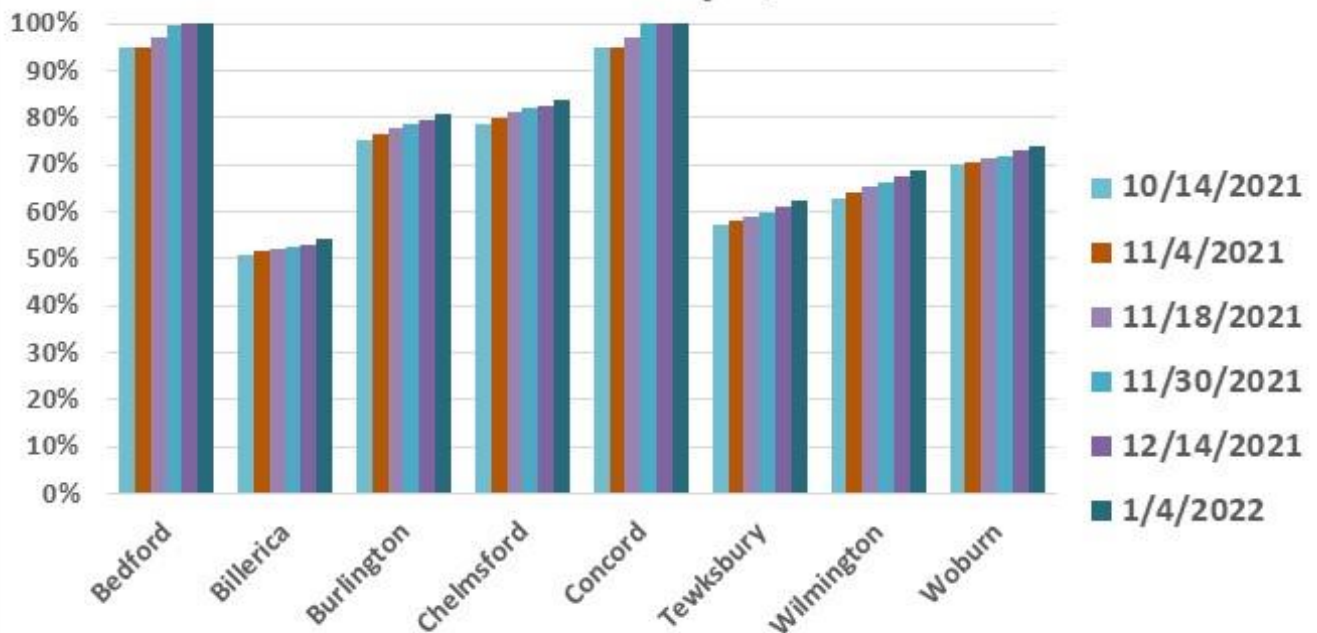


Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

## Vaccinated % of 5-11 Year Olds As of January 4, 2022



## Vaccinated % of 12-15 Year Olds As of January 4, 2022



**Source:** Massachusetts Department of Public Health