



MEMORANDUM

TO: Select Board

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Clancy Main, Assistant Town Manager

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, February 10, 2022

DATE: February 14, 2022

Pinehurst Fire Station Grand Opening

This office is proposing a grand opening for the community on Saturday, March 19, 2022. This date was selected due to schedule constraints, night meetings, and other. The Town would plan to hold the grand opening from 10AM – 1PM for anybody who would like to tour the station. A small ribbon cutting, and ceremony would take place at 11AM. If this works well for the Board I will go ahead and finalize the plans. Left Field, Winter Street and Hutter Construction will be invited.

Personnel Updates

The Town has advertised the Assistant Assessor / Appraiser position. The posting will close on March 4th. This will allow the new hire to give adequate notice and provide a period of overlap with Ken who is currently in the position.

The Town has also advertised the Director of Administrative Services. This position will also close on March 4th.

The Veterans Director and Stormwater Engineer will also be closing shortly. Both positions have excellent candidates, and we should move quick to make a hire. This office held rolling interviews for the Veterans Director position our office held rolling interviews. This will allow this position to be filled expeditiously.

The Director of Planning and Community Development second round interviews are being scheduled with the Planning Board members for late in the week of the 14th. The Town interviewed multiple candidates and landed on two finalists.

Masonic Hall

The Town is moving forward with the study that was presented at a previous meeting. PRA Architects had their MEP Consultants, and Structural Engineers walk through the building this week. Further investigation will take place over the coming weeks. It was found that the current use is safe to be in that building. A report will be brought back to the Board in the next few months. The Board should consider a future work session to discuss the report and next steps.

Capital Facilities Committee Update

The CFC met recently to talk about some conceptual floor plans for the building. The proposal was roughly 41,000 square feet. With the construction cost currently in the ballpark of \$700 including construction, soft cost, contingency the building could cost about \$35-\$40 million. The next step for the committee is to have a public hearing on the layout and vote to send a warrant article to Town Meeting requesting a feasibility study.

Katie Durand Canoe & Kayak Launch / Concord River Boat Launch

The Katie Durand Canoe and Kayak Launch is expected to finish permitting during the March Conservation Meetings. The project will go out to bid directly after that.

The Boat Launch at 250 Boston Road will also be on the March meeting at Conservation. Isabelle has been working closely with Mass Fish and Game to make the process smooth and seamless at her level.

Boston Road North

The Board will be acting on easements and encroachments associated with this project during the February 14th meeting. The schedule for this project consists of bid opening on May 18, 2022. The contract will be awarded on June 17th and a notice to proceed will be issued on July 19th. Substantial completion is expected on September 24, 2025.

Library Directors Update

Bethany Slack, the Community Services Coordinator for the Town, will be holding regular office hours at the library. Hours will be Fridays 1:30pm-3:30pm in the Lions Study Room beginning Friday February 18th. Stop in to get connected with local resources for food or cash assistance, housing and utilities, mental health services, or other needs.

Mr. Patel is offering AARP tax services at the library again this year. Appointments will be available Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday between 9:30am-2pm from the 2nd week in February through the 1st week in April. Appointments can be made by calling 978-496-9265.

The library's 3rd Annual Winter Reading program, which was virtual and run through Beanstack, wrapped up on January 31, 2022. The program had 169 very engaged participants of all ages, who completed a combined 198 activities and read for a total of 117,489 minutes.

Check out the library's events calendar for a variety of upcoming virtual, call-in, and limited in-person events for children, teens, and adults, including recorded storytimes, SAT prep sessions, a 50+ job seekers group, and our weekly gratitude call-in program: <https://billericalibrary.org/events/>

Howe School / PHR

Both projects are moving forward as expected. Sometime in late March would be a great time for a tour of the building. The framing is starting, and the addition is beginning to take shape. In a month you will be able to see very dramatic progress.

Cabot Property

This office and multiple department heads met with a company looking to site a bio-manufacturing GMP on Concord Road in front of the Cabot Property. This project would bring good jobs and a large amount of tax revenue to the Town. The building would be a significant investment in the range of \$100 million. This project will need a zoning change in front of Town Meeting. Part of the property is zoned residential, and they would like to rezone this parcel to accommodate parking and make the entire parcel industrial.

The Town has recently seen an influx of these types of projects. It was brought up to the proponent and he mentioned that Billerica and the surrounding area has a very desirable workforce for these types of companies. They also mentioned the availability of being right off the highway. Tenants are currently 10-14 months out and are clamoring to be in these spaces. I expect to see many more in the coming months.

Community Care Collective

Community Care Collective the Adult Use Marijuana retail store received their final license from the Cannabis Control Commission on Tuesday. They will be scheduling a grand opening most likely during the last full week of February.

COVID 19 Update

Billerica is following the trends across the Commonwealth. Covid rates are dropping significantly. The mask mandate has been lifted and the school mask mandate will be lifted on February 28th. Billerica continues to lag behind in vaccinations among 5-11 year old and 12-15 year old children. Unvaccinated individuals are encouraged to wear masks as well as immune compromised individuals.

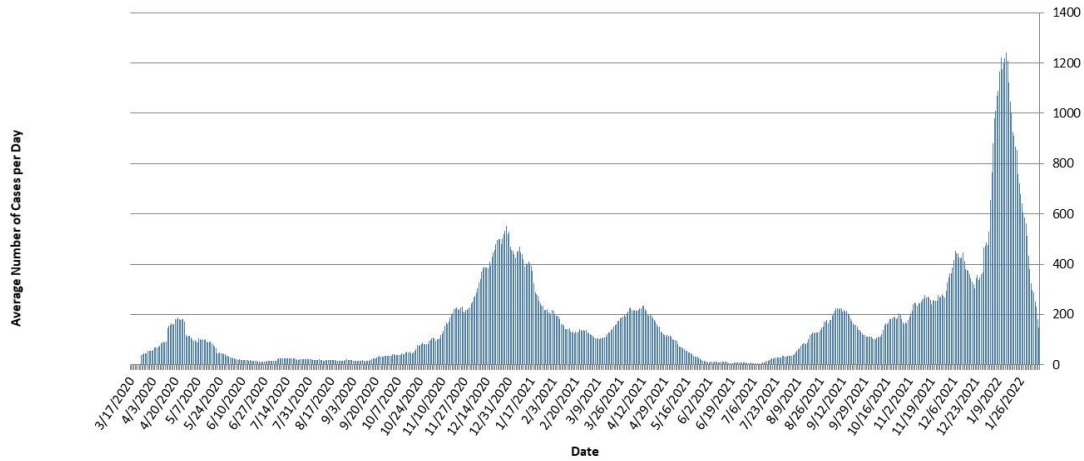


Long Term Care Facilites	182
Middlesex House of Corrections	210
Health Care Workers	138
Apartment Complexes	664
Deaths	41
Active Cases	74
Recovered Cases	8,451
Total Cases to Date	8,566
Cases per 100,000	25.27
Seven Day Case Average	5.29
Number of Cases last 14 days	149
Positivity Rate	10.10%
Billerica Status	High Transmission
Vaccination Rate (1+ shot)	80%
Vaccination Rate (2+ shots)	72%
Boosted	35%
Break through % since July	33%
Current Hospitalizations	0
7 Day Cumulative per 100K	88

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Source: Billerica Board of Health

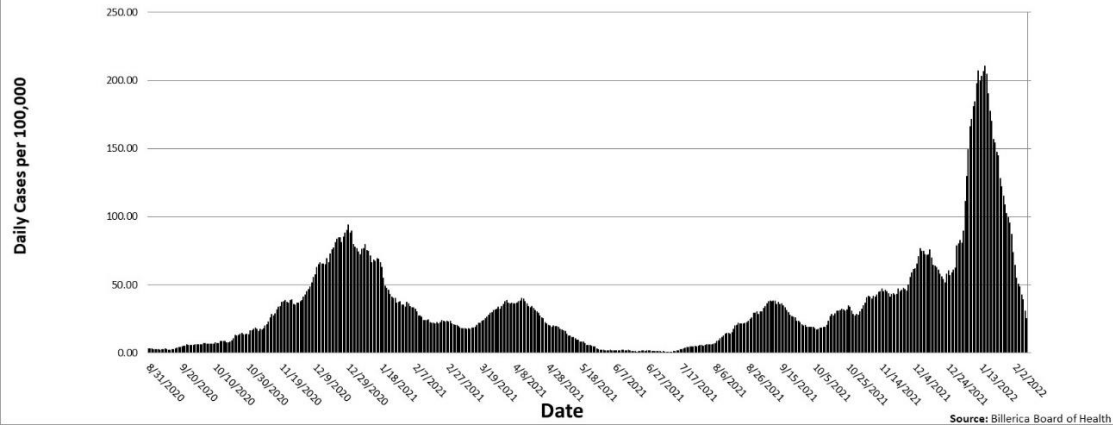
**Town of Billerica COVID 19 Cases
Active Cases (As of February 10th)**



Source: Billerica Board of Health

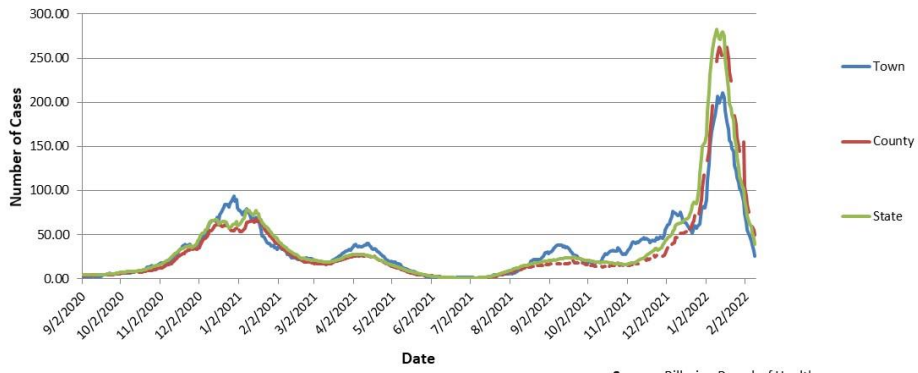
**Town of Billerica
Average Daily Cases per 100,000 People**

Billerica's positivity rate is 10.10%



Source: Billerica Board of Health

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

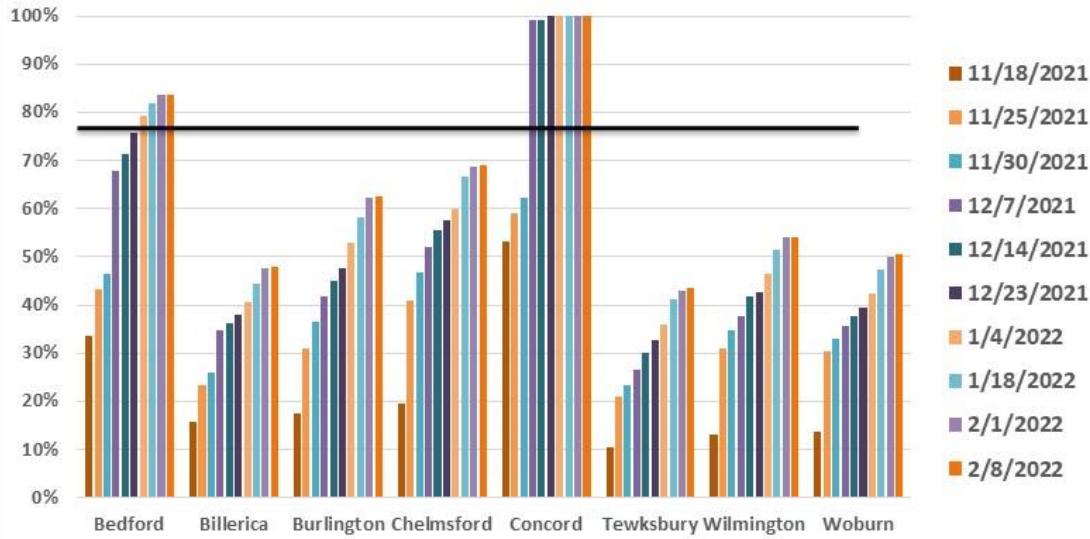


Source: Billerica Board of Health

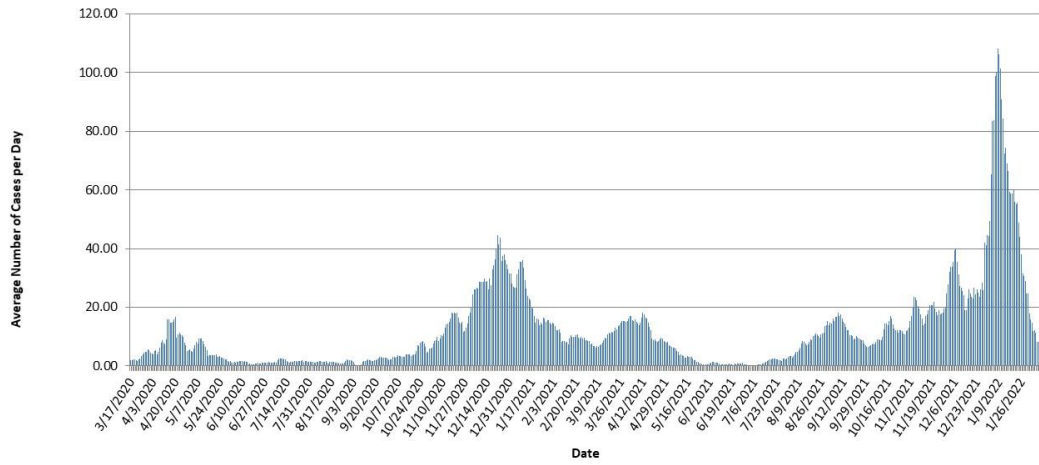
Percent Positivity
February 10, 2022



Vaccinated % of 5-11 Year Olds As of February 8, 2022

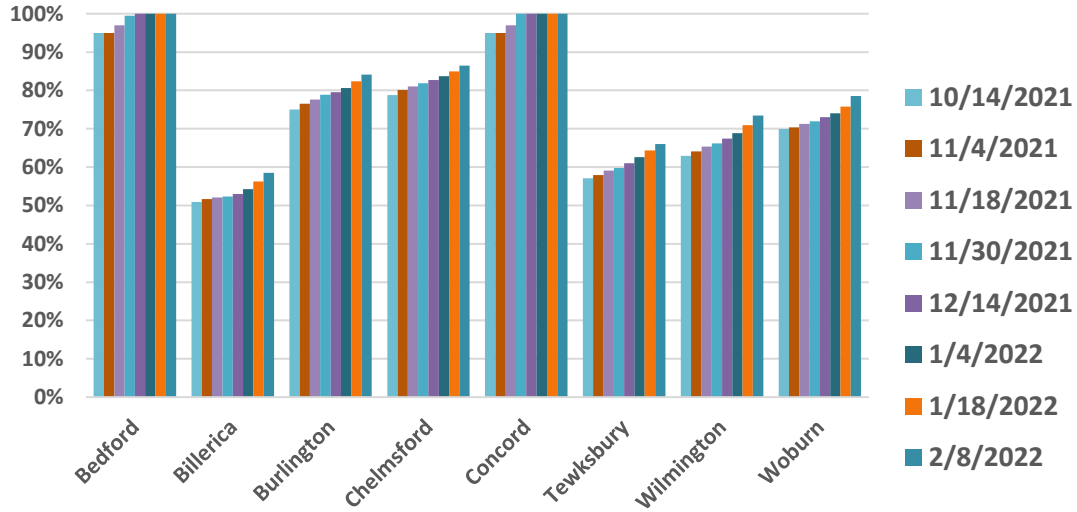


Town of Billerica 7-Day Average As of February 10th



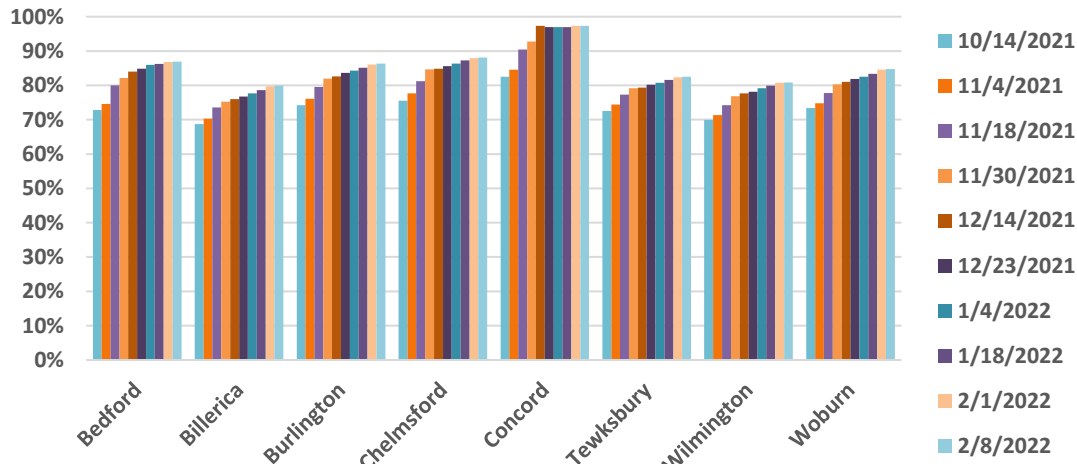
Source: Billerica Board of Health

Vaccinated % of 12-15 Year Olds As of February 8, 2022



Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Total Vaccinated with one dose % As of February 8, 2022



Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health