



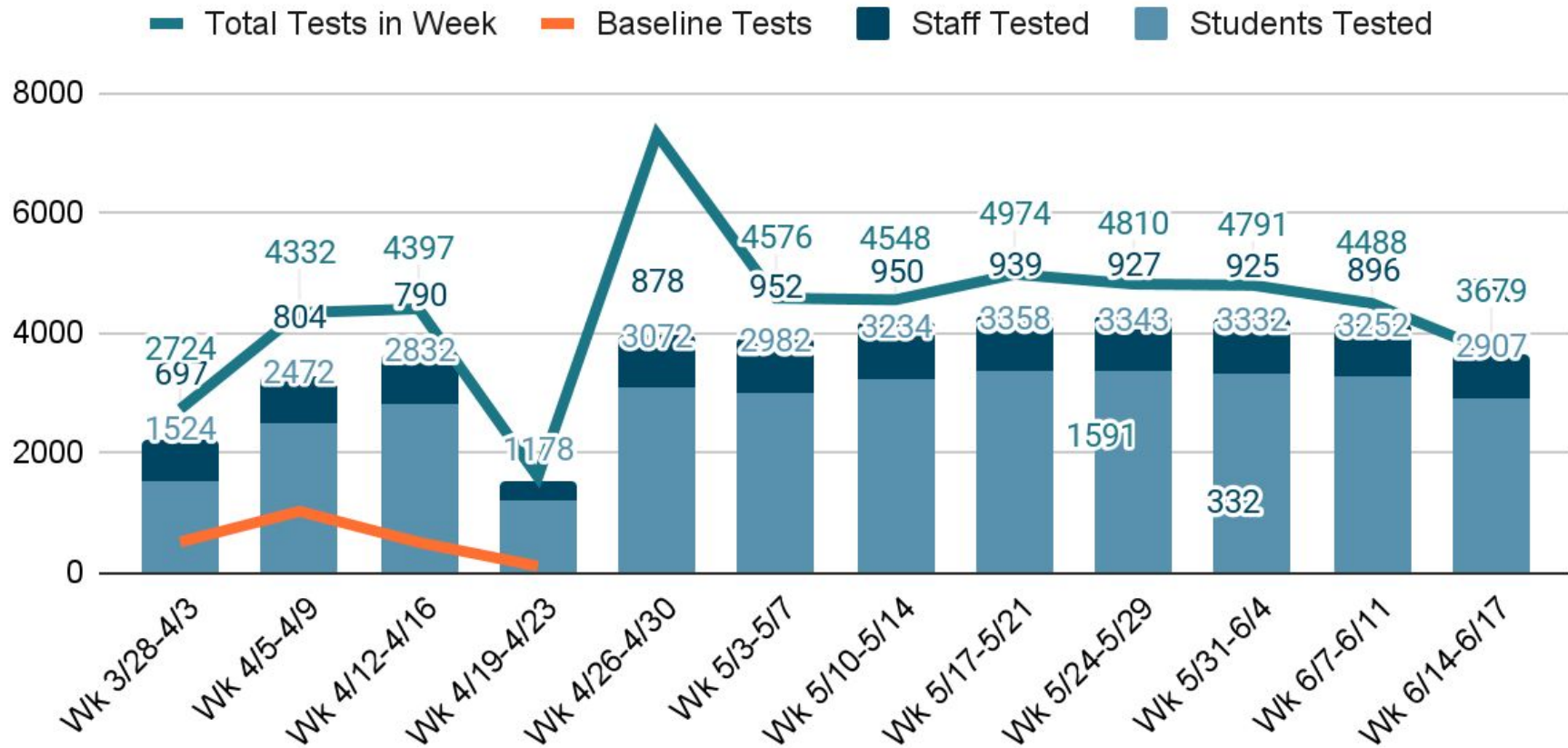
Routine COVID-19 Safety Testing

September 13, 2021

SPS COVID-19 Assurance Testing Program 2020-21

- Students tested = 3,668
- Staff tested = 1,087
- Tests processed = 62,811
- Average time collection to result = 11:47
- Positivity Rate = 0.12%

Student Tests, Staff Tests



24

Staff
positive

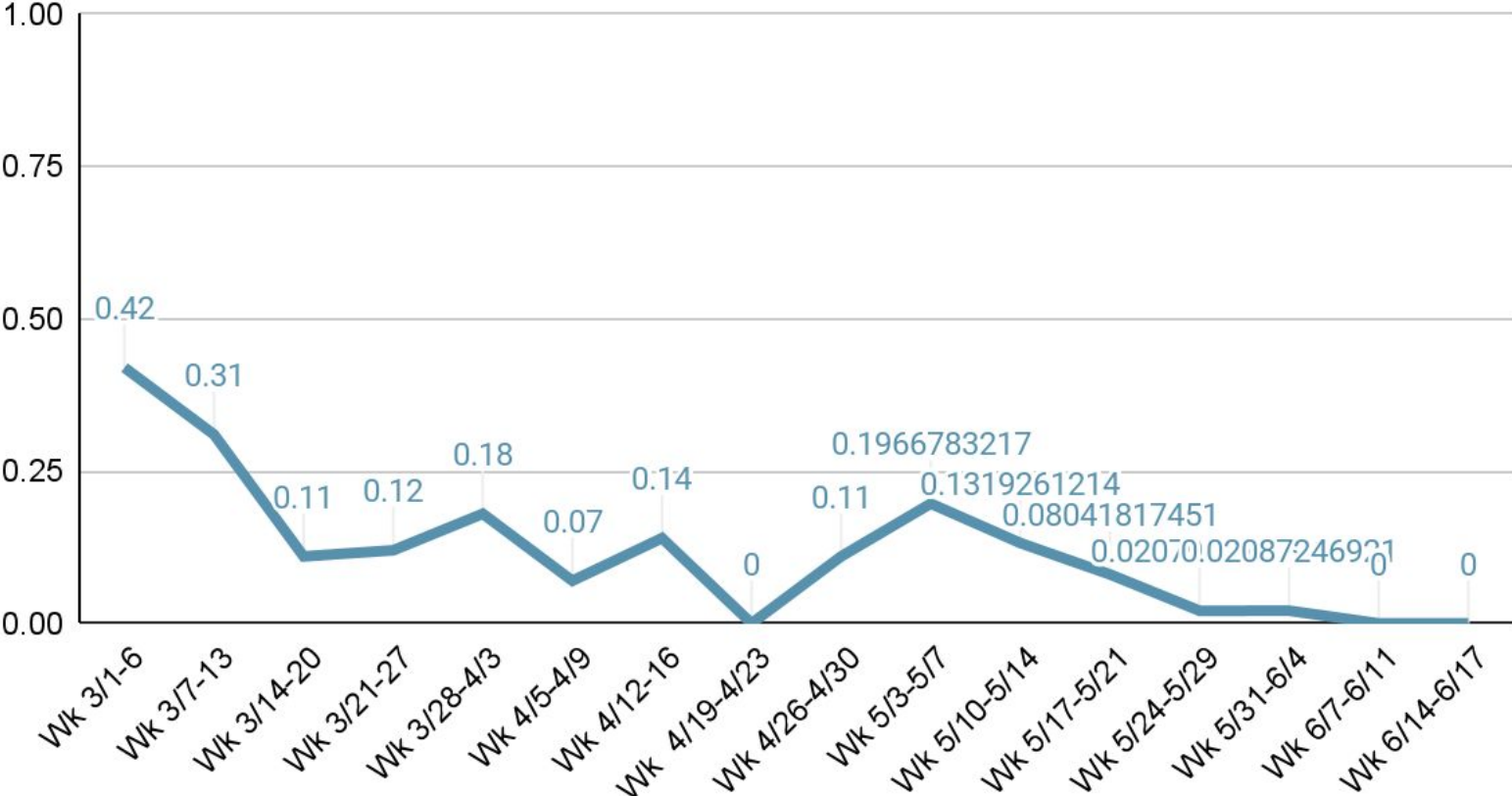
56

Students
positive

80

Positives in
SPS Testing
Program

SPS Assurance Testing Program Positivity Rate March-June



CIC Health

New Testing Partner
2021-22 School Year

- SPS participating the state's testing program, which provides all testing, staff, and supplies at no charge to district
 - Growing pains learning new system, retraining staff, and starting year with full enrollment
 - Principals, SFLC, and liaisons working to enroll all students in testing program
 - Limited ability to track participation
-

Student Consent Rate

Testing Participation



Districtwide



80%

Argenziano



95%

Brown



78%

Capuano



70%

East



63%

Healey



92%

Kennedy



57%

SHS



93%

West



78%

Winter Hill

Week 1:

Aug 30 - Sept 3

381 Pools

3,154 Samples

18hrs avg process

Week 2:

Sept 6 - 10

566 Pools

4,127 Samples

16hrs avg process

Week 1:
Aug 30 - Sept 3

7 Positives

0.22%
positivity*

Week 2:
Sept 6 - 10

3 Positives

0.07%
positivity*

* Preliminary data

Public Health & Scientific Guidelines

- The vast majority of Somerville is currently fully vaccinated for COVID-19 (74%+).
- SPS has proven we can keep our staff and students safe through a combination of vaccination, mask use, hand-washing, distancing, ventilation, and testing.
- We will adjust mitigation practices based on community data.

Medical & Scientific Advisors

- Somerville School Nurses
- Elizabeth Quaratiello, BSN, RN
- Somerville Health and Human Services Director
Doug Kress
- Daniele Lantagne, M.Eng., Ph.D. Environmental Engineer, Infectious Disease Expert, Tufts University
- Gabrielle Jacquet, M.D. MPH, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at Boston University
- Liz Gaskell, Ph.D. Scientific Director, Epigenomics Project, Broad Institute
- Amy Bantham, Dr.PH., MS, MPP, Harvard School of Public Health

Starting the Year

School will look similar to the Spring with some key exceptions

Similar

- Universal masking inside, but not outside
- 3' distancing where possible
- Daily wellness checks and frequent handwashing
- Enhanced HVAC and/or HEPA filters
- More open windows and outdoor time
- Increased rapid, symptomatic testing

Updated

- School-based vaccine clinics
- Widespread vaccination for 12yo+
- Weekly, mobile asymptomatic testing
- “Test and stay” rather than quarantine, for unvaccinated close contacts
- Toy sharing, rug time allowed

Creating safe environments for students and staff

COVID Vaccinations

- Staff must vaccinate or test & wear a K95 mask
- Strongly encouraged for students, necessary for non-academic extracurriculars
- School-based clinics

Face Coverings

- Required indoors for staff and students -- regardless of vaccine status
- Not required outdoors

Air Quality

- Improved HVAC systems and HEPA filters
- MERV-13 filters; increased run times, and outside air

Mitigating Efforts

- Daily wellness checks
- Increased hand hygiene
- New symptomatic diagnostic testing

Distancing

- 3 feet spacing where possible
- Increased distance for higher risk indoor activities
- More outside time

Transportation

- Universal masking, open windows, and assigned seats

Routine COVID Safety Checks

Staff and students will participate in routine COVID screenings on a weekly basis.

Parent/caregiver permission is required for students under the age of 18.

Testing involves a quick and non-invasive nasal swab of each nostril.



NEW: Symptomatic Testing at School

- Rapid testing will be available when students or staff develop COVID symptoms at school.
- Staff should call ahead to the school nurse and escort students if possible. No student should escort another student.
- School nurses will use BinaxNOW. Results in 15 minutes.
 - If positive, students or staff must leave/be picked up as soon as possible. Please inform Liz Quaratiello of any positive results.
 - If negative, the nurse will evaluate the student's symptoms. Students may be allowed to return to the classroom or may be sent home.

NEW: “Test and Stay”

Adults and students who are unvaccinated, classroom close contacts may not need to quarantine - as long as they participate in daily rapid antigen testing each morning for **7 consecutive days**.

The test involves a non-invasive, quick nasal swab.

- If the test is negative, they can stay at school
- If positive, they must leave/be picked up as soon as possible



Questions

somerville.k12.ma.us/coronavirus-information-prevention

