Boston Wastewater Epidemiology Report

Updated: 21-May-2026 | **Data Complete Through**: 17-May-2026

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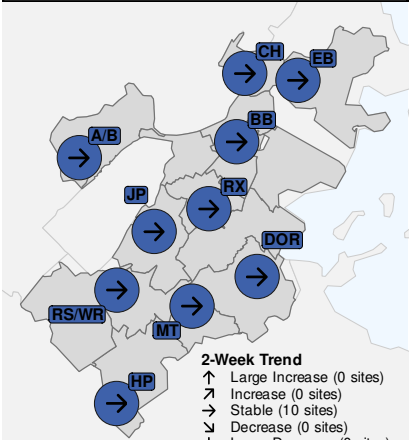
Boston Public
Health Commission

Report Contents

Neighborhood Levels and Trends

COVID-19 Wastewater Levels & Trends (17-May-2026)



COVID-19 Level (# sites)	Very Low	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
	10 sites				

BOSTON CITYWIDE COVID-19 LEVEL & TRENDS

COVID-19 LEVEL	2-WEEK TRENDS
Very Low	→
5 copies/mL samples through 17-May-2026	*Stable* +1 copies/mL (+17%)

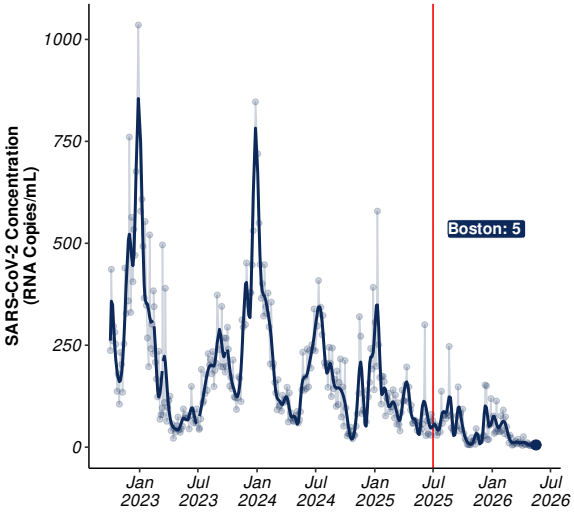
NEIGHBORHOOD SITES COVID-19 LEVEL & TRENDS

Level	Neighborhood/Site		Trend
Very Low	Charlestown (CH)	→	Stable
	Mattapan (MT)	→	Stable
	Dorchester (DOR 2224)	→	Stable
	Back Bay (BB)	→	Stable
	Roxbury (RX)	→	Stable
	Jamaica Plain (JP)	→	Stable
	Allston/Brighton (A/B)	→	Stable
	East Boston (EB)	→	Stable
	Roslindale/West Roxbury (RS/WR)	→	Stable
	Hyde Park (HP)	→	Stable

For additional details see:

- Results by Neighborhood
- Detailed Neighborhood Levels and Trends Table
- Trend and Level Category Definitions

COVID-19 Citywide Overview and Trends



CITYWIDE AVERAGE	RANGE ACROSS 10 NEIGHBORHOOD SITES
5 *RNA copies/mL*	**0-9** *RNA copies/mL*

Data through: **17-May-2026**

2-WEEK TRENDS

Boston **Stable**	**+17%** over the past 14 days

Updated: 21-May-2026 | **Samples through:** 17-May-2026

BPHC Trend Overview by Neighborhood

For each neighborhood, colored line and textbox shows the smoothed trend and most recent value in that neighborhood;

The dotted blue line and dark blue text box in each panel shows the trend and most recent value across **all Boston sites** weighted by population.

The vertical red line marks the date of July 1, 2025, when the laboratory that tests Boston's wastewater changed.

To see details and interpretation of these results for an individual neighborhood see Results by Neighborhood.

Results by Neighborhood

- Allston-Brighton (A/B)
- Back Bay (BB)
- Charlestown (CH)
- Dorchester (DOR)
- East Boston (EB)
- Hyde Park (HP)
- Jamaica Plain (JP)
- Mattapan (MT)
- Roslindale/West Roxbury (RS/WR)
- Roxbury (RX)

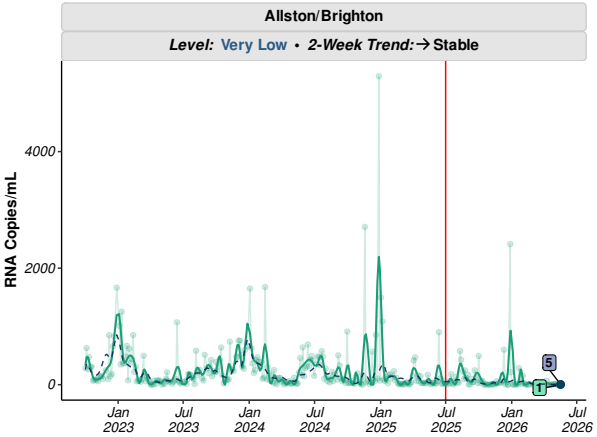
Allston/Brighton

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **A/B** over the past week: **1** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**5** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **A/B** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **-13** copies/mL (**-93%**).



Updated: 21-May-2026 | **Samples through:** 17-May-2026 (A/B);

See recommended actions and resources based on levels and trends in this neighborhood.

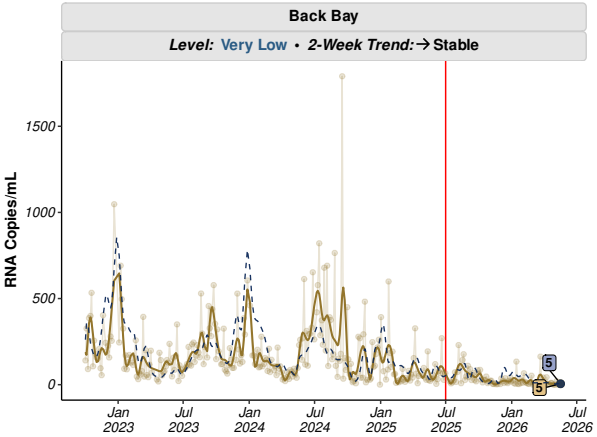
Back Bay

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **BB** over the past week: **5** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**5** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **BB** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **0** copies/mL (**+2%**).



Updated: 21-May-2026 | **Samples through:** 17-May-2026 (BB);

See recommended actions and resources based on levels and trends in this neighborhood.

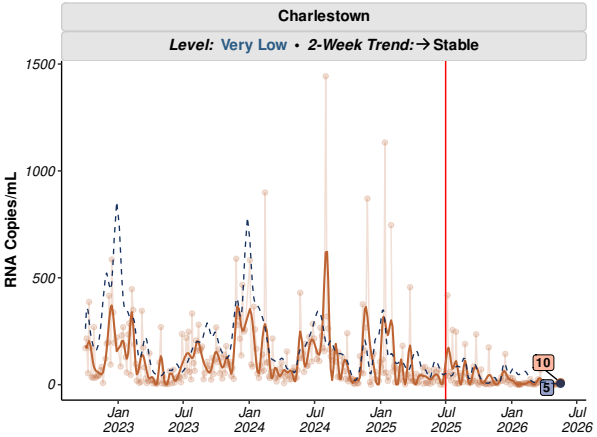
Charlestown

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **CH** over the past week: **10** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**5** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **CH** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **+9** copies/mL (**+922%**).



Updated: 21-May-2026 | **Samples through:** 17-May-2026 (CH);

See recommended actions and resources based on levels and trends in this neighborhood.

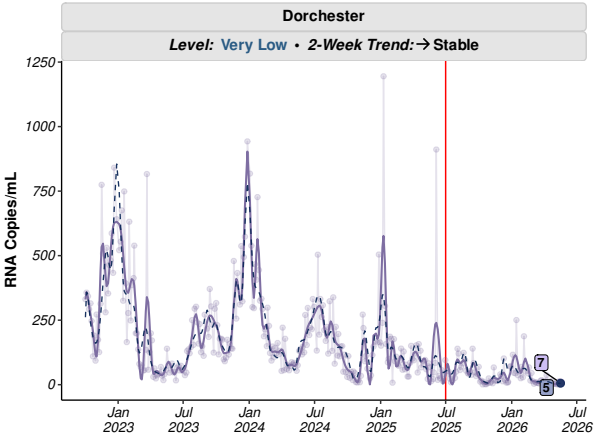
Dorchester

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **DOR 2224** over the past week: **7** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**5** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **DOR 2224** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **+4** copies/mL (**+166%**).



Updated: 21-May-2026 | **Samples through:** 17-May-2026 (DOR 2224);

See recommended actions and resources based on levels and trends in this neighborhood.

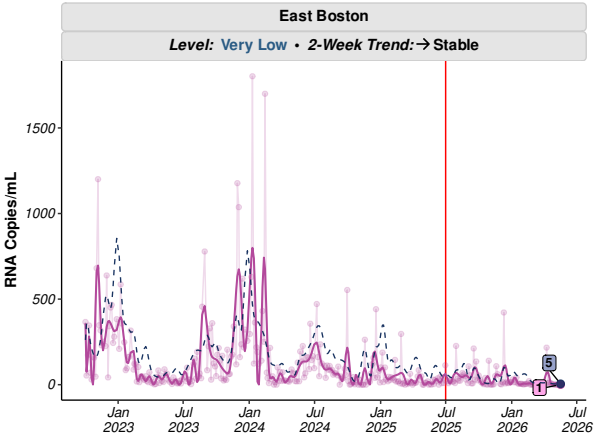
East Boston

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **EB** over the past week: **1** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**5** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **EB** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **-9** copies/mL (**-90%**).



Updated: 21-May-2026 | **Samples through:** 17-May-2026 (EB);

See recommended actions and resources based on levels and trends in this neighborhood.

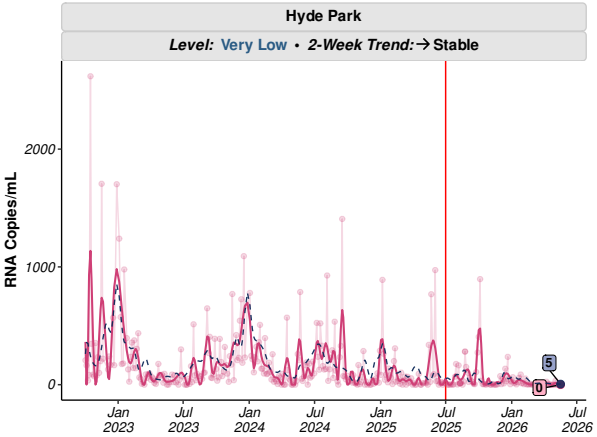
Hyde Park

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **HP** over the past week: **0** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**5** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **HP** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **-14** copies/mL (**-93%**).



Updated: 21-May-2026 | **Samples through:** 17-May-2026 (HP);

See recommended actions and resources based on levels and trends in this neighborhood.

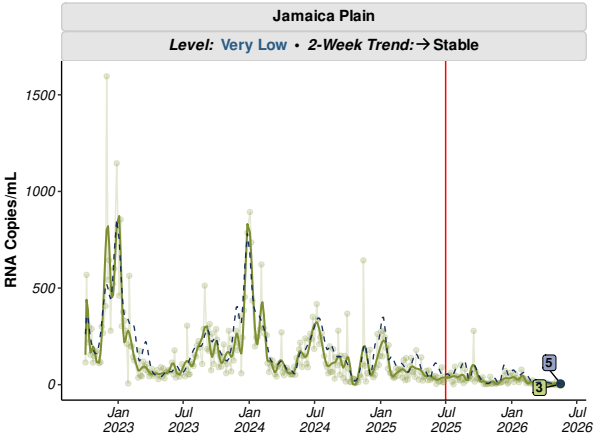
Jamaica Plain

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **JP** over the past week: **3** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**5** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **JP** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **-3** copies/mL (**-56%**).



Updated: 21-May-2026 | **Samples through:** 17-May-2026 (JP);

See recommended actions and resources based on levels and trends in this neighborhood.

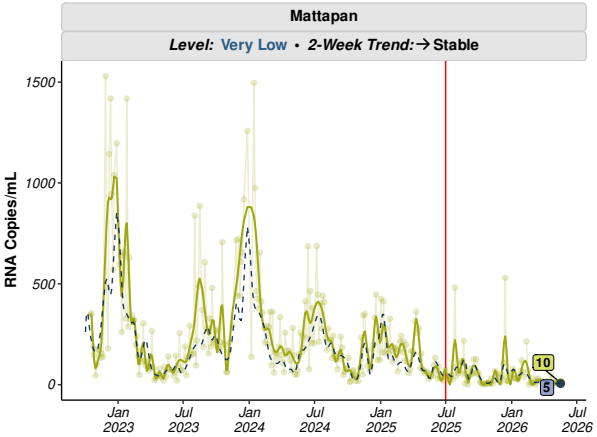
Mattapan

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **MT** over the past week: **10** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**5** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **MT** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **+3** copies/mL (**+50%**).



Updated: 21-May-2026 | **Samples through:** 17-May-2026 (MT);

See recommended actions and resources based on levels and trends in this neighborhood.

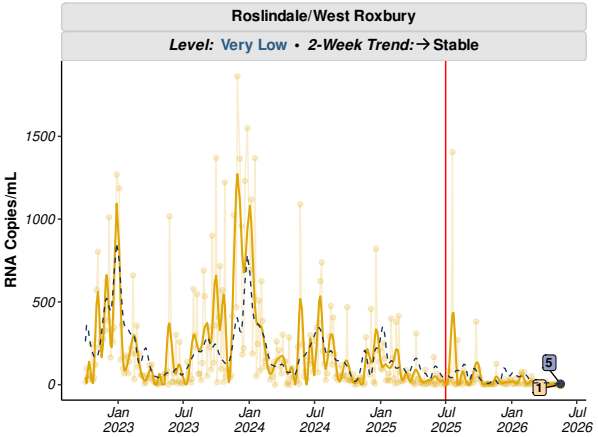
Roslindale/West Roxbury

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **RS/WR** over the past week: **1** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**5** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **RS/WR** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **-3** copies/mL (**-77%**).



Updated: 21-May-2026 | **Samples through:** 17-May-2026 (RS/WR);

See recommended actions and resources based on levels and trends in this neighborhood.

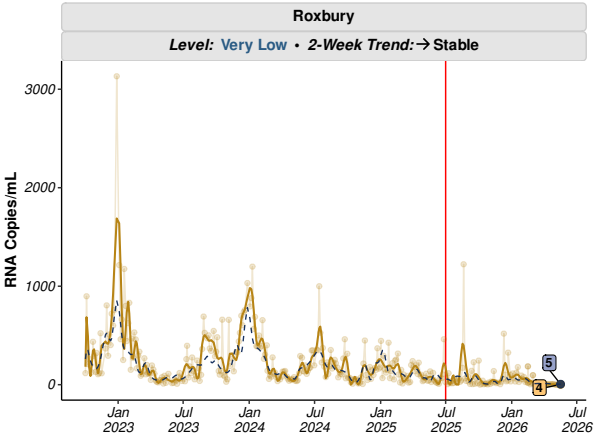
Roxbury

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **RX** over the past week: **4** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**5** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

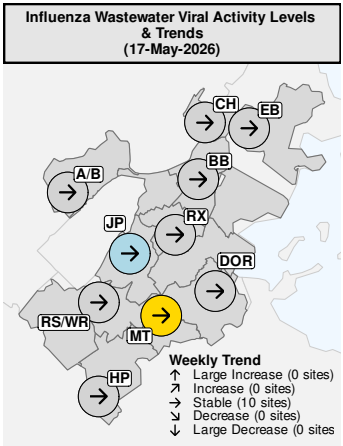
- Over the past two weeks, values in **RX** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **+3** copies/mL (**+364%**).

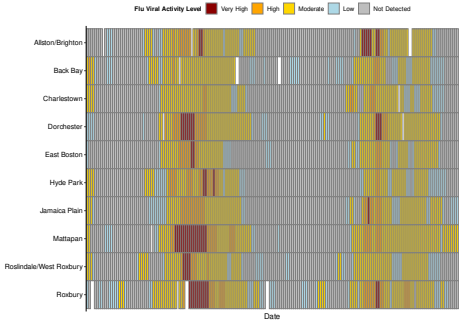


Updated: 21-May-2026 | **Samples through:** 17-May-2026 (RX);

See recommended actions and resources based on levels and trends in this neighborhood.

Influenza Detections in Wastewater

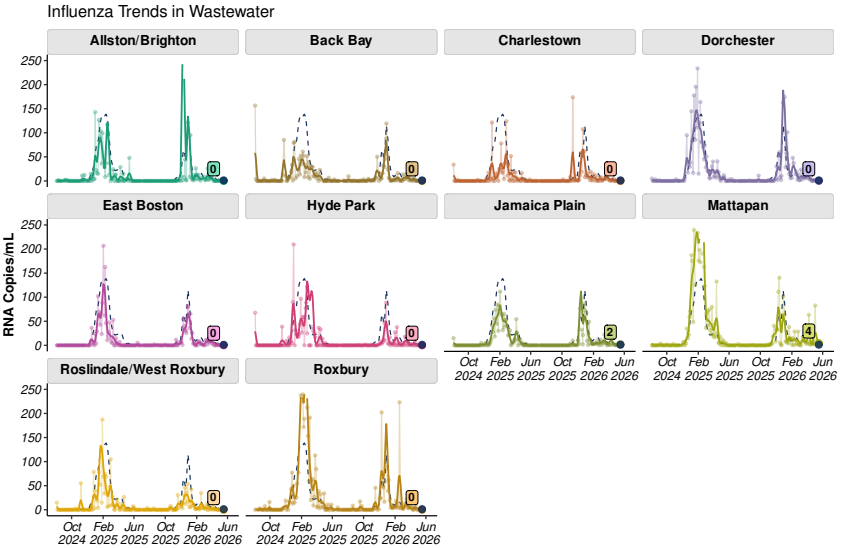




Flu Wastewater Viral Level	8 sites	1 sites	1 sites	0 sites	0 sites
	8 sites	*1 sites*	*1 sites*	*0 sites*	*0 sites*

This map depicts the viral activity level of influenza at each of the neighborhood sampling locations.

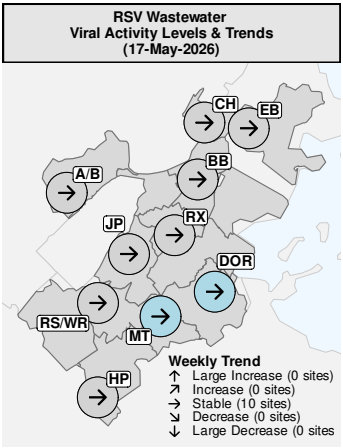
Influenza Trends in Wastewater by Neighborhood

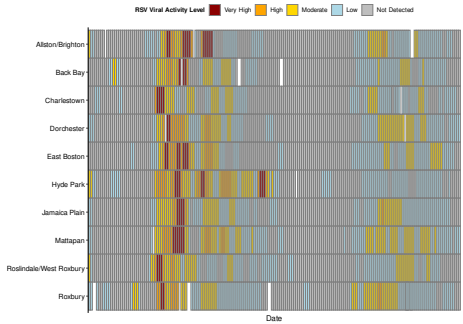


For each neighborhood, colored line and textbox shows the smoothed trend and most recent value in that neighborhood;

The dotted blue line in each panel shows the trend and most recent value across **all Boston sites** weighted by population.

RSV Detections in Wastewater





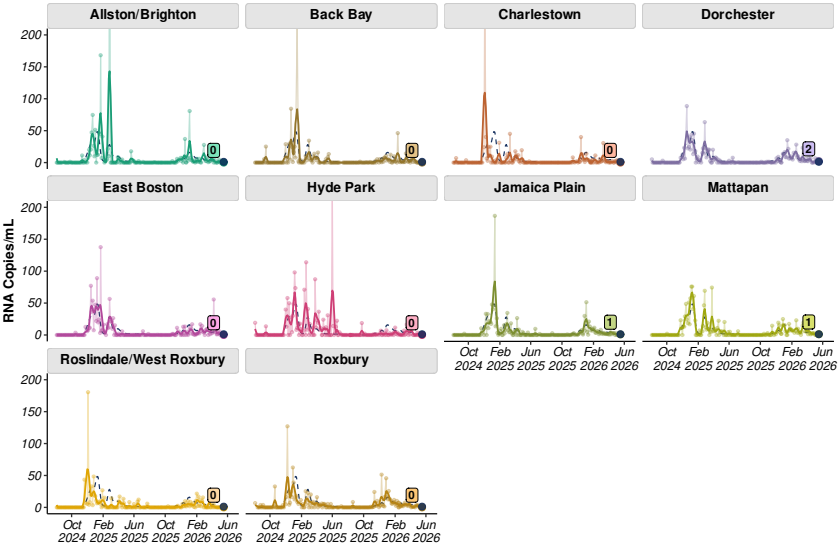
Wastewater Viral Activity Level

8 sites	2 sites	0 sites	0 sites	0 si
8 sites	*2 sites*	*0 sites*	*0 sites*	*0 si*

RSV = Respiratory Syncytial Virus

This map depicts the viral activity level of RSV at each of the neighborhood sampling locations.

RSV Trends in Wastewater by Neighborhood



For each neighborhood, colored line and textbox shows the smoothed trend and most recent value in that neighborhood;

The dotted blue line in each panel shows the trend and most recent value across **all Boston sites** weighted by population.

COVID-19 Wastewater Level and Trend Category Definitions

Concentration Levels

Concentration Level	Concentration Value (Copies/mL)
Very High	>320
High	240-320
Moderate	160-240
Low	80-160
Very Low	≤80

2-Week Trend Categories

	Trend Category	Trend Value (Copies/mL)
↑	Large Increase	>+175
↗	Increase	+50 to +175
→	Stable	-50 to +50
↘	Decrease	-175 to -50
↓	Large Decrease	≤-175

Level: Very High

Wastewater viral levels in your neighborhood indicate **very high risk** of COVID-19 infection.

Based on this level, BPHC urgently recommends the following practices to prevent COVID-19 in your community:

- **Wear a high-quality mask or respirator**
- **If you are at high risk of getting very sick, consider limiting non-essential indoor activities in large groups or in public where you could be exposed.**
- **If you have close contact with someone at high risk of getting very sick, consider self-testing to detect infection before contact, and consider wearing a high-quality mask when indoors with them**
- Stay up-to-date on vaccinations.
- Seek testing and possible treatment if you get sick
- Stay home when you are sick and avoid contact with others who are sick
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and cover coughs and sneezes
- NA

RESOURCES

- Find a vaccination clinic in your neighborhood
- Call or visit the Mayor's Health Line
- Learn more about respiratory illnesses like COVID-19, the flu, and RSV

Level: High

Wastewater viral levels in your neighborhood indicate **high risk** of COVID-19 infection.

Based on this level, BPHC strongly recommends the following practices to prevent COVID-19 in your community:

- **Wear a high-quality mask or respirator**
- **If you have close contact with someone at high risk of getting very sick, consider self-testing to detect infection before contact, and consider wearing a high-quality mask when indoors with them**
- Stay up-to-date on vaccinations.
- Seek testing and possible treatment if you get sick
- Stay home when you are sick and avoid contact with others who are sick
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and cover coughs and sneezes
- NA

RESOURCES

- Find a vaccination clinic in your neighborhood
- Call or visit the Mayor's Health Line
- Learn more about respiratory illnesses like COVID-19, the flu, and RSV

Level: Moderate

Wastewater viral levels in your neighborhood indicate **moderate risk** of COVID-19 infection.

Based on this level, BPHC recommends the following practices to prevent COVID-19 in your community:

- **If you are at high risk of getting very sick, wear a high-quality mask or respirator in public indoor spaces**
- **If you have close contact with someone at high risk of getting very sick, consider self-testing to detect infection before contact, and consider wearing a high-quality mask when indoors with them**
- Stay up-to-date on vaccinations.
- Seek testing and possible treatment if you get sick
- Stay home when you are sick and avoid contact with others who are sick
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and cover coughs and sneezes
- NA

RESOURCES

- Find a vaccination clinic in your neighborhood
- Call or visit the Mayor's Health Line
- Learn more about respiratory illnesses like COVID-19, the flu, and RSV

Level: Low

Wastewater viral levels in your neighborhood indicate **low risk** of COVID-19 infection.

Based on this level, BPHC recommends the following practices to prevent COVID-19 in your community:

- **Continue to monitor wastewater levels and trends**
- Stay up-to-date on vaccinations.
- Seek testing and possible treatment if you get sick
- Stay home when you are sick and avoid contact with others who are sick
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and cover coughs and sneezes
- NA

RESOURCES

- Find a vaccination clinic in your neighborhood
- Call or visit the Mayor's Health Line
- Learn more about respiratory illnesses like COVID-19, the flu, and RSV

Level: Very Low

Wastewater viral levels in your neighborhood indicate **very low risk** of COVID-19 infection.

Based on this level, BPHC recommends the following practices to prevent COVID-19 in your community:

- **Continue to monitor wastewater levels and trends**
- Stay up-to-date on vaccinations.
- Seek testing and possible treatment if you get sick
- Stay home when you are sick and avoid contact with others who are sick
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and cover coughs and sneezes
- NA

RESOURCES

- Find a vaccination clinic in your neighborhood
- Call or visit the Mayor's Health Line
- Learn more about respiratory illnesses like COVID-19, the flu, and RSV