Boston Wastewater Epidemiology Report

Updated: 22-Jan-2026 | **Data Complete Through**: 18-Jan-2026

✉ wastewater@bphc.org

Boston Public
Health Commission

Report Contents

Level: Very High

Level: High

Level: Moderate

Level: Low

Level: Very Low

Neighborhood Levels and Trends

COVID-19 Wastewater Levels & Trends (18-Jan-2026)

2-Week Trend
- ↑ Large Increase (0 sites)
- ↗ Increase (2 sites)
- → Stable (6 sites)
- ↘ Decrease (1 sites)
- ↓ Large Decrease (1 sites)

COVID-19 Level (# sites)	Very Low	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
	9 sites	1 sites			
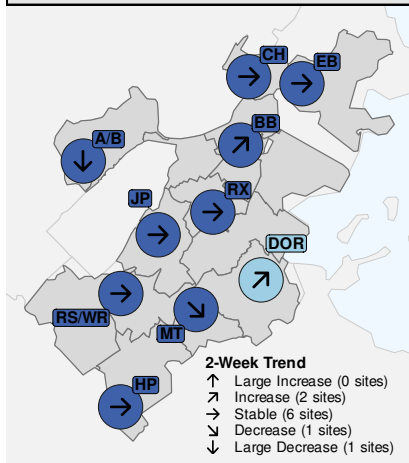
BOSTON CITYWIDE COVID-19 LEVEL & TRENDS

COVID-19 LEVEL	2-WEEK TRENDS
Very Low	→
48 copies/mL *samples through 18-Jan-2026*	*Stable* *-25 copies/mL (-34%)*

NEIGHBORHOOD SITES COVID-19 LEVEL & TRENDS

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

For additional details see:
- Results by Neighborhood
- Detailed Neighborhood Levels and Trends Table
- Trend and Level Category Definitions

COVID-19 Citywide Overview and Trends
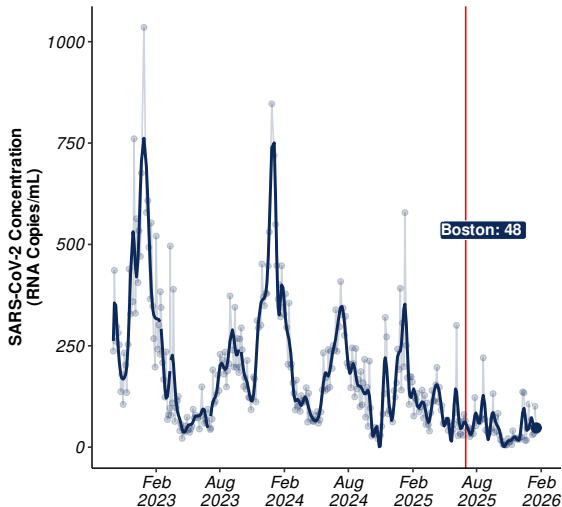
CITYWIDE AVERAGE	RANGE ACROSS 10 NEIGHBORHOOD SITES
48 RNA copies/mL	**3-99** RNA copies/mL

Data through: **18-Jan-2026**

2-WEEK TRENDS

Boston **Stable**	**-34%** over the past 14 days

Updated: 22-Jan-2026 | **Samples through:** 18-Jan-2026

BPHC Trend Overview by Neighborhood
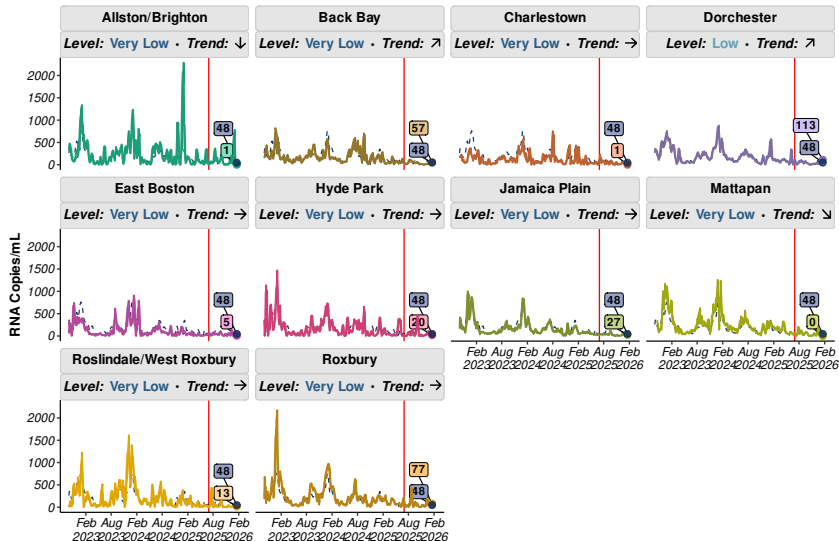
For each neighborhood, colored line and textbox shows the smoothed trend and most recent value in that neighborhood;

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 August 1, 2024, 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 (**48** copies/mL).

Trend: ↓ **Large Decrease**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **A/B** are **decreasing**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **-474** copies/mL (**-100%**).

Allston/Brighton
Level: Very Low • *2-Week Trend:* ↓ Large Decrease
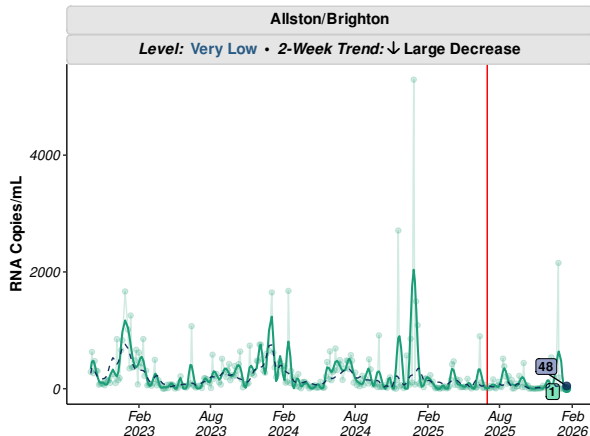
Updated: 22-Jan-2026 | **Samples through:** 18-Jan-2026 (A/B);

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: **57** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**48** copies/mL).

Trend: ↗ **Increase**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **BB** are **increasing**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **+46** copies/mL (**+407%**).

Back Bay

Level: Very Low • *2-Week Trend:* ↗ Increase

Updated: 22-Jan-2026 | **Samples through:** 18-Jan-2026 (BB);

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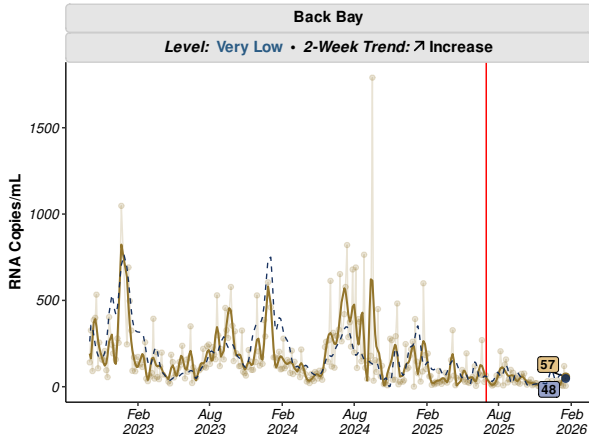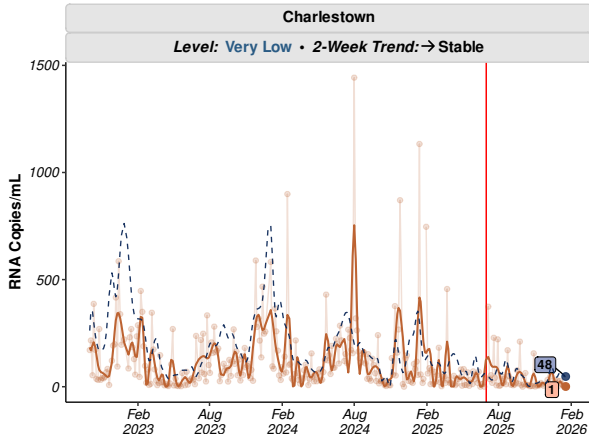
Charlestown

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **CH** over the past week: **1** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**48** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **CH** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **-24** copies/mL (**-96%**).

Charlestown

Level: Very Low • *2-Week Trend:* → Stable

Updated: 22-Jan-2026 | Samples through: 18-Jan-2026 (CH);

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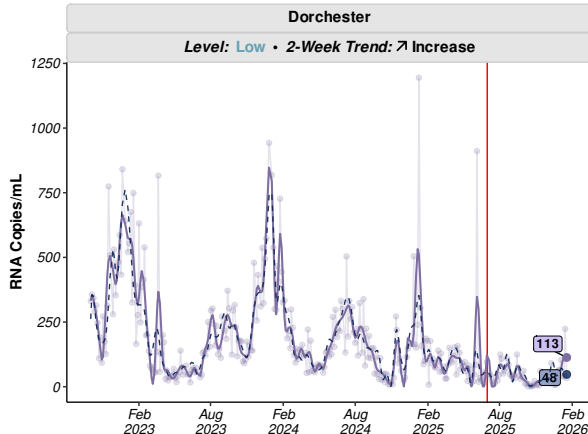
Dorchester

Level: **Low**

- Average value in **DOR 2224** over the past week: **113** copies/mL.
- This value is **low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**48** copies/mL).

Trend: ↗ **Increase**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **DOR 2224** are **increasing**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **+41** copies/mL (**+57%**).

Dorchester

Level: **Low** • *2-Week Trend:* ↗ Increase

Updated: 22-Jan-2026 | **Samples through:** 18-Jan-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: **5** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**48** copies/mL).

Trend: →**Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **EB** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **-38** copies/mL (**-88%**).

East Boston

Level: Very Low • *2-Week Trend:* → Stable

RNA Copies/mL

Updated: 22-Jan-2026 | Samples through: 18-Jan-2026 (EB);

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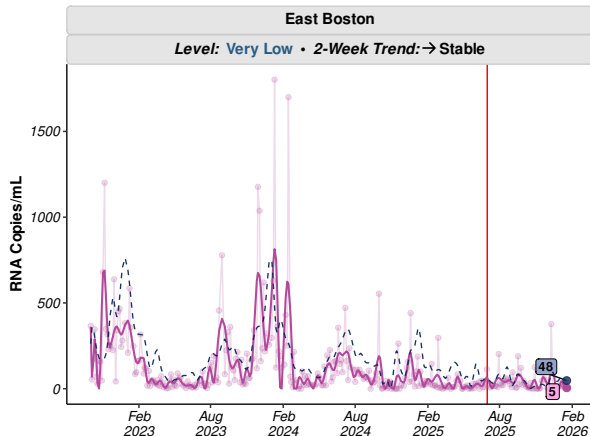
Hyde Park

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **HP** over the past week: **20** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**48** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **HP** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **+7** copies/mL (**+57%**).

Hyde Park

Level: Very Low • *2-Week Trend:* → Stable

Updated: 22-Jan-2026 | Samples through: 18-Jan-2026 (HP);

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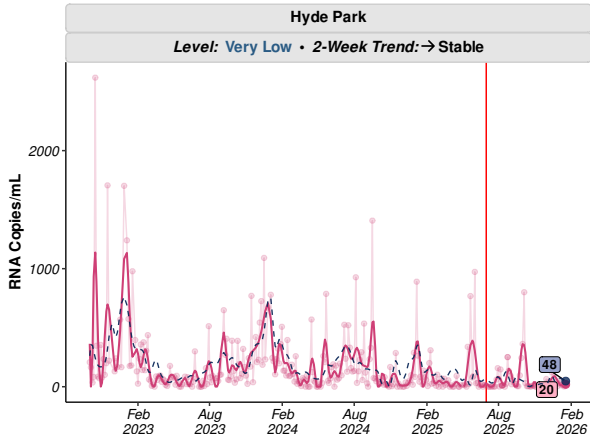
Jamaica Plain

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **JP** over the past week: **27** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**48** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **JP** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **-13** copies/mL (**-32%**).

Jamaica Plain

Level: Very Low • *2-Week Trend:* → Stable

Updated: 22-Jan-2026 | **Samples through:** 18-Jan-2026 (JP);

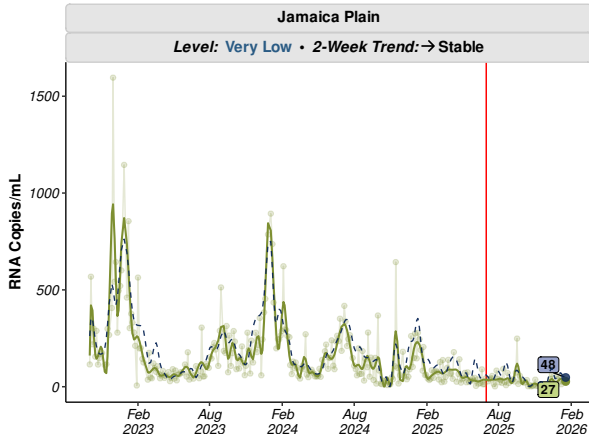See recommended actions and resources based on levels and trends in this neighborhood.

Mattapan

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **MT** over the past week: **0** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**48** copies/mL).

Trend: ↘ **Decrease**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **MT** are **decreasing**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **-84** copies/mL (**-100%**).

Mattapan

Level: Very Low • *2-Week Trend:* ↘ Decrease

Updated: 22-Jan-2026 | Samples through: 18-Jan-2026 (MT);

See recommended actions and resources based on levels and trends in this neighborhood.
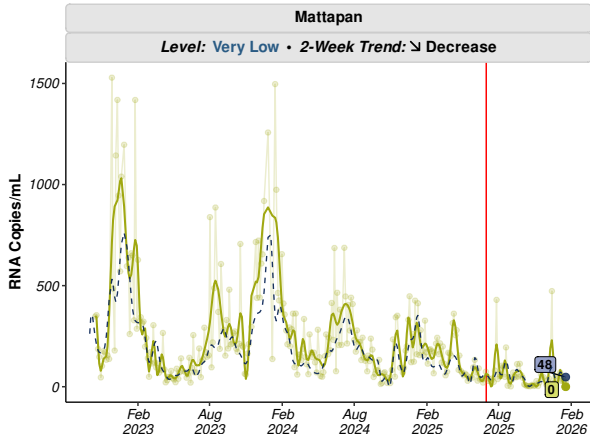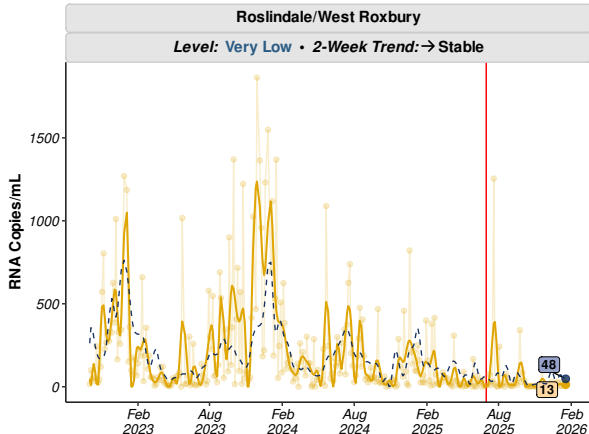
Roslindale/West Roxbury

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **RS/WR** over the past week: **13** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**48** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **RS/WR** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **-2** copies/mL (**-13%**).

Roslindale/West Roxbury

Level: Very Low • *2-Week Trend:* → Stable

RNA Copies/mL

48
13

Feb 2023 | Aug 2023 | Feb 2024 | Aug 2024 | Feb 2025 | Aug 2025 | Feb 2026

Updated: 22-Jan-2026 | **Samples through:** 18-Jan-2026 (RS/WR);

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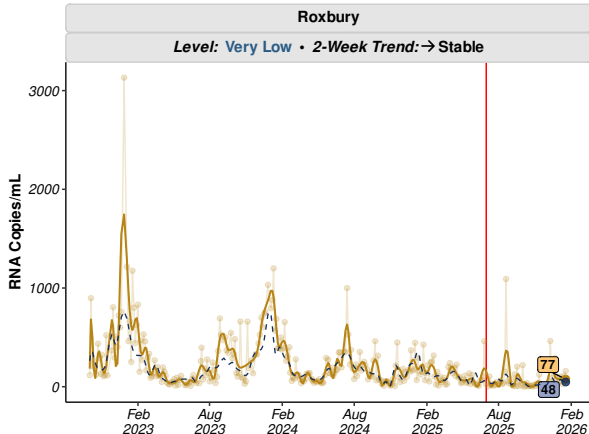
Roxbury

Level: **Very Low**

- Average value in **RX** over the past week: **77** copies/mL.
- This value is **very low** compared to past values and **similar** than the citywide average (**48** copies/mL).

Trend: → **Stable**

- Over the past two weeks, values in **RX** are **stable**.
- Change compared to two weeks ago: **-3** copies/mL (**-4%**).
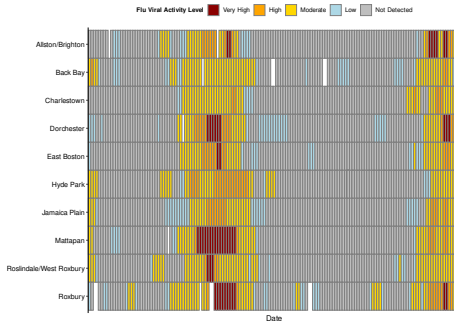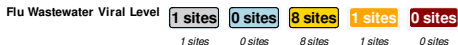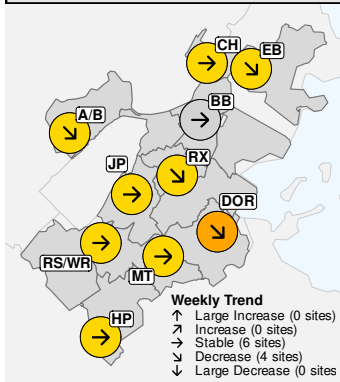

Roxbury
Level: Very Low • *2-Week Trend:* → Stable

Updated: 22-Jan-2026 | **Samples through:** 18-Jan-2026 (RX);

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

Influenza Detections in Wastewater

Influenza Wastewater Viral Activity Levels & Trends (18-Jan-2026)

Weekly Trend

↑ Large Increase (0 sites)
↗ Increase (0 sites)
→ Stable (6 sites)
↘ Decrease (4 sites)
↓ Large Decrease (0 sites)

Flu Wastewater Viral Level

1 sites	0 sites	8 sites	1 sites	0 sites
1 sites	0 sites	8 sites	1 sites	0 sites

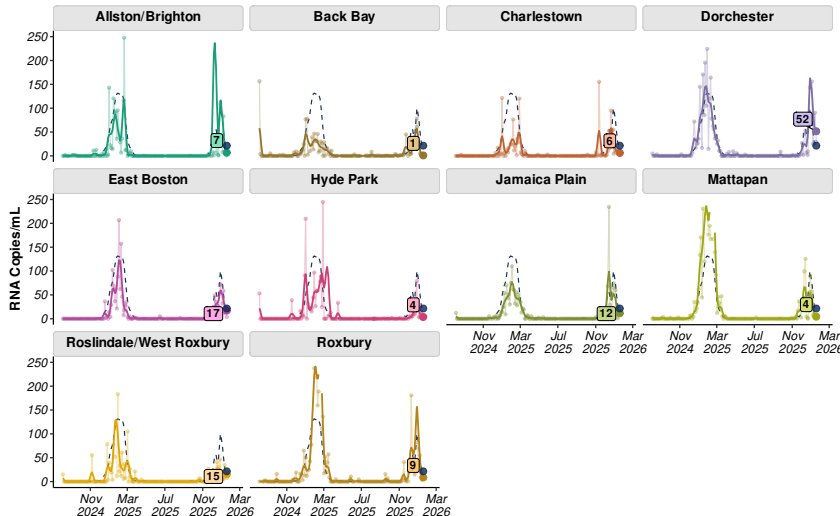This map depicts the number of times influenza virus was detected in wastewater at the 3 most-recent samples (approximately the past week) at each of the neighborhood sampling locations.

Flu Viral Activity Level — Very High, High, Moderate, Low, Not Detected

Alston/Brighton, Back Bay, Charlestown, Dorchester, East Boston, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roslindale/West Roxbury, Roxbury

Date

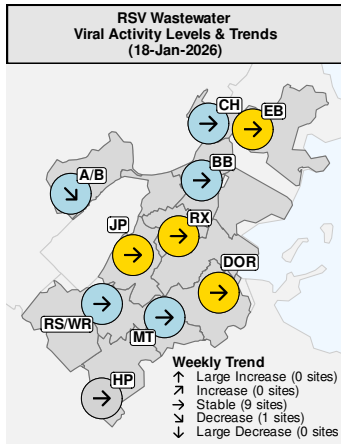# Influenza Trends in Wastewater by Neighborhood

Influenza Trends in Wastewater

For each neighborhood, colored line and textbox shows the smoothed trend and most recent value in that neighborhood;
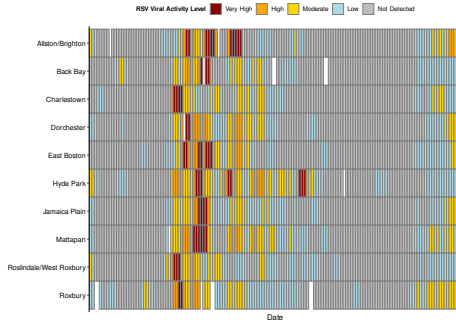
The dotted blue line in each panel shows the trend and most recent value across **all Boston sites** weighted by population.

RSV Detections in Wastewater

RSV Wastewater Viral Activity Levels & Trends (18-Jan-2026)

Weekly Trend
↑ Large Increase (0 sites)
↗ Increase (0 sites)
→ Stable (9 sites)
↘ Decrease (1 sites)
↓ Large Decrease (0 sites)

Wastewater Viral Activity Level

1 sites	5 sites	4 sites	0 sites	0 si
1 sites	5 sites	4 sites	0 sites	0 s

RSV = Respiratory Syncytial Virus

This map depicts the number of times RSV was detected in wastewater at the 3 most-recent samples (approximately the past week) at each of the neighborhood sampling locations.

RSV Viral Activity Level — Very High · High · Moderate · Low · Not Detected

Alston/Brighton
Back Bay
Charlestown
Dorchester
East Boston
Hyde Park
Jamaica Plain
Mattapan
Roslindale/West Roxbury
Roxbury

Date

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.

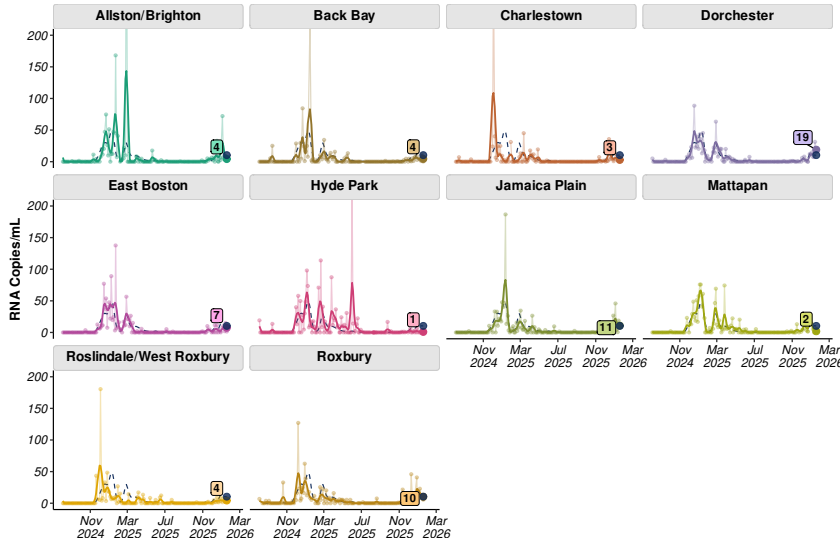# COVID-19 Wastewater Level and Trend Category Definitions

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
- Improve indoor airflow and ventilation
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and cover coughs and sneezes

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
- Improve **indoor airflow and ventilation**
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and cover coughs and sneezes

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
- Improve indoor airflow and ventilation
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and cover coughs and sneezes

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
- Improve indoor airflow and ventilation
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and cover coughs and sneezes

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
- Improve indoor airflow and ventilation
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and cover coughs and sneezes

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