



# Merrimack School District

Health and Safety Task Force  
Masking Recommendation

November 18, 2021



# Revisiting the Mask Policy

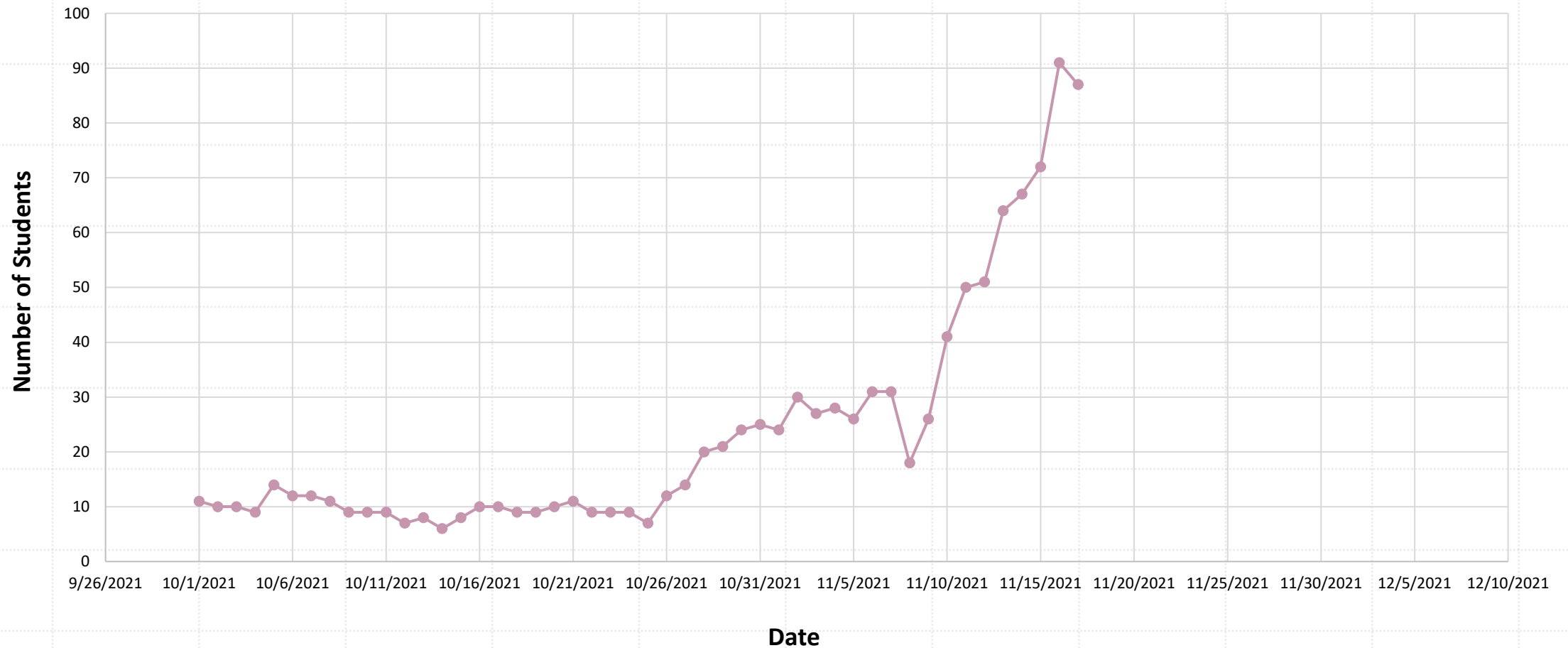
- Current Policy
  - Opt-out option at parent request while students are in the classroom
  - Masks to be worn in all other areas within the school building
  - No masks required when outside
  - Masks are mandatory on buses



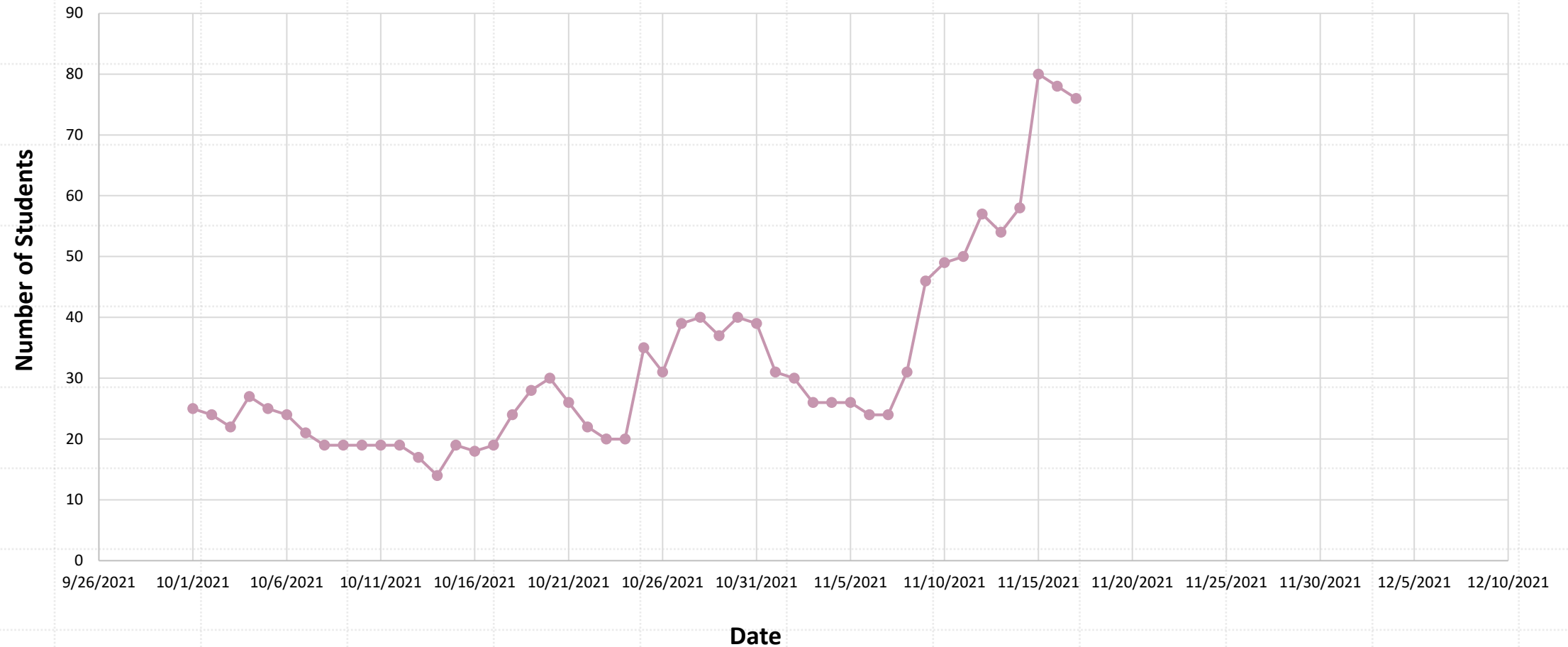
# Emerging COVID Issue of Concern

- Increase in number of students testing positive for COVID over the last two weeks in some schools
- Not all schools are impacted to the same magnitude

# Number of Positive Students (in isolation) District Wide



# Number of Students in Quarantine District Wide



# Town of Merrimack, NH Data

- Rate of New Infections per 100,000 (last 14 days)
- Antigen, PCR Test Positivity Rate (last 7 days)

| Date       | Rate of New Infections (per 100k) | Test Positivity Rate (last 7 days) |
|------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 8/16/2021  | 174                               | 7.00%                              |
| 9/15/2021  | 298                               | 6.60%                              |
| 10/15/2021 | 321                               | N/A                                |
| 11/16/2021 | 843                               | 18.40%                             |

Source: NHDPHHS

[Merrimack Data Daily Update 11.17.xlsx \(google.com\)](#)

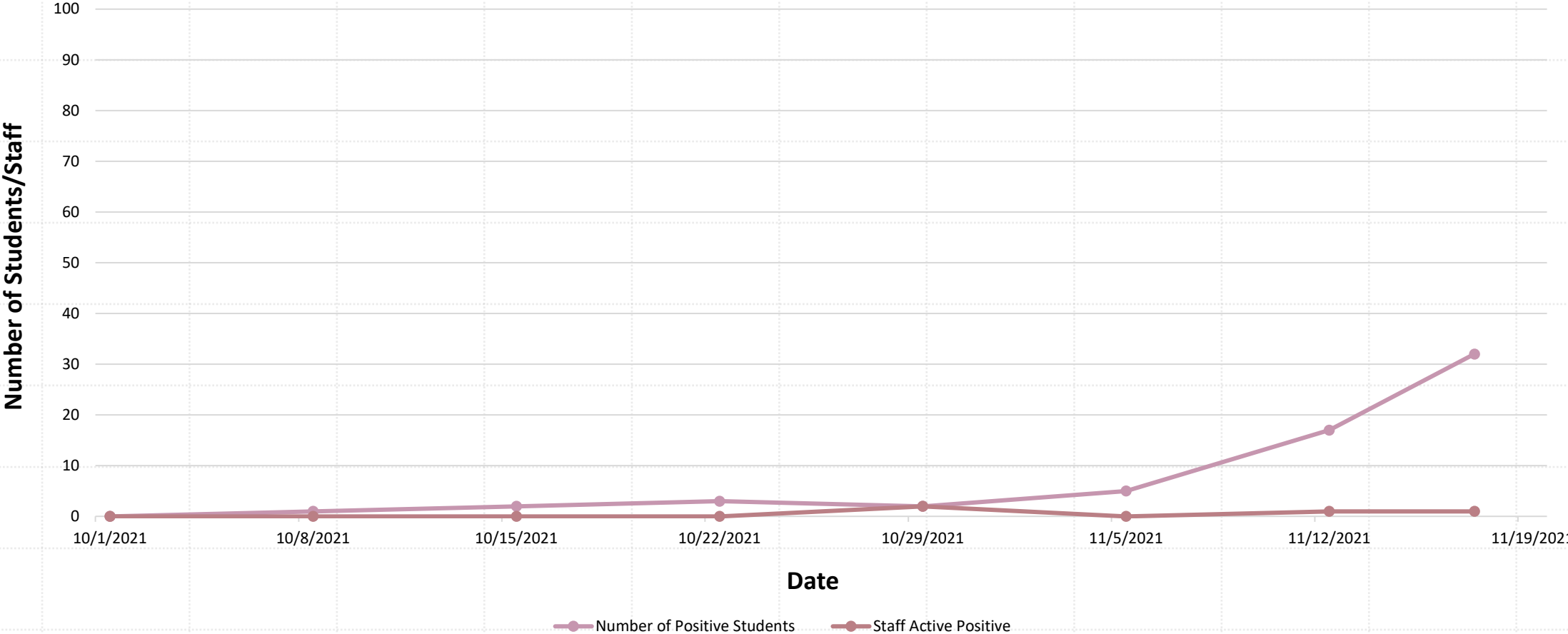
[Map | NH COVID-19 Response](#)

# Recommended Mask Policy

*Merrimack School District Health and Safety Task Force 11/17/2021*

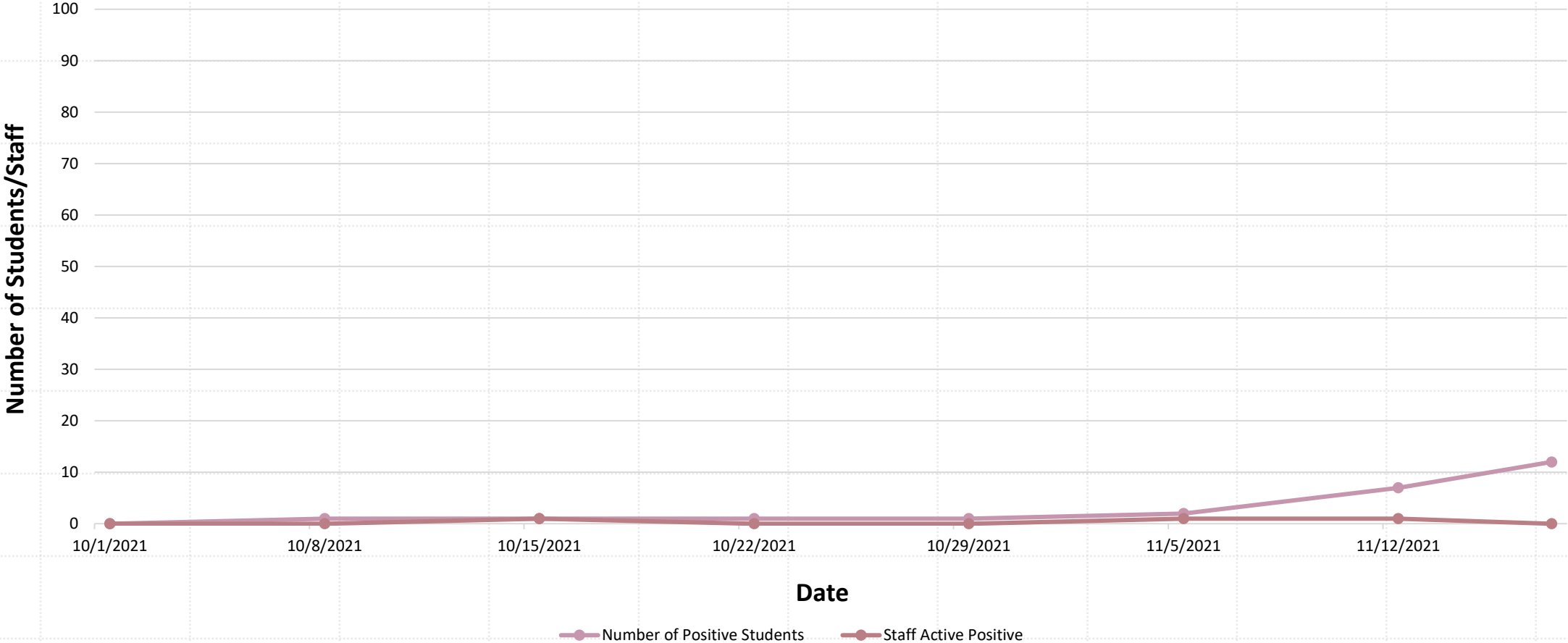
- If the number of positive COVID cases (staff and students) in an individual school is 5% (or greater) of the total number of staff and students in the building, masks will be required for all staff and students while in the school building.
- No masks will be required while students and/or staff are outside or while eating lunch/snack
- If the percentage of positive cases (staff and students) in the individual school is below 5% for two consecutive weeks, the opt-out mask policy will be reinstated.
- It is the recommendation that, if approved by the Merrimack School Board, the revised policy be effective Monday, November 22, 2021.

# Number of Student and Staff Positive Cases Mastricola Elementary School

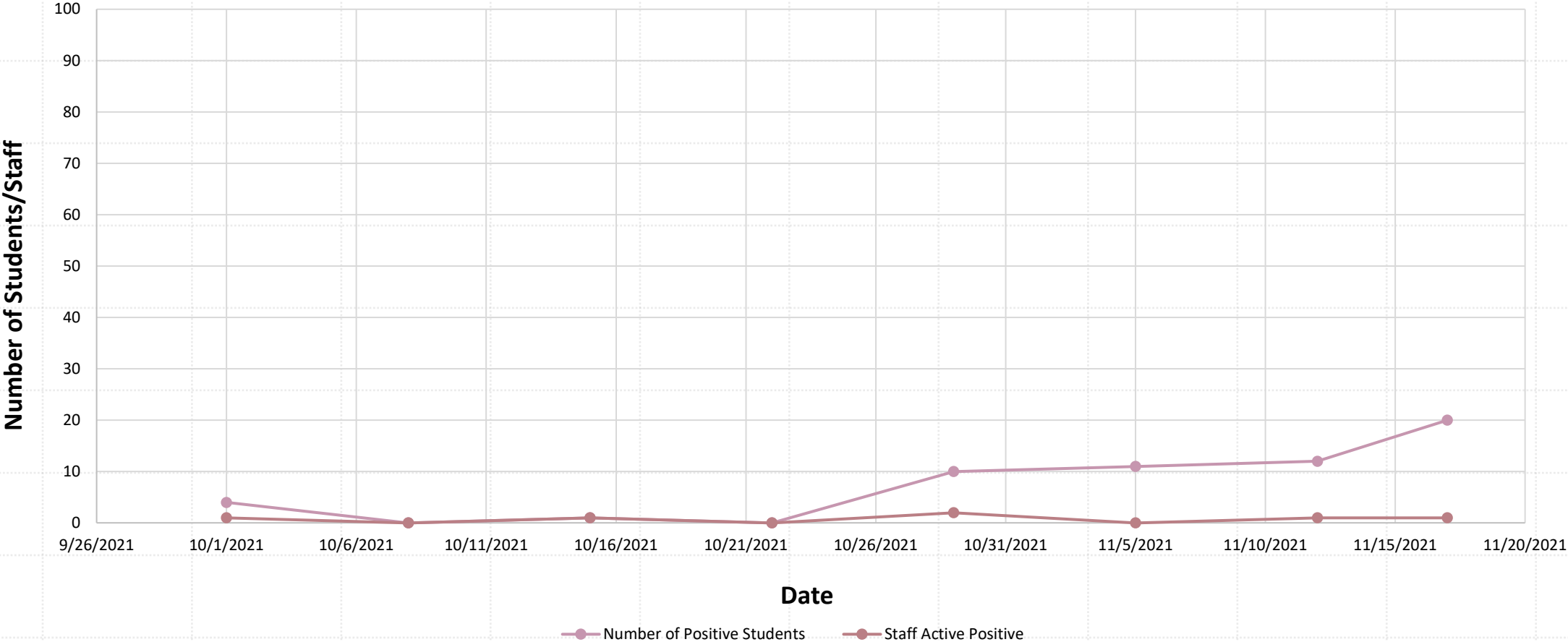




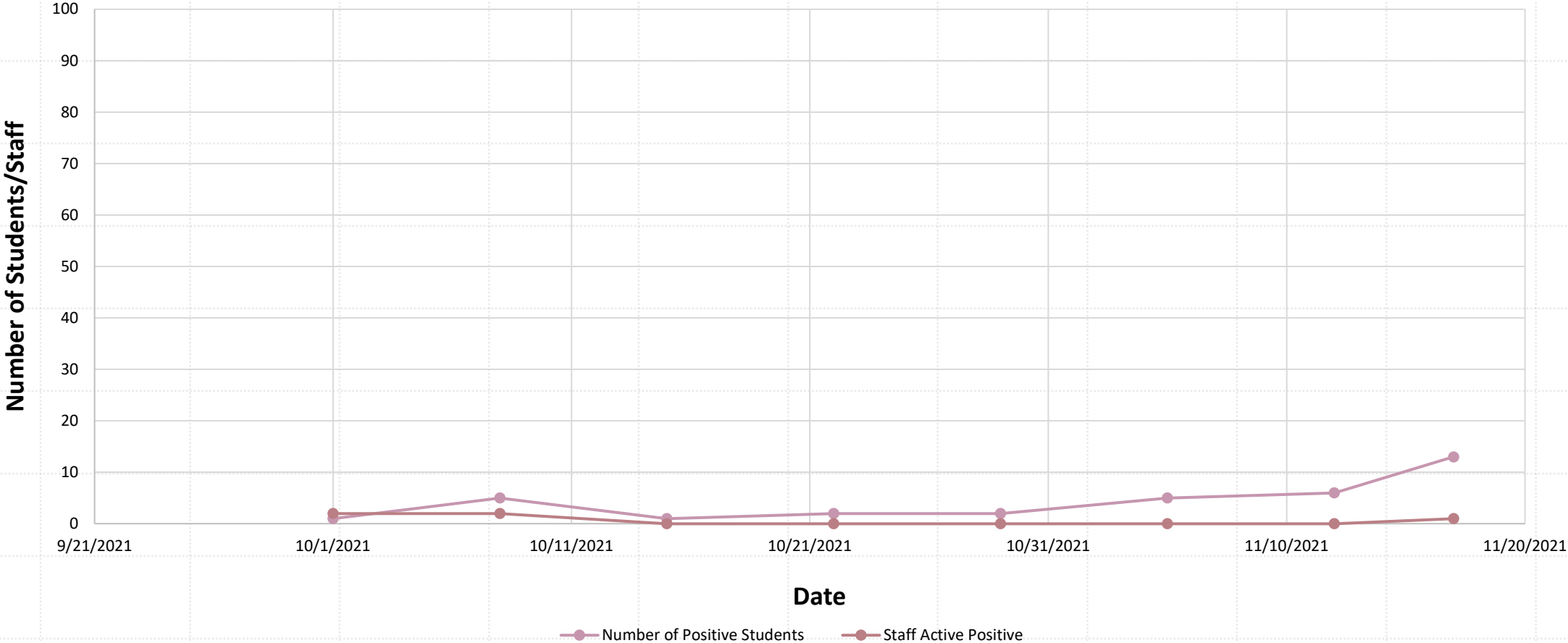
# Number of Student and Staff Positive Cases Reeds Ferry Elementary School



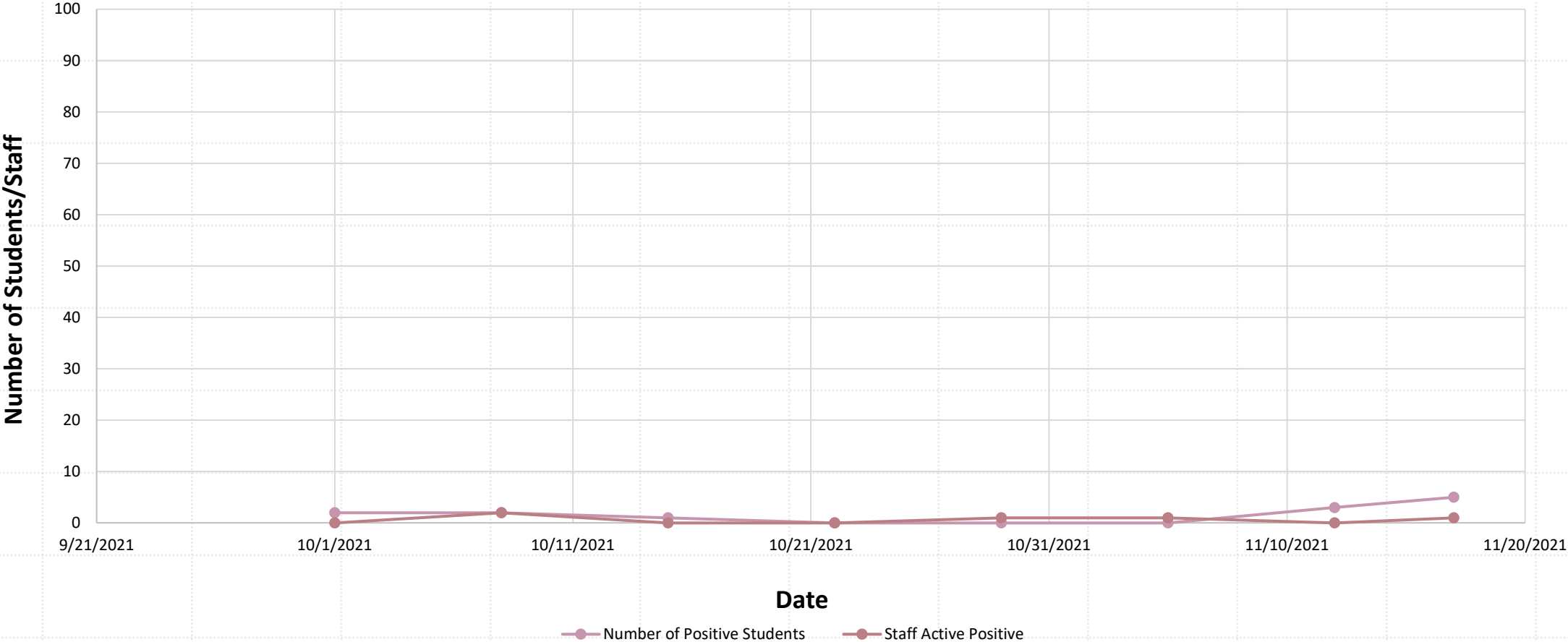
# Number of Student and Staff Positive Cases Thorntons Ferry Elementary School



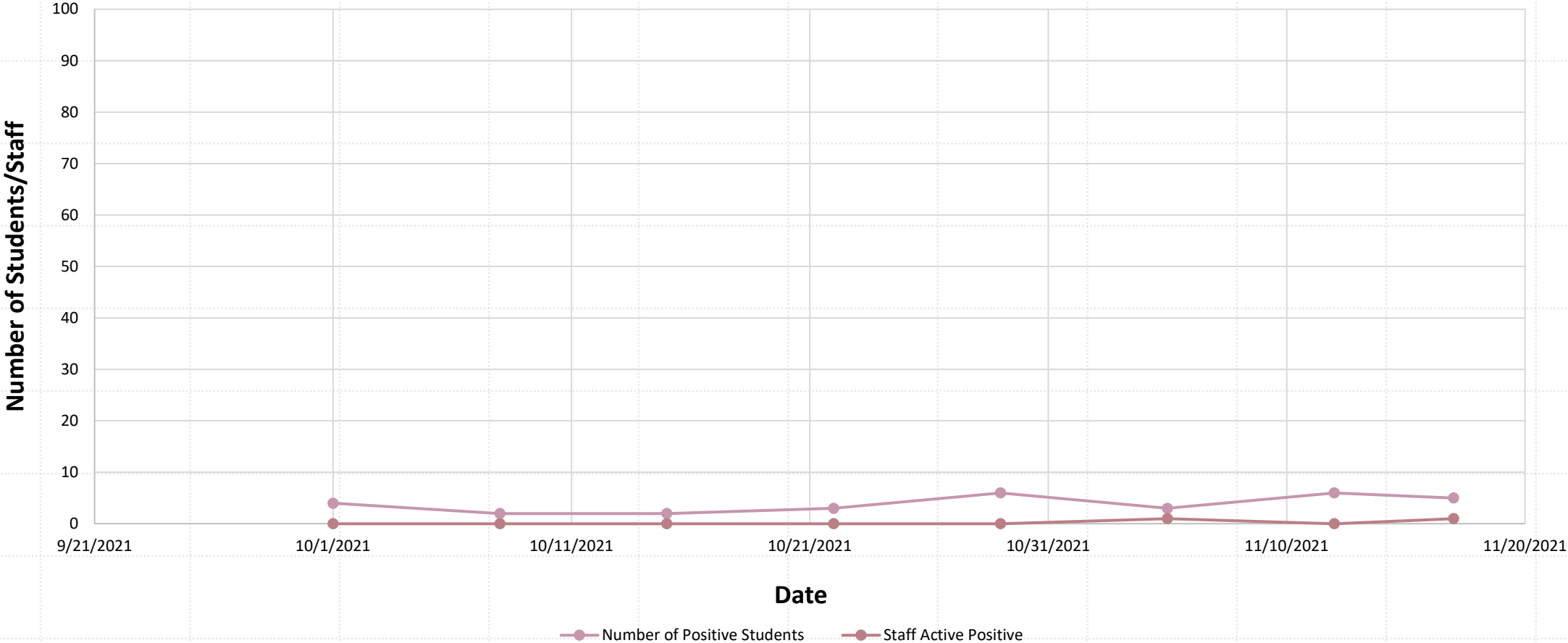
# Number of Student and Staff Positive Cases Mastricola Upper Elementary School



# Number of Student and Staff Positive Cases Merrimack Middle School



# Number of Student and Staff Positive Cases Merrimack High School



# School COVID Profiles

## As of November 17, 2021

| SCHOOL | STUDENT ENROLLMENT | # OF STAFF | TOTAL OCCUPANTS | # OF TOTAL POSITIVE (STAFF AND STUDENTS) | PERCENTAGE OF OCCUPANTS TESTING POSITIVE |
|--------|--------------------|------------|-----------------|--|--|
| MES    | 424                | 80         | 504             | 39                                       | <b>7.74%</b>                             |
| RFS    | 444                | 110        | 554             | 13                                       | 2.35%                                    |
| TFS    | 536                | 100        | 636             | 21                                       | 3.30%                                    |
| MUES   | 509                | 101        | 610             | 18                                       | 2.96%                                    |
| MMS    | 556                | 95         | 651             | 8  | 1.23%                                    |
| MHS    | 1,153              | 189        | 1,342           | 7  | 0.52%                                    |



# Other Mitigation Recommendations

- Stay home and seek testing when sick
- Vaccination for community members 5 years old and above
- Maintain healthy handwashing and cleaning practices
- Proper mask wearing



Questions?