

Merrimack School District/SAU 26
School Board Special Meeting
Agenda
November 18, 2021 (Thursday)
Merrimack Town Hall – Memorial Room

Send public comments to: publiccomment@sau26.org. Comments must be received between the start of the meeting on November 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and Agenda Item #4. Based on the volume of public comments received, the board chair will determine if all public comments can be read. If not, they will be incorporated into the meeting minutes.

PUBLIC MEETING

7:00 p.m. **1. CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

7:05 p.m. **2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

7:35 p.m. **3. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Health and Safety Task Force Recommendation
2. Board Response to the Health and Safety Task Force Recommendation

Everett Olsen
Cinda Guagliumi

7:55 p.m. **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

8:00 p.m. **5. ADJOURN**

8:00 P.M. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (b) (c) – Memorial Room

- Negotiations

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
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KIMBERLY YARLOTT
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

EVERETT V. OLSEN, Jr.
Interim Chief Educational Officer

MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL
Assistant Superintendent for Business

To: Cinda Guagliumi
Laurie Rothhaus
Shannon Barnes

Jenna Hardy
Lori Peters
Kaitlyn Vadney

From: Everett V. Olsen, Jr.

Date: November 18, 2021

Subject: Recommendation for Revised Mask Policy

The School District's Health and Safety Task Force met yesterday to review the trend in COVID-related data across the school district. The Committee is concerned about the increase in positive COVID cases over the last two weeks and is recommending to you a revision to the current mask policy.

The recommended revision is targeted in nature to address those schools that are experiencing a relatively larger increase in positive cases than other schools. The recommended policy revision is noted below:

"If the number of positive COVID cases (staff and students) in an individual school is 5% (or more) 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 and while at lunch."

"If the percentage of positive COVID cases (staff and students) in the school is consistently below 5% for 2 consecutive weeks, the opt-out mask policy will be reinstated in the school".

The Health and Safety Task Force Committee had a very thoughtful discussion prior to developing this recommended revision to address the increasing trend in positive cases in some of our schools. The Task Force Committee also recommends that if approved, this revised policy becomes effective in any school that reaches or exceeds the 5% benchmark on November 22, 2021. It is important to note that the only school that this revision will impact (as of this writing) is Masticola Elementary School.

Thank you for reviewing the data accompanying this memo!



Merrimack School District

Health and Safety Task Force
Masking Recommendation
November 18, 2021

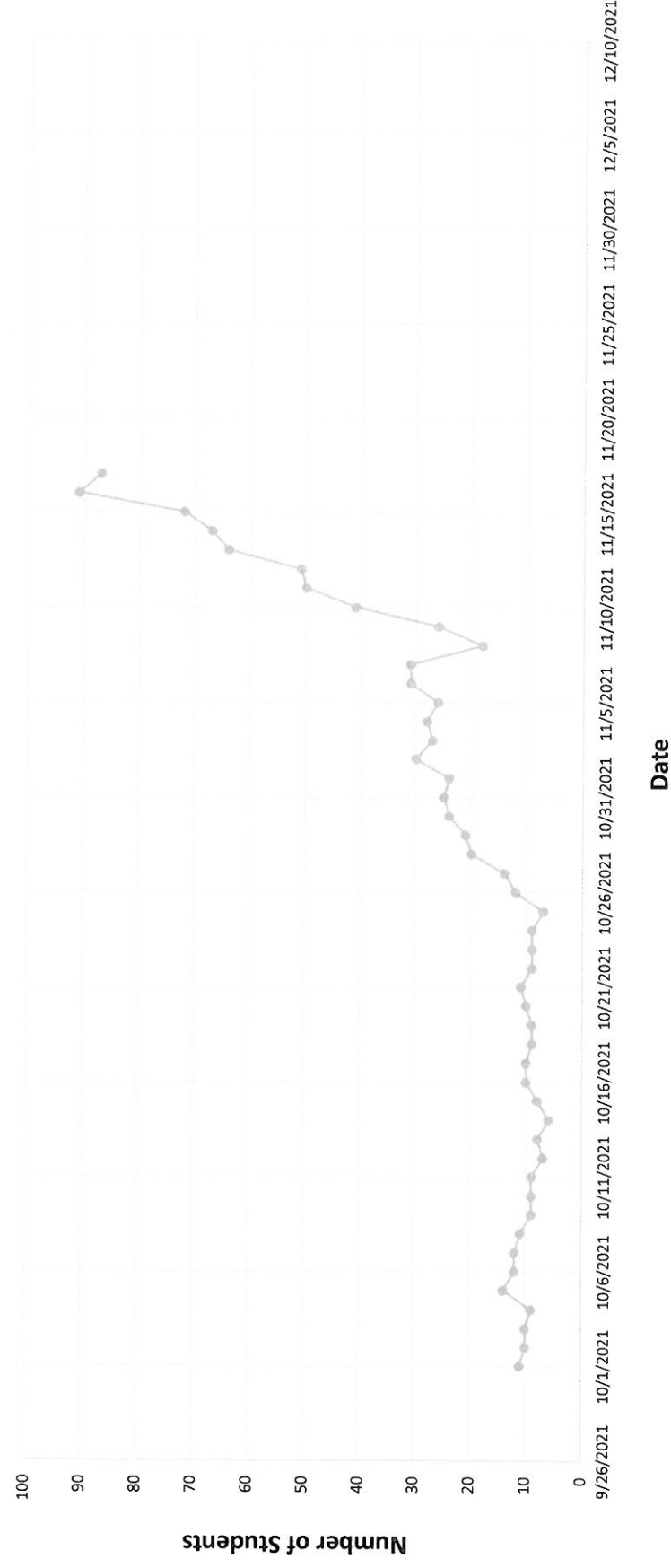
Revisiting the Mask Policy

- 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

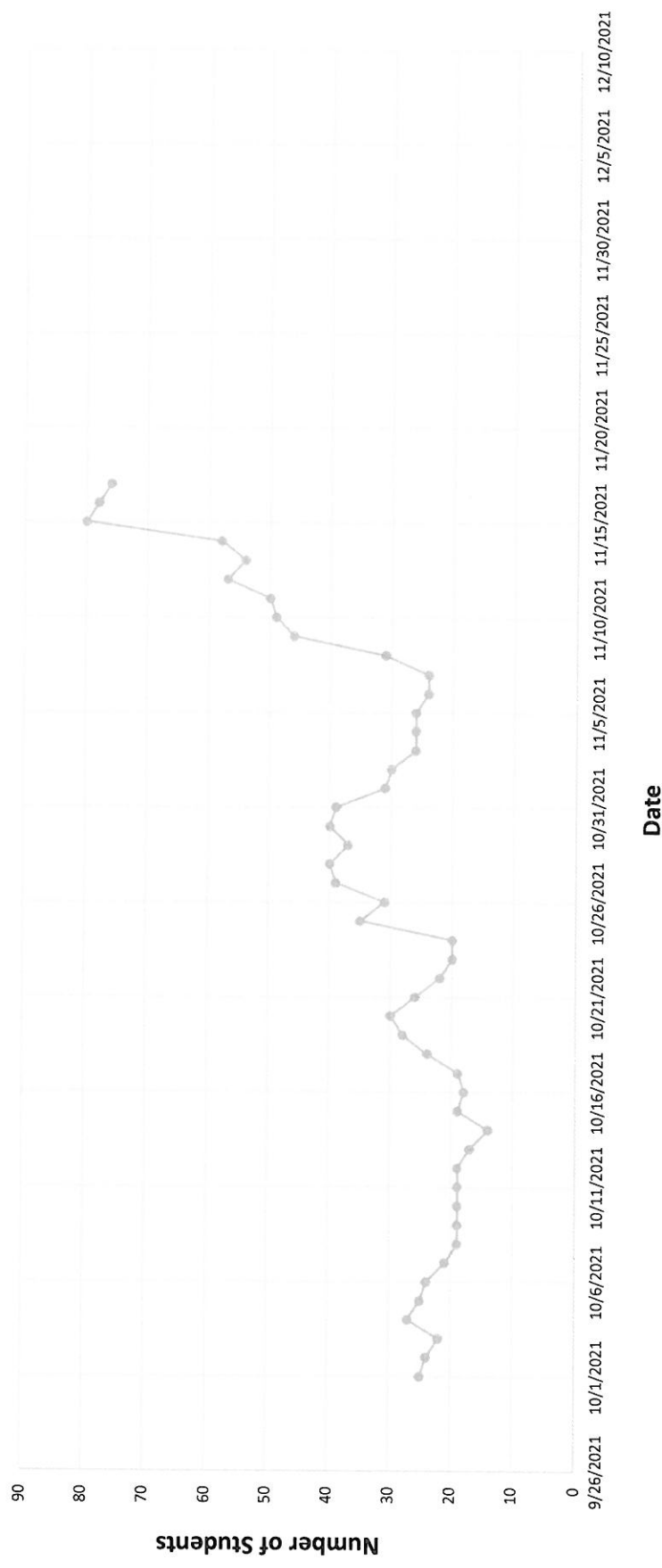
- Increase in number of students testing positive for COVID over the last two weeks in some schools
- Not all schools are impacted to the same magnitude

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

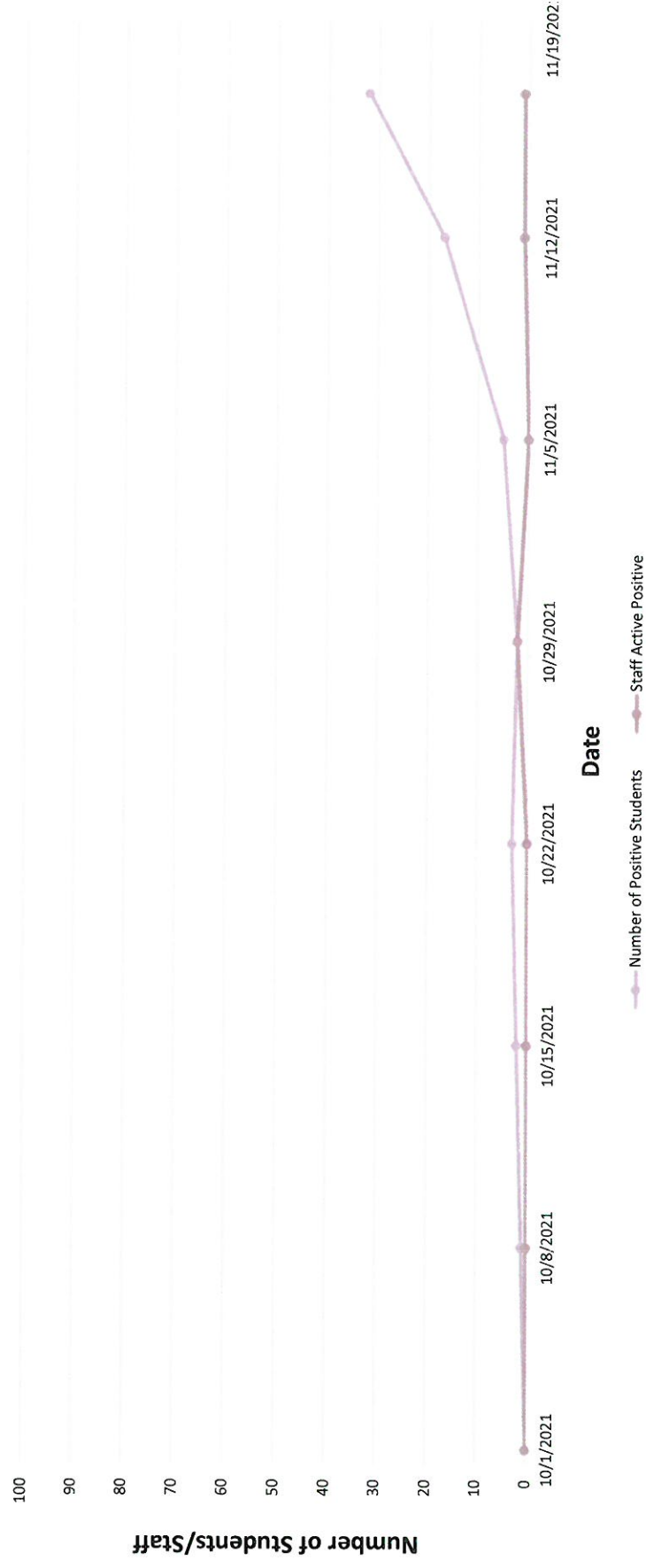
[Merrimack Data Daily Update 11.17.xlsx \(google.com\)](#)
[Map | NH COVID-19 Response](#)

Recommended Mask Policy

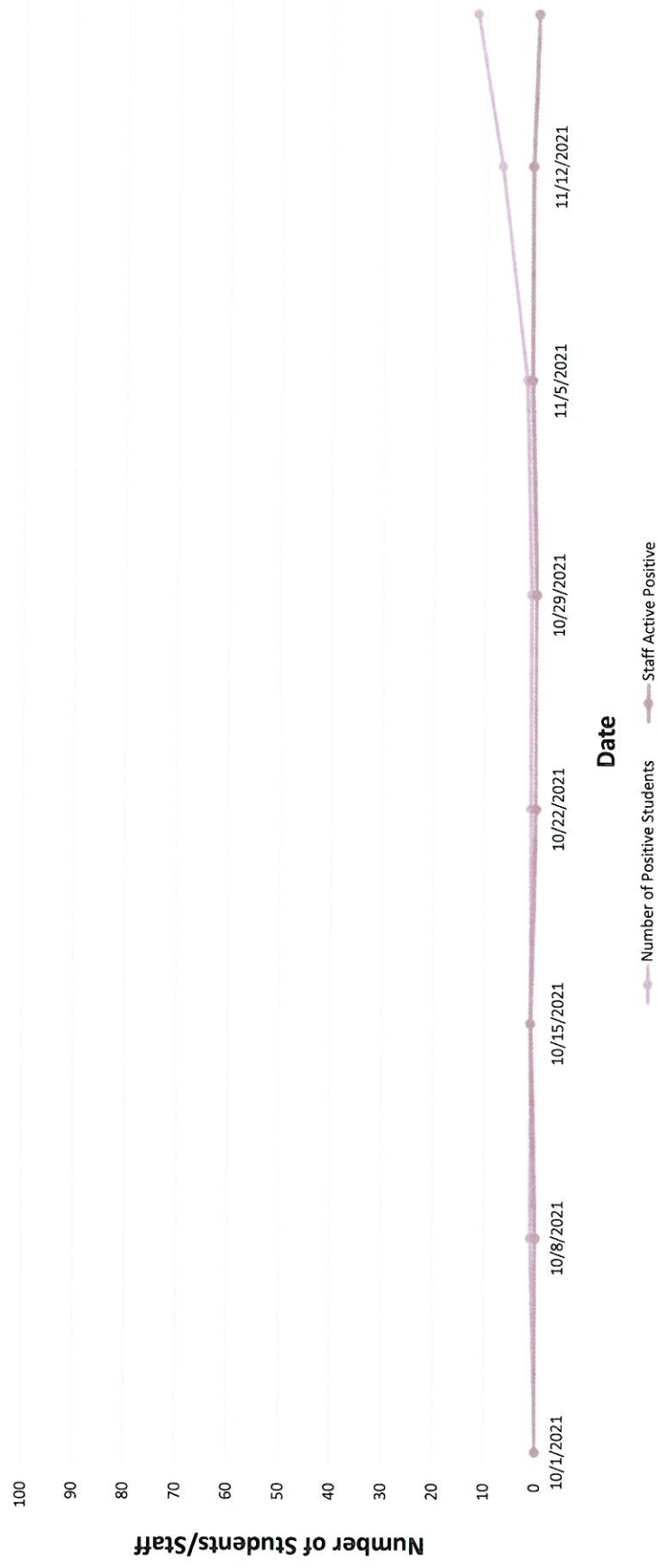
Merrimack School District Health and Safety Task Force 11/17/2021

- 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.

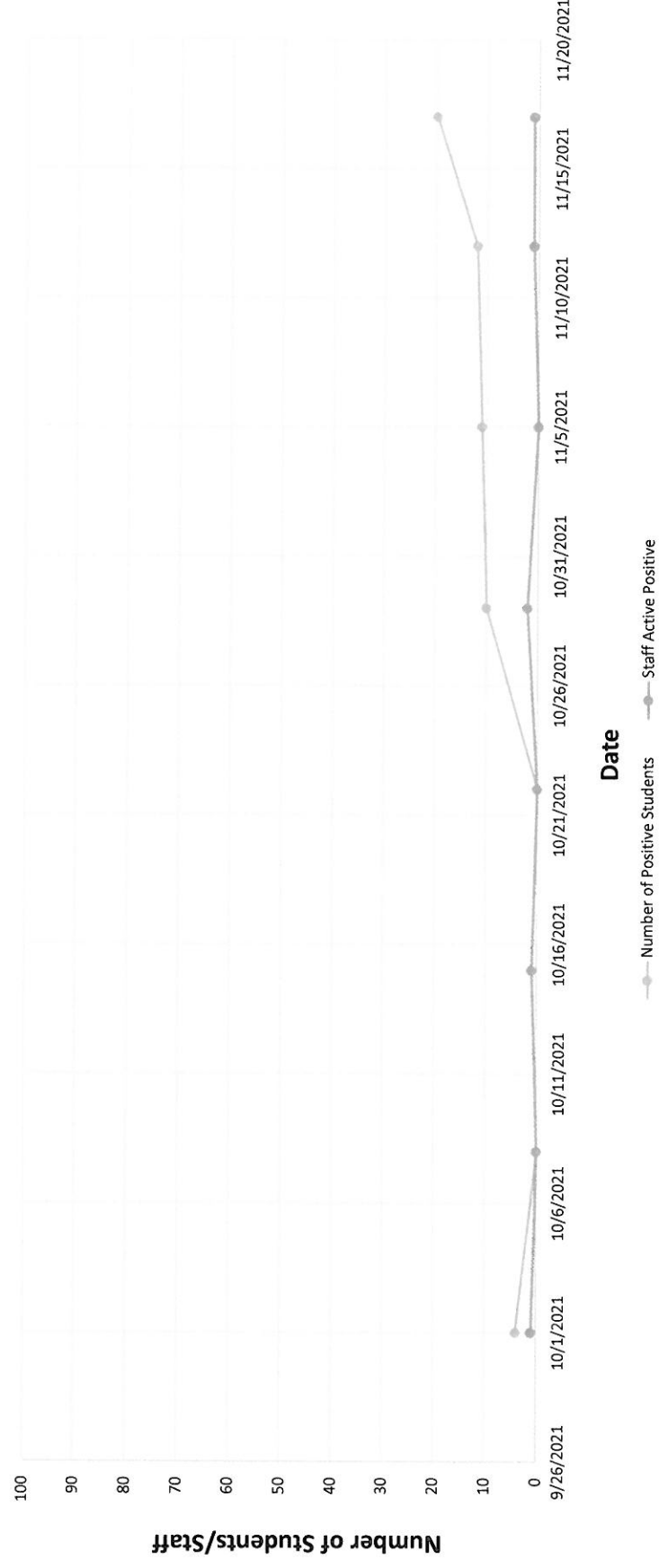
Number of Student and Staff Positive Cases Mastricola Elementary School



Number of Student and Staff Positive Cases Reeds Ferry Elementary School

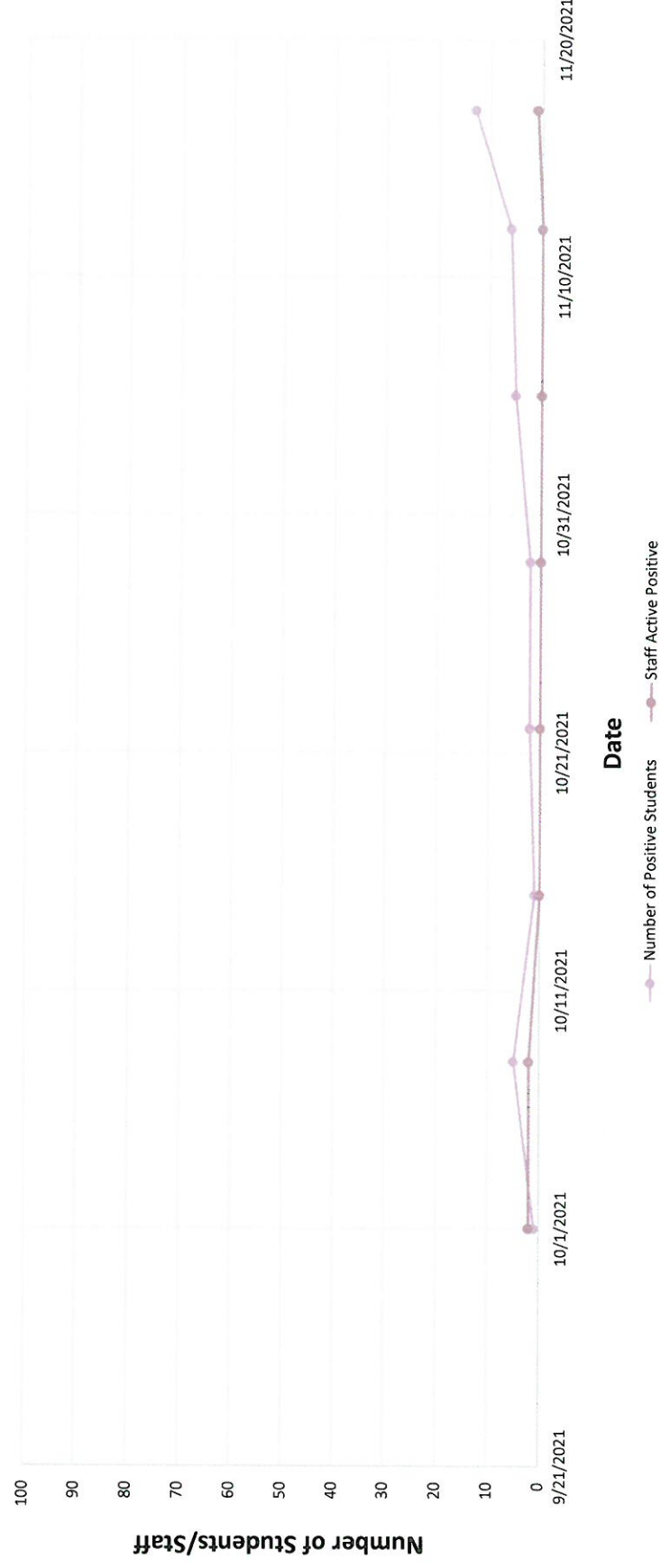


Number of Student and Staff Positive Cases Thorntons Ferry Elementary School



Number of Student and Staff Positive Cases

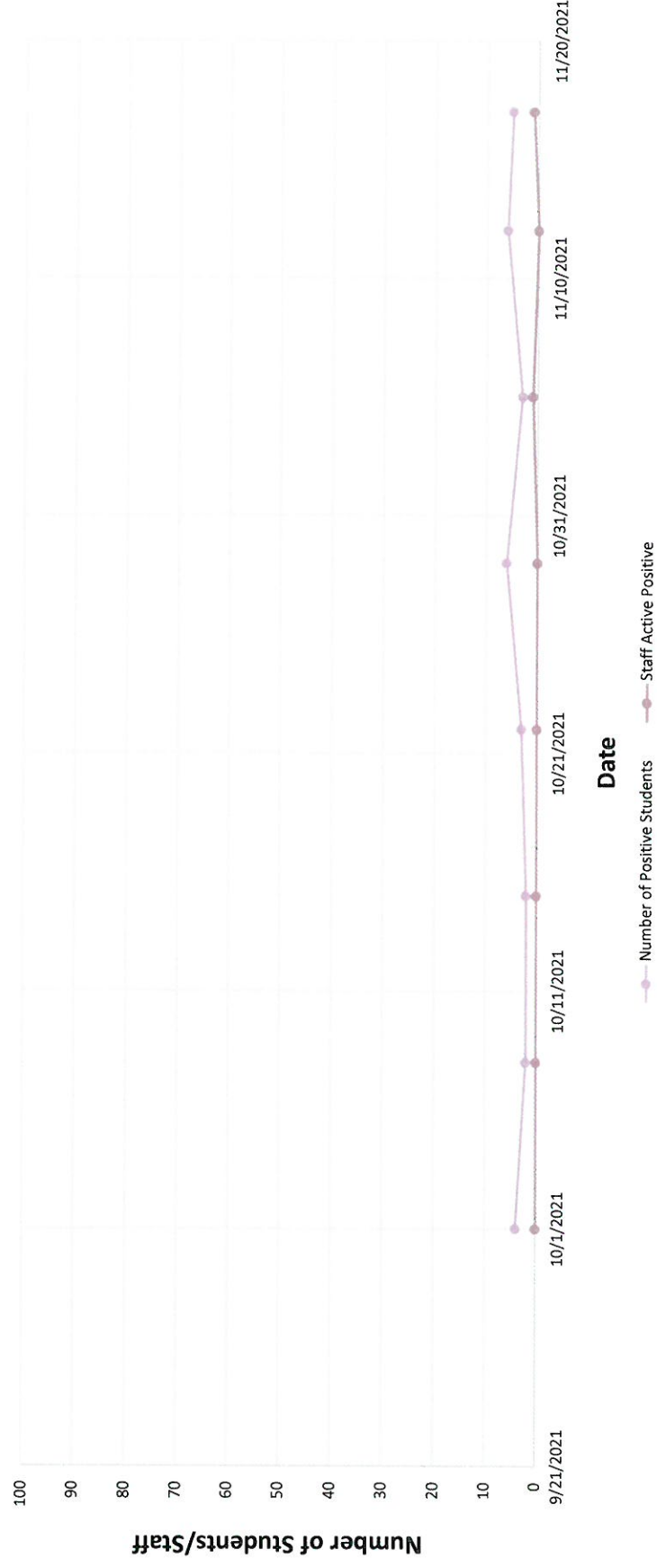
Mastricola Upper Elementary School



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	7.74%
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?