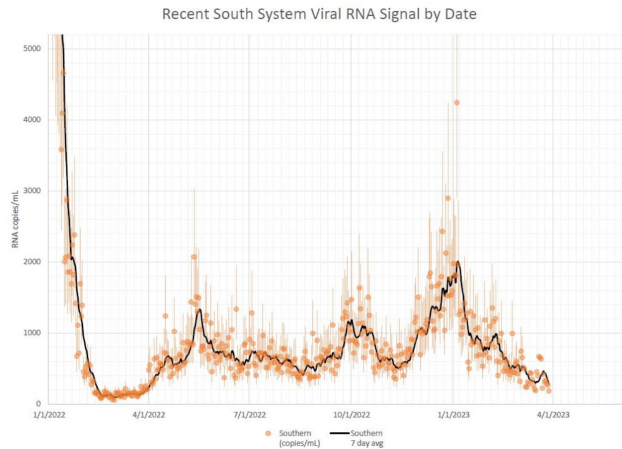


This week's health update provides an overview of COVID-19, testing, and, an update on the end of the COVID-19 emergency.

COVID-19 Update:

Wastewater data for COVID-19 is now trending downward, reaching levels as low as March/April 2022 (Source: [MWRA](#)).



COVID-19 Testing:

As of today, Massachusetts has closed all of its 'Stop the Spread' COVID-19 testing sites. To find a COVID-19 testing site, visit the state's website (mass.gov/covid-19-testing). Massachusetts continues to offer free COVID-19 telehealth consultations for individuals 18 or older living in Massachusetts. Providers inform patients if Paxlovid would be helpful and arrange the prescription pick-up/delivery. Learn more at mass.gov/CovidTelehealth.

As a reminder, the state and federal public health emergency is set to end on May 11th. The requirement for private insurance companies to cover COVID-19 tests, without cost sharing, for both over-the-counter and laboratory tests, will end on May 11th. The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services is encouraging private insurers to continue providing coverage moving forward. For more information, click [here](#).

Narcan Over-the-Counter

On March 29th, the FDA approved Narcan nasal spray (naloxone) for over-the-counter, nonprescription use. This decision will allow this life-saving medication to be more readily available and sold directly to consumers in a variety of locations (i.e. convenience stores, drug stores, grocery stores, and gas stations). The timeline and cost of Narcan have not yet been determined. To read the FDA news release, click [here](#). Currently, in Massachusetts, there is a statewide standing order, issued by the Department of Public Health, which requires retail pharmacies to maintain a continuous and sufficient supply of naloxone. Some insurances, including MassHealth, cover the cost of naloxone to members. Greater Boroughs will continue to host our free Narcan trainings, which have been a huge success!! For more information about our upcoming trainings, click [here](#).