

Cape Cod Healthcare Covid-19 Community Alert Heat Map System

In Collaboration with Cape Cod Commission and the Barnstable County
Department of Health and Environment

Frequently Asked Questions about methods used in the system

1. What is the source for the data used in the heat map?

Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN) database that contains infectious disease surveillance data collected by the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences (BIDLS). All COVID-19 positive tests reported by all Massachusetts hospitals, healthcare systems and laboratories are housed in this database for public health reporting purposes during crisis.

2. How are patient privacy laws applied in this heat map reporting?

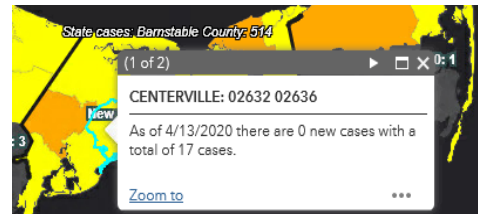
HIPAA and all other applicable privacy laws and related public health reporting exceptions have been factored into the development and operation of this reporting system.

3. How often is the data updated? Daily except on Saturdays.

4. A few towns have zip code that share villages from another town or a village could share two zip codes. How is this reconciled when reporting data?

If a zip code has unique/uncommon linkage to villages it is explicitly noted for the viewer who clicks on that zip code to learn which zip code + village is

represented by the data. Here's an example for how a display is shown when two zip codes and the corresponding data are shared by one village, as shown in this example of Centerville.



5. Why is there a difference between the state totals and the sum of Cape Cod's regional totals?

- The sum of our totals could be **lower** than the state totals because we do not count duplicates or same individual twice when she/he re-tests positive during illness
- The sum of our totals could be **higher** than the state totals because we don't subtract the recovered from the total at the same rate as the state (data dependency on state)
- The above factors impact the 100% matching of the state totals with the sum of our regional running totals but **DO NOT** impact the number of our daily new case numbers.

6. Do the running totals in the heat map include positive cases in long term care facilities in each region and zip code?

Yes. Beginning on April 15, positive cases from long-term care facilities were included in the running totals for each region and zip code.

7. When is a town or zip code downgraded from red to yellow to indicate reduced risk?

After being free of new cases for 2 incubation periods (2 x 14 days =28 days) as per the state.