

EPILOGUE

Mayor Curtatone's Culture of Curiosity

Building Data Capabilities at Somerville City Hall

TIMELINE: 2020

0033SD

A year that TIME magazine referred to as “THE WORST YEAR EVER”

Jan.

- Mayor Curtatone’s 9th inauguration (case ends)
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- Based on predictive models, Curtatone is convinced COVID-19 will come to Somerville

Feb.

- Cambridge-based Biogen hosts a “super-spreader” event in Boston
- Somerville begins coordinating an emergency response team

TIMELINE: 2020 (cont'd)

0033SD

March

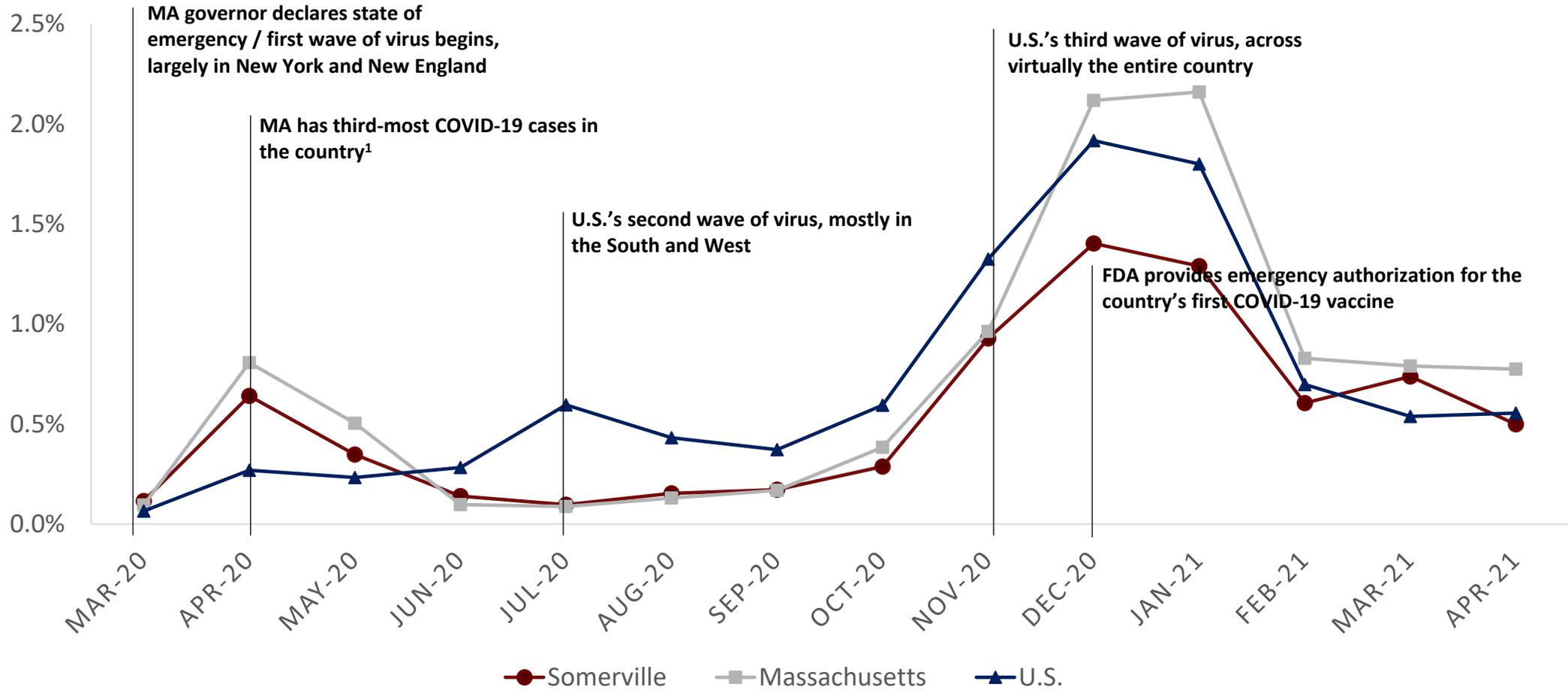
- Mayor convenes thirty city leaders from the state to present models that experts on epidemiology had shared with Somerville's public health team
- City leaders send letter to Mass. governor to close schools
- Governor closes schools, bans eating in restaurants, gatherings, etc.
- Omar Boukili named incident commander of Somerville's COVID-19 incident command system
- First Massachusetts resident dies of COVID-19
- Poll says "Just 46% of Americans ... say the federal government is doing enough"¹

Spring & beyond

- Somerville mounts a rigorous, customized response to the pandemic, which Boukili and Kristen Stelljes (Boukili's successor as incident commander) credit to commitment to public service ("working 12 to 16 hour days"); porting over certain SomerStat processes to the ICS; and "a certain versatility" of staff who had a level of comfort with processing data and managing projects, even if it wasn't in their job description.

¹ Domenico Montanaro, "Poll: Americans Don't Trust What They're Hearing From Trump On Coronavirus," March 17, 2020, <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/17/816680033/poll-americans-dont-trust-what-they-re-hearing-from-trump-on-coronavirus>, accessed May 2021.

COVID-19 CASES PER CAPITA: Somerville v. Massachusetts v. U.S.



Sources: Figures from City of Somerville and CDC, accessed June 2021.

Mayor Curtatone announcement March 1, 2021

Mayor Curtatone decides not to run for reelection in 2022 after nine terms in office. He tells the *Boston Globe*, “I’m tired of COVID — I’m not tired of the job. My passion for public service is there. . . . I feel good about [leaving], but I’m not excited. And that’s good. I can do it another 20 years, but I don’t think I should.”²

² Matt Stout, “Curtatone, Somerville’s longest-serving mayor, says he will not seek reelection,” March 1, 2021, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/03/01/metro/curtatone-somervilles-longest-serving-mayor-says-he-will-not-seek-reelection/>, accessed May 2021.

NON-COVID UPDATES



- Mayor delivers final budget presentation for FY2022 and highlights several developments to continue to modernize the city's government. For example:
 - A city charter review process
 - The launch of a Racial and Social Justice Office and a community-led effort to reimagine policing in Somerville
 - The addition of a digital innovation officer to the SomerStat team
 - The relaunch of Somerville Academy for Innovative Leadership (SAIL)

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