



7/6/2021

**WAIC, Springfield, Massachusetts**

**Issues/Programs List**

**April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021.**

During this period, the stations broadcast programming about local issues that aired during program segments reserved for local feature-length reports, interviews and commentaries, Monday through Friday at (typically) 5:51 a.m., 6:22 a.m., 6:45 a.m., 7:22 a.m., 7:45 a.m., 7:51 a.m., 8:22 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 4:44 p.m., 5:44p.m. and 5:50 p.m. or similar times within the morning and afternoon news programs.

Weekly installments of ***The Short List*** were (typically) broadcast on Fridays at 5:50p.m. during the broadcast of *All Things Considered*. In this segment, a rotating panel of seasoned journalists and media professionals analyzes the major issues in the news during the current week. They provide context, and a fresh unpacking of information from three stories in a roughly eight and a half minute roundtable discussion.

In addition, local newscasts were broadcast immediately following national newscasts on the hour from 6:00 a.m. through 8:00 a.m. inclusive, and 4:00 p.m. through 6:00 p.m. inclusive. On Saturday, local issue programming was presented at 8:35 a.m., 9:35 a.m., 10:35 a.m., and on local newscasts following national newscasts on the hour from 8:00 a.m. through 10:00 a.m. inclusive, and at 12:00 p.m. On Sunday, local newscasts were broadcast following national newscasts on the hour at 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Many reports on the same and related subjects were broadcast daily and weekly during such national news programs as *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *Marketplace*, *Here & Now*, *Fresh Air*, *Weekend Edition* and others.

**Issues**

Arts & Culture  
Commentary  
Economic Development  
Education  
Energy/Environment  
Justice, Law & Public Safety  
Politics/Public Policy  
Public Health  
Science

# Reports on Morning Edition, All Things Considered, and Weekend Edition

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Arts & Culture	4/8/2021	6:22am 8:22am	6:58	MA	When an epidemic strikes, the media become the frame for the public's understanding. These news narratives also serve as essential pieces of the historical record. For a new book published by the University of Massachusetts Press, Katherine Foss dug into seven epidemics spanning hundreds of years, to learn what of those times has been preserved and what has been forgotten, beginning with the smallpox outbreak in Boston in 1721.
Arts & Culture	4/23/2021	6:34am 8:34am	3:52	MA	The first New American Banjo Festival begins this weekend. The event was supposed to be held at venues around Turners Falls and Greenfield, Massachusetts, but with the pandemic, it's been cancelled three times. As NEPM's Jill Kaufman reports, one banjo aficionado was eager to keep this date, and is taking the show online.
Arts & Culture	5/6/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:52	MA	A cartoon sitcom about a Tanzanian family in a fictional western Massachusetts town has wrapped up its first season. Comedian Zul Manzi wrote and animated the first 10 episodes, with more on the way. The storyline and characters center on the Tanzanian community in Springfield, where Manzi grew up.

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Arts & Culture	5/21/2021	6:34am 8:34am	6:49	MA	People are dreaming of a less sequestered summer and the Berkshires will be a destination for many. Business owners count on tourists in a small region rich with live music, theater, and museums. Last summer was brutal; this year, with covid restrictions easing, visitors are expected in large numbers.
Arts & Culture	5/28/2021	5:45am 7:45am	3:45	MA	Illustrator and author Eric Carle is being remembered for his many children's books, including "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," as well as the museum of picture-book art he founded with his wife. Carle died this week at his home in Northampton, Massachusetts, at the age of 91.
Arts & Culture	6/10/2021	6:45am 8:45am	4:23	MA	The Springfield Symphony Orchestra board and its musicians are waging a public debate over union contracts--- including the length of the upcoming season. The SSO has many financial challenges, according to the board, and the problems existed well before the pandemic.
Arts & Culture	6/17/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:23	MA	Jacob's Pillow, the long-running dance festival in Becket, Massachusetts, has had a lot thrown at it this past year. The pandemic shut the venue down for the first time in almost 90 years. Then last November, a fire gutted one of its dance theaters. The Pillow has managed to survive all kinds of challenges over the years.
Community Voices	4/6/2021	6:34am 8:34am	2:33	MA	"Pick your poison." "Go with the devil you know versus the one you don't." Those adages have been running through the mind of Evelyn Resh, a certified nurse midwife, as she contemplates getting her second dose of covid-19 vaccine.

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Community Voices	4/27/2021	6:34am 8:34am	2:49	MA	More and more businesses and restaurants are reopening and slowly drawing their customers back. This follows a pandemic year when some cities resembled ghost towns. Commentator Susan Johnson wonders if they---and she---were instead being transformed into something else.
Community Voices	5/20/2021	6:45am 8:45am	4:46	MA	Always-smiling, ballcap-wearing Patrick Serio of Hadley died of complications from covid-19 at age 61. He was best known for his roadside diner in Hadley, "Pete's Drive-In" on Route 9, and more recently for his videography and drone work.
Community Voices	6/2/2021	7:45am	2:20	MA	Advocates for a Guatemalan man who was in sanctuary for more than three years in western Massachusetts say a recent Supreme Court decision could help him stay in the country.
Community Voices	6/3/2021	6:20am 8:20am	2:31	MA	A recent UMass/WCVB poll finds more than 60 percent of Americans oppose reparations from the federal government to the descendants of slaves. Meanwhile, the U-S House could vote soon on HR40, which calls for the creation of a commission to study and develop reparations proposals for African-Americans. Commentator Michelle Miller says it must pass.
Community Voices	6/23/2021	7:34am	2:47	MA	It's not unusual to hear people talk about the havoc covid-19 has caused. Commentator Christopher Carlisle says, when it comes to the church, the pandemic also offered an opportunity.

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Community Voices	6/23/2021	4:51pm	2:47	MA	It's not unusual to hear people talk about the havoc covid-19 has caused. Commentator Christopher Carlisle says, when it comes to the church, the pandemic also offered an opportunity.
Community Voices	6/25/2021	7:50am	4:09	VT	The covid pandemic brought many communities together in ways they'd never connected before. And for some, what started in response to an emergency, hasn't stopped. Some community groups that arose in Vermont are wrestling with how to continue.
Economic Development	4/1/2021	6:34am 8:34am	2:12	CT	The recent landmark gaming deal between Connecticut's governor and two tribal nations may be remembered as the compromise that legalized sports betting in the state. But there's at least one forgotten stakeholder: the agreement would also end East Windsor's casino hopes for at least a decade.
Economic Development	4/9/2021	7:21am	6:38	MA	A multi-million-dollar construction project in Worcester is following a now-familiar pattern in Massachusetts. Minority-owned businesses were largely shut out of construction contracts at Polar Park, the new home of the Worcester Red Sox.
Education	4/22/2021	6:22am 8:22am	6:45	MA	A growing number of higher-ed leaders and economists are concluding that the country's education system perpetuates racial and economic disparities, leading to greater inequality. More and more employers say they're dropping degree requirements for some jobs, to diversify their staffs and gain a market advantage.

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Education	4/28/2021	6:21am 8:21am	7:01	MA	Wealthy private colleges in Massachusetts hold billions of dollars in their endowments, and invest that money to make it grow. Schools won't say how much of the investments go to financial firms owned by people of color. WGBH's Kirk Carapezza reports that advocates are pushing colleges to diversify their investment strategies.
Education	5/25/2021	4:51pm	4:55	MA	Students at Western New England University's School Of Law will soon have to pass course in anti-racism and cultural competency in order to graduate. Dean Sudha Setty says the murder of George Floyd and racial justice protests last summer prompted deep discussion of how to better prepare students for what she calls "lawyering in the real world."
Education	6/22/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:04	MA	Most students in Massachusetts will put virtual learning behind them next year. But for some high school students in rural parts of the state who want to take Advanced Placement science courses, remote classes will be the only option.
Energy & Environment	4/23/2021	6:34am 8:34am	4:22	CT	That recycling you put out each week may not be going where you think. Because of contamination in curbside bins, the city of Hartford is now redirecting most of its recycling to a nearby incinerator---which is both wasteful and expensive.
Energy & Environment	4/30/2021	6:45am 8:45am	4:41	MA	The coastal communities around New Orleans are threatened by sea-level rise. Louisiana has a plan to address the problem: re-route the Mississippi River and use its mud to restore wetlands that buffer the region against storms and flooding. The plan's success depends in part on a Massachusetts research lab.

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Energy & Environment	5/12/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:23	MA	As Massachusetts aims for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, a growing number of residents are making more sustainable choices in the own lives---and in their deaths. "Green burials" have risen in popularity and more cemeteries in the region are making them available.
Energy & Environment	5/14/2021	6:34am 8:34am	6:29	MA	Two reporters teamed up for a series of stories on what academics call 'charismatic carbon,' or forest offsets. The focus was on California---but Mass Audubon is also involved. The conservation nonprofit received millions of dollars by saying it could heavily log nearly 10-thousand acres of its forests if it wanted to. Lisa Song of ProPublica explained how polluters reduce their CO2 emissions as cheaply as possible using carbon offsets.
Energy & Environment	5/26/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:17	NH	Researchers at the University of New Hampshire are studying new ways to make syrup out of the northern forest. Not from maple trees---but birches, beeches, sycamores and more. They want to create new markets for an industry that now depends on just one kind of tree, leaving it vulnerable to disease and climate change.
Energy & Environment	6/23/2021	7:34am	6:05	VT	Move over, cicadas---there's a new pest in town. The northeast has largely been spared the emergence of the 17-year cicadas causing noisy hassles elsewhere, but the region is home to another cyclical menace that has the potential to do lasting damage: caterpillars.

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Justice, Law & Public Safety	4/2/2021	6:45am 8:45am	4:54	MA	The vast majority of police departments around the nation have their officers use body cameras or dashboard cameras. But not in Massachusetts, where fewer than 20 police departments use body-cams and fewer still use dash-cams.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	4/6/2021	6:34am 8:34am	5:38	MA	A commission in Northampton, Massachusetts, has suggested major changes to the city's policing approach. The police chief is pushing back on some parts---but not all.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	5/19/2021	6:34am 8:34am	8:12	MA	Shortly after taking office, Berkshire County District Attorney Andrea Harrington announced a policy shift. Prosecutors would stop requesting bail in most nonviolent cases. Now, a couple of years later, only a few defendants are held on bail. But there's been a sharp increase in the use of another legal maneuver to keep people behind bars before trial.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	6/15/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:38	MA	The school department in Springfield, Massachusetts, is entering into an agreement that gives police access to surveillance camera footage recorded inside and outside of public school buildings. One of the goals is to give police a real-time view of what's occurring during a school emergency. But giving police access to the cameras has unleashed a debate on what makes schools safe.



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Justice, Law & Public Safety	6/15/2021	4:51pm	8:12	MA	The US Conference of Catholic Bishops is meeting this week on a range of issues. Among the newer faces at the virtual conference will be William Byrne of the Springfield Diocese. Byrne took over as bishop last December as the diocese was still dealing with the aftermath of sexual abuse cases and cover-ups. Last month he released an expanded list of 61 priests and lay employees accused of abuse. NEPM's Kari Njiri asked Byrne about the process.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	6/16/2021	7:50am	8:12	MA	The US Conference of Catholic Bishops is meeting this week on a range of issues. Among the newer faces at the virtual conference will be William Byrne of the Springfield Diocese. Byrne took over as bishop last December as the diocese was still dealing with the aftermath of sexual abuse cases and cover-ups. Last month he released an expanded list of 61 priests and lay employees accused of abuse. NEPM's Kari Njiri asked Byrne about the process.
Politics & Public Policy	4/1/2021	6:34am 8:34am	5:56	MA	People have been making the case for reparations for black Americans for decades, and there are signs of forward movement. President Biden has expressed support for a federal bill that would study the issue, and the new covid-19 relief legislation includes several billion dollars to help black farmers. In New England, some groups are hoping to build on such momentum with targeted efforts.
Politics & Public Policy	4/2/2021	5:51pm	9:55	MA	The Short List: Massachusetts schools will reopen next week for in-person learning; a look back at how Springfield has handled the pandemic over the past year; getting vaccinated remains difficult in the state.

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Politics & Public Policy	4/5/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: most Massachusetts public elementary schools reopen today for full-time in-person learning, with officials arguing that covid transmission is largely not occurring in schools; the state's top finance deputy will brief lawmakers on the dizzying amounts and varieties of federal aid now available; debate continues on the state and national levels about student loan debt forgiveness.
Politics & Public Policy	4/7/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:43	MA	Again this week, we learn that Massachusetts tax collections have again exceeded expectations, which may suggest that the state's finances are in good shape despite the pandemic. But Evan Horowitz of the Center For State Policy Analysis at Tufts University says the answer is more than just a simple yes or no.
Politics & Public Policy	4/12/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: State lawmakers will focus on responding to new covid-19 variants; the Health Equity Committee created to address health disparities for underserved communities has been missing recent report deadlines; legislators voice concerns about being left out of the loop in allocating federal relief funds
Politics & Public Policy	4/16/2021	5:51pm	9:35	MA	The Short List: Western Mass facing a shortage of therapists and beds for children dealing with mental health crises; Springfield public schools see rise in graduation rates, decline in dropouts; coping with covid-19 "statistics fatigue"

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Politics & Public Policy	4/19/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: with 2 million Massachusetts residents now fully vaccinated against the coronavirus and eligibility expanding to everyone over 16, is the state confident that vaccine supply will meet demand? A preview of the House Ways & Means Committee's budget deliberations; the process of legislative redistricting gets underway despite some census information still not being available.
Politics & Public Policy	4/21/2021	6:45am 8:45am	4:33	MA	President Biden's 2-trillion-dollar infrastructure plan lays out his vision of better transit, broadband, and more. Members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation discuss which local improvements they're seeking to add to the list.
Politics & Public Policy	4/23/2021	5:51pm	9:55	MA	The Short List: Judge orders Springfield mayor to appoint a police commission; Hartford struggles with contaminated recyclables; Pittsfield city councillor found in violation of covid-19 rules at a bar she owns
Politics & Public Policy	4/26/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: The Massachusetts House begins budget debate this week, with much being done remotely; the Senate's proposed bond bill for a new Holyoke Soldiers' Home comes in at \$200 million more than the House version; controversy continues in the state over use of the Johnson & Johnson single-shot covid vaccine.
Politics & Public Policy	4/30/2021	4:51pm	9:45	MA	The Short List: Massachusetts announces further reopening steps; some state legislative districts could be getting larger; Connecticut ends religious exemption for vaccines; revised traffic safety laws proposed in Massachusetts

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Politics & Public Policy	5/3/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: As covid-19 metrics move in the right direction, what will guide the governor's moves towards an August 1 reopening? With vaccination now open to all over age 16, are there any issues tied to supply-and-demand? And a look at Governor Baker's pitch for increased vocational-education funding, with an eye to especially aiding black and Latino residents whose jobs were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.
Politics & Public Policy	5/7/2021	4:51pm	9:58	MA	The Short List: Massachusetts shifts vaccination strategy; evictions on the rise; a crowded mayoral contest shaping up in Holyoke; proposed Springfield bio-mass plant is dealt another setback.
Politics & Public Policy	5/10/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: the latest covid-reopening steps include live theater being permitted; the state Unemployment Commission will hold its initial meeting; the new head of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home has decided not to take the job after all, amid ongoing State House wrangling over funding for the new Soldiers' Home facility.
Politics & Public Policy	5/14/2021	4:51pm	10:11	MA	The Short List: opioid overdose deaths on the rise in the past year; Hampden County's vaccination rate still lags behind the rest of Massachusetts; lawmakers propose an end to religious exemptions for vaccines; former Holyoke mayor doesn't donate any remaining campaign funds to city organizations

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Politics & Public Policy	5/17/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: after the CDC announced that the fully vaccinated could stop wearing masks in many cases, Governor Baker applauded the news and said he will issue an update on state rules this week; the state's elections law committee meets this week to consider whether to keep mail and absentee voting procedures permanent; House and Senate lawmakers have agreed on a consensus bill to fund construction of a new Holyoke Soldiers' Home.
Politics & Public Policy	5/24/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: Massachusetts is less than a week away from a major lifting of covid restrictions and a lot of uncertainty remains; legislators will have to decide which restrictions, if any, may be extended; Governor Baker says he has no intention of following other Republican governors and eliminating the \$300-a-week federal unemployment boost; and how will casino regulators address covid issues among patrons?
Politics & Public Policy	6/2/2021	7:45am	1:45	CT	Connecticut lawmakers have finally gotten an expanded gaming bill through the legislature. It's even been approved by the governor. But it doesn't mean state residents can now place bets on this week's Bruins-Islanders playoff series.
Politics & Public Policy	6/4/2021	4:51pm	9:35	MA	The Short List: Ten years since the Springfield tornado; the Springfield Diocese expands its list of credible sexual-abuse allegations; mask rules and mask comfort levels

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Politics & Public Policy	6/7/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: lawmakers continue their push for the so-called "millionaire's surtax," with a vote planned for this week on whether it will be submitted as a referendum; with an end to the pandemic state of emergency approaching, there is some debate about allowing municipal bodies to keep meeting virtually; the state's Republican Committee will meet this week to decide on changes to bylaws and convention rules.
Politics & Public Policy	6/9/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:32	MA	A new study finds that when an employee asks for workplace accommodations because of a pregnancy, in many case she'll be fired. UMass researchers examining years of state and federal data found that workplace-based sex discrimination is a persistent problem, despite federal protections. A bill pending in Congress would enact further safeguards.
Politics & Public Policy	6/11/2021	4:51pm	9:56	MA	The Short List: senior citizens' group calls for dismissal of Springfield police commissioner; questions surround a state senator's actual residence; Berkshire County D-A seeks to have a judge removed from the bench; what improving covid-19 numbers could mean for the summer travel season
Politics & Public Policy	6/14/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: A hearing is slated this week on almost 20 different bills addressing sports betting; the Covid-19 state of emergency expires June 15---will legislators extend some of the temporary measures such as virtual municipal meetings? And drama continues within the Massachusetts GOP as its chairman faces criticism for his handling of anti-gay remarks made by a state committee member.

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Politics & Public Policy	6/18/2021	4:51pm	9:42	MA	The Short List: Massachusetts begins a vaccine lottery; Springfield public schools giving police access to some surveillance video from schools; Connecticut is on the path to legalizing marijuana
Politics & Public Policy	6/21/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: the governor and legislature battle over who will allocate \$5-billion in federal relief aid; some confusion has arisen over whether mask rules will stay in effect for school pupils this fall; the state education board meets this week to consider revised rules for vocational school admission, with access and equity issues in the forefront.
Politics & Public Policy	6/28/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: the governor has filed an interim budget in case lawmakers miss their deadline; the final part of the state's paid family and medical leave law takes effect this week; registration will open soon for the state's "Vaxmillions" lottery for coronavirus-vaccinated residents.
Public Health	4/6/2021	5:44pm	4:07	MA	More communities in western Massachusetts are in the 'red zone,' at high risk for covid-19, and there has been a bump in cases statewide. Dr. Mark Keroack of Baystate Health says it feels like a surge.
Public Health	4/14/2021	7:34am 5:20pm	8:40	MA	The pandemic continues to take a serious toll on the emotional health of children and teens. In western Massachusetts, a surge in kids needing acute psychiatric care has exposed a disturbing fact: these services are in short supply. In the first of a 3-part series, NEPM's Ben James reports that hospital emergency rooms are bearing the brunt of a mental health crisis.

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Public Health	4/15/2021	7:50am 5:20pm	8:22	MA	A few dozen new youth psychiatric beds are scheduled to become available in Holyoke and Springfield in the coming weeks. That means shorter wait times for children and teens experiencing mental health emergencies, which have grown during the pandemic. But as NEPM's Ben James reports in part 2 of our series on youth mental health, there is a limit to the problems that acute psychiatric care can treat.
Public Health	4/16/2021	7:50am 4:50pm	8:09	MA	The pandemic has exposed long-term deficiencies in mental health care for children and teens. These include a shortage of youth psychiatric hospital beds, and a bureaucratic system that's difficult for parents to navigate. In the third and final story of our series on youth mental health, NEPM's Ben James looks at why there are so few child therapists.
Public Health	4/27/2021	6:34am 8:34am	5:19	MA	The pandemic has affected everyone, but there is consensus that communities of color---especially black and Hispanic---have been affected the most. However, in Massachusetts the supporting data can be hard to pin down. Advocates say it's important to work on reducing health-care disparities regardless.
Public Health	5/5/2021	6:45am 8:45am	6:13	MA	Not too long ago the news cycle focused intently on the spread of the corona virus, and then we were shocked by the daily case counts of covid-19 in western Massachusetts. At this moment there are still people getting infected and dying---covid is not gone. Dr. Mark Keroack, CEO of Baystate Health, updates the situation in the region.



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Public Health	5/28/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:33	MA	Although Massachusetts has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country, Hampden County has the lowest rate in the state, with major racial and ethnic disparities among who is getting the shot. Health departments are focused on making the vaccines as visible and convenient as possible for hard-to-reach populations---but that's often not enough.
Public Health	6/3/2021	6:20am 8:20am	4:00	MA	The technology in Moderna and Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccines could one day help treat chronic diseases. That's if scientists can solve one big question: how to make the genetic code, or RNA, behind those vaccines stay in the body for more than a few days. WBUR's Angus Chen reports on a new startup in Massachusetts whose founders think they have found a way to harness the power of RNA.
Science	6/1/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:58	MA	It's the 10th anniversary of multiple tornadoes that tore through western Massachusetts. One reached wind speeds of nearly 160 miles per hour, levelling homes, snapping trees and killing three people. NEPM's Nancy Cohen, who was on the scene right after the storm hit, reports on what's known about the likelihood of another tornado hitting the region again.