Project Brief: Northeastern University COVID-19 Dashboard

I was tasked with building and designing the public-facing dashboard reporting data from Northeastern's on-campus COVID-19 testing program. This was a high-profile, high-stakes project with major stakeholder involvement.

Most universities used out-of-the-box data visualization software for their dashboards that loaded slowly and wasn't easily readable, especially on mobile screens. Ours was custom-coded using D3, Svelte and CSS, with a Google Sheets back-end. I used responsive design techniques, with clarity and transparency as a paramount goal.

I gave a lot of consideration to design consistency and practicality. For example, individual chart color palettes had to be friendly to colorblind users. At the same time, I tried to stay consistent page-wide with colors, for example that the powder blue color for negative tests wasn't reused for, say, students-only positive cases. Though some components of the dashboard were ultimately dropped from my recommended design, it was a great challenge to make something within the technical, practical, and professional constraints.