



## TOWN OF WELLESLEY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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[www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirusinfo](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirusinfo)

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### MARCH 11, 2020 – DAILY BRIEFING

#### **Wellesley Cancels Large Gatherings and Restricts Council on Aging Programs and Wellesley Free Library Programs**

#### **Wellesley Schools Cancels All Non-WPS Events/Rentals, Field Trips, Banquets**

The Town of Wellesley is moving forward with stricter precautionary measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have determined cases of COVID-19 in the State are rising.

Today, MDPH notified the Wellesley Health Department (WHD) of two additional presumed positive cases of COVID-19 in Wellesley, bringing our total number of cases to five. These two additional cases do not impact Wellesley Public Schools. All cases are isolated at home following MDPH protocols and are being monitored daily by WHD.

The Town has already canceled non-essential Government meetings. Any public meeting that does not require Town Meeting action or permitting authority will not take place. Examples of non-essential meetings include: neighborhood meetings, public study groups, task forces, meetings of non-permitting boards and committees. Examples of essential Government meetings include: Zoning, Planning, Wetlands, Board of Selectmen meetings, School Committee meetings.

The Tolles Parsons Center remains open to provide services and support for our senior citizen population. Effective tomorrow, Thursday, March 12, specific restrictions will be in place for all Council on Aging (COA) programs. Large group programs will be reviewed to determine if they are safe to continue. Participants should call the COA at 781-235-3961 in advance to check on programming. The COA lunch program has changed to allow for small group lunches.

We are urging our senior citizen population to continue to be vigilant, avoid large gatherings, practice social distancing and good hygiene, and to stay home as much as possible to limit exposure to Coronavirus.

Effective tomorrow, Thursday, March 12, all Wellesley Free Libraries (WFL) adult and children's programs at the Main Branch Library, the Hills Branch Library and the Fells

Branch Library will be modified. The Libraries are open for daily business, however activities and room rentals will continue on a case-by-case basis, avoiding large group meetings and continuing CDC best practices. WFL encourages use of our “virtual branch” at [www.wellesleyfreelibrary.org](http://www.wellesleyfreelibrary.org) from which E-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines, and downloadable and streaming audio and video, databases and more are available 24/7. Library patrons are also asked to call the Libraries in advance to check the status of all programs.

At this time Wellesley Public Schools will remain open to educate our students during regular school hours. Based on the current COVID-19 activity and status in our community, it’s preferred for students to remain in schools during the day, rather than dispersing throughout the community and increasing the overall risk for all residents.

However, effective tomorrow, Thursday, March 12, Wellesley Public Schools will cancel all non-WPS afternoon and evening events/rentals that occur in WPS buildings. WCCC afterschool childcare will continue on a normal schedule. Additionally, effective Friday, March 13, the following types of activities will be canceled until further notice: all field trips, dinners/banquets, and performances.

At this time, WPS will continue to hold the following types of activities: after school tutoring, IVEP lessons, student clubs, athletics and rehearsals. Spectators will not be permitted at any indoor athletic events. In addition, after school enrichment programs offered by the Recreation Department at elementary schools will continue until further notice.

Working closely with the State and WHD, the Recreation Department will be running, modifying, postponing, and/or canceling future programs and/or large gatherings. For Recreation programs that ARE NOT CANCELED, participants can expect to receive emails regarding information reducing the risk of COVID-19. A daily list of program offerings and cancellations can be found at [www.wellesleyrec.org](http://www.wellesleyrec.org)

We realize these decisions and restrictions have a significant impact and far-reaching ramifications for our community and understand the disappointment, frustration and uncertainty that is created. However, we believe these steps are necessary given the guidance we are receiving from the State and the current status of COVID-19.

As the Coronavirus outbreak is extremely fluid, we are reminding the community that any decisions may change at a moment’s notice pending updated guidance from the State and WHD. We urge everyone in the community to review plans for alternate work schedules, child care, daytime activities and other impacts of this situation. Also, please continue to practice good hygiene and make the decisions that are best for you and your families.

We ask for your flexibility, support and understanding as we work to best address the needs of our entire community at this difficult time.

Please continue to visit our Coronavirus Information website for updated information: [www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirusinfo](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirusinfo)