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MARCH 19: COVID-19 DAILY BRIEFING

COMMUNITY COOPERATION URGED, BUILDING INSPECTIONS HALTED, WATER AND SEWER MESSAGE

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has confirmed that COVID-19 is spreading throughout the Commonwealth. While the number of cases in Wellesley remains stable with seven positive cases, as testing increases, there may be more cases in our Town.

To encourage a coordinated effort of support and cooperation throughout our community, today Town officials, Wellesley Public Schools, the Wellesley Health Department, and Wellesley Police and Fire Departments launched the **Wellesley Will Be Well** campaign, [#wellesleywillbewell](#). We are asking all residents, of all ages, to do their part in mounting a coordinated, cooperated effort to keep Wellesley safe and healthy.

While the Town is not aware of any shelter-in-place plans intended for our community, residents need to adhere to restrictions and remain well informed. Please make sure you are obtaining information from trusted sources. For information relating to the Commonwealth's response to COVID-19, go to the [Mass.gov website](#) or call the [Massachusetts 2-1-1 line](#) for information, resources and referrals. Operators are staffing a 24/7 hotline to answer questions and translators are available in multiple languages.

Visit the [Town of Wellesley website](#) for daily briefings, information and updates specific to Wellesley.

New information today:

- **Wellesley Police Notice for Public Land:** The Wellesley Police Department and the Natural Resources Commission are asking everyone to stay away from all areas closed to the public. [Read more.](#)
- **Wellesley Board of Health Order to Cease Building Inspections:** Effective immediately all non-emergency interior building inspections are canceled. Any necessary inspections must be approved by the Wellesley Health Department to ensure proper protocols are followed.
- **Water and Sewer Division Message:** The Water and Sewer Division is reminding residents that flushing wipes, paper towels, and similar products down toilets clogs sewers and causes backups and overflows to home plumbing and the Town system. This poses an additional public health risk. Even products labeled as "flushable" will clog pipes. Please dispose of these items in the trash.
- **Wellesley Public Schools Update:** WPS sent a message to all families with information on remote learning plans and a website that will be live on March 20; information about the school calendar, testing schedules, and the rescheduling of athletics and activities; and additional details about continued plans for the WPS meal program. See the [Wellesley Public Schools website](#).

Community Support Efforts: Through the **Wellesley Will Be Well** campaign [#wellesleywillbewell](#), we are asking residents to show the ways in which we are all working together to assist others – neighbors, senior citizens, students and children out of school, restaurants, and retail businesses.

- We continue to update our [list of local restaurants](#) and will be adding retail outlets in the coming days, with hours and current services provided;
- Wellesley Recreation Department is running a What's Up Wellesley Challenge ([#wuwc](#)) for families on the Recreation Facebook page. This initiative features creative contests, weekly winners and prizes. Rules and details available through [Wellesley Recreation](#).

Many other groups and neighborhoods in Town are organizing scavenger hunts and activities to help keep our community connected.

During these stressful times, all of us can help take care of ourselves and each other. Some suggestions for mental health help:

- Take a break from constant news monitoring about COVID-19
- Take care of your body, eat healthy, get some physical activity, and enough sleep.
- Deep breathing, stretching and meditating helps.
- Take time to unwind and do activities that you enjoy.
- Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you're feeling.

Please continue to watch for updates from the Town as we all work to ensure that Wellesley Will Be Well.

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