



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MARCH 23, 2020

THIS IS THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE ENTIRE TOWN OF WELLESLEY AND IS SHARED ACROSS ALL COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORMS

The Coronavirus pandemic is widespread throughout Massachusetts. Here's what you need to know:

Governor Baker Issues Emergency Order.

Effective at Noon on Tuesday, March 24, all businesses and organizations that do not provide "COVID-19 Essential Services" are closed to workers, customers and the public until Noon on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. Read the [emergency order](#). Some [designated businesses and organizations providing essential services](#) and work related to COVID-19 may continue to operate. These include grocery stores, pharmacies, and restaurants that are providing food/ beverages on a take-out or delivery basis only.

Town of Wellesley Orders Remain In Effect.

All Town of Wellesley restrictions remain in place and may supersede the State orders. These are enforced by the Health Department and the Wellesley Police Department and include:

- **STAY AT HOME** as much as possible.
- **No congregating:** Gatherings of any number are not encouraged, except family members.
- **All recreation facilities are closed:** This includes parks, playgrounds, playing fields, and the Hunnewell Field athletic areas (including the Wellesley High School track and fields).
- **All municipal buildings and Wellesley Public Schools are closed.**
- **All early childhood education centers and family childcare providers are closed**, except for [emergency exempt childcare programs](#).
- **Wellesley College buildings and facilities are closed:** Only approved College staff and students are allowed on Campus; please follow social distancing guidance when at Lake Waban.
- **NO public access is allowed in any Town buildings**, essential personnel is limited; employees are working remotely.
- **All [Town government meetings](#) are taking place remotely.**
- **Limited inspections:** All non-emergency interior Building and Assessor inspections are cancelled; all smoke and CO inspections are deferred.
- **No walk-ins for financial transactions:** All financial transactions, bill payment and licensing MUST be done [online](#) or dropped in the drop-box in front of Town Hall.

Protect Our First Responders.

A message from Fire Chief Rick DeLorie and Police Chief Jack Pilecki - We urging the community to follow the stay at home advisory and limit the risk of accident and virus exposure. Keep our first responders healthy so they can continue to address all emergencies.

The Wellesley Fire Department and Wellesley Police Department have new protocols to safeguard all officers and first responders.

- For emergencies, meet responders at the door and inform them of any residents with flu-like symptoms.
- **All stations CLOSED to the public:** Visits/tours and food donations are no longer allowed.

- **The SHARPS collection program temporarily suspended:** For the protection of the staff at the Recycling & Disposal Facility, please DO NOT DISPOSE of sharps in household trash! Hold on to your sharps until we are able to resume the collection program.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) donations welcome:** To donate PPE (N95 masks, surgical masks, non-latex medical gloves, Tyvek suits, Tyvek gowns, or Tyvek coveralls for first responders or area hospitals, **please call the Fire Department at 781-235-1300**. This program is **PICK-UP ONLY**. Instructions will be provided for residents to leave products in sealed bags at front doors on specific dates.

Other Important Information.

For Town of Wellesley Assistance at Town Hall call: 781-431-1019

Assessor's Office ex: 2275 or email assessor@wellesleyma.gov

Building Dept. ex: 2226 or 2228

NRC ex: 2294 or email nrc@wellesleyma.gov

Parking Clerk (parking tickets) ex: 2264

Planning Dept. ex: 2232 or email planning@wellesleyma.gov

Selectmen's Office ex: 2201 email sel@wellesleyma.gov

Town Clerk's Office ex: 2252

Treasurer's Office (tax, excise payment questions) ex: 2266

Visit the [Services](#) or Directory tabs on the Town of Wellesley website to learn more.

For Department of Public Works information (including Engineering, Wellesley Municipal Light Plant, Water & Sewer, and Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF) call: 781-235-7600

- Read [RDF restrictions](#) for all users
- Read [Water & Sewer response information](#)
- Read [Engineering street permit information](#)

For Council on Aging assistance call: 781-235-3961

For Wellesley Free Libraries assistance email: wellesley@minlib.net Monday thru Friday, 9 AM-5 PM

- All book drops will be locked/closed effective March 23; please hold onto Library materials
- Fines will be suspended during closure
- Check the Library website for updated information, live-streamed storytime and enhanced e-content

For Wellesley Housing Authority: Staff is working remotely but will be responding to calls/emails.

Call: 781-235-0223 or visit the [Wellesley Housing Authority website](#).

- For Interim rent adjustments contact Jackie Sullivan at jsullivan@wellesleyhousing.org
- Maintenance staff will only be responding to emergency or urgent work orders.

Know the facts and get your information from trusted sources.

- [Town of Wellesley website](#); sign up using the Subscribe to News button on our homepage and check "News and Announcements" (please check your SPAM/Junk folders to confirm your account)
- [Mass.gov website](#) for information on the Commonwealth's response to COVID-19
- <https://mass211.org/>, a confidential 24/7 hotline for resources and referrals

Use sanctioned resources to ensure safety and well-being.

- Wellesley Health Department [Coronavirus Information webpages](#)
- [COVID-19 Mental Health Resources pages](#); [Coronavirus FAQs](#)