



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: APRIL 6, 2020

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

Visit Wellesley's new Coronavirus Information Hub at

www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus

Health Department COVID-19 Case Update.

Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts: 13,837 **New Cases Today:** 1,337

Total cases in Norfolk County: 1,382

Total cases in Wellesley: 31 (6 new)

The Health Department wants to stress to residents that the next two weeks are critical to stem the COVID-19 outbreak. Please continue to stay home and adhere to all restrictions. Local case numbers may not accurately reflect the infections in our community. Individuals who are not showing symptoms of the virus may still be spreading it.

Officials are urging the community to follow the Centers for Disease Control recommendation to wear non-medical masks or cloths over faces as a precaution when going out. This is especially important in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores and pharmacies, and especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. The cloth face coverings can be made from household items such as scarves, bandanas, and even t-shirts. The CDC is not recommending surgical or N-95 masks, as these critical supplies must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders. [Read more from the CDC.](#)

***Please remember to properly dispose of used masks and gloves in trash receptacles.**

State Launches COVID-19 Relief Fund.

Governor Baker and First Lady Lauren Baker announced a relief fund to provide resources to front line workers and vulnerable populations. Money raised will be directed to local area foundations serving communities with the greatest need. [Learn more or make a donation.](#)

WPS Releases Updated Remote Learning Plan

Wellesley Public Schools released Remote Learning Plan 2.0 for students to follow until school resumes on May 4. The plan includes additional guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and recommendations to support social and emotional health along with academic growth. A separate Technology Guide Overview provides details remote learning expectations, while giving parents and students flexibility during this unprecedented time. Read the [WPS Remote Learning Plan 2.0](#). Read the [WPS Technology Guide Overview](#).

The School Committee is also considering cancelling April vacation to prevent a break in the remote learning process. The Committee will discuss this issue during its meeting on Tuesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m.

#WellesleyWillBeWell

Supporting Wellesley Call Center.

Town employees are staffing a call center for residents in need of services as a result of Covid-19. The team can assist with non-emergency COVID-19 issues such as medical questions, securing food, prescription delivery, financial assistance or a listening ear. Callers will be connected to appropriate town resources or certified volunteers who can help residents access these services. **For help, call 781-239-0256 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.**

Social and Physical Distancing Guidelines.

Please continue to follow the Town guidelines on social and physical distancing, even when outdoors. The Wellesley Police Department is frequently checking popular outdoor locations to make sure residents are not congregating. **Please call the WPD non-emergency line at 781-235-1212 with concerns.**

WHAT IS SOCIAL DISTANCING?



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Wellesley Health Department

Social distancing is our main strategy for slowing the spread of COVID-19. Practice effective social distancing by physically staying away from non-household members and avoiding all gatherings. The Health Department advises that you **STAY HOME** and perform daily activities remotely, if possible.

If you must go out: Cover your face in public, stay at least 6 feet away from others and avoid physical contact. Don't touch your face and wash your hands as soon as you return home.

Keep a Daily Routine Work from home, participate remotely in workout classes, book clubs, or streaming activities for kids. For more visit wellesleyma.gov/recreation .	Stop Child Playdates No gatherings with anyone outside your household including sleepovers, birthday parties, picnics, etc. Have virtual dates instead!
Protect the Most Vulnerable Create a plan for elderly relatives, parents, grandparents, or neighbors and inform them of the high risk and concerns about COVID-19. Try to obtain a 3 month supply of medications.	Cancel In-Person Meetings You cannot have friends or family over for meals or parties. Don't meet up in parking lots. You should not share food or drinks with others.
Enjoy Indoor Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read a Good Book• Listen to Music• Clean Out a Closet• Cook or Bake• Have Game Night• Facetime with Friends• Check on Neighbors• Stream Movies/TV• Phone a Friend	Reschedule Non-Essential Doctor Appointments Do not go to the dentist, chiropractor, massage therapist, acupuncturist, etc. unless it is absolutely necessary at this time.
Go Grocery Shopping Keep trips brief, don't panic buy or hoard food, and try to avoid busy hours.	Postpone Non-Essential Work Around Your House No workers or visitors should be allowed inside or around your house, including neighbors! This means no house cleaners, chefs, babysitters, dog walkers, etc. Please continue to pay these providers if you are able.
Enjoy Outdoor Activities Running, walking, biking, hiking, yard work, and other outdoor activities are fine. Follow Wellesley guidelines and avoid groups. All dogs should be leashed in public. For more, visit wellesleyma.gov/nrc .	Postpone Non-Essential Plans No hair or nail appointments or other services, no trips or travel plans.
Order Takout or Food Delivery Make sure you are following public health guidelines and keep your distance when picking up food, or have it left at your door. If you can, make your own food and eat at home. More at wellesleyma.gov/1477 .	Avoid Congregating in Public Non-essential businesses are closed to workers and the public. Don't park in closed or crowded parking lots. Avoid shared spaces such as mass transit systems, elevators, laundromats, etc. Please don't socialize when at the RDF. When walking or exercising, please keep moving!

Use common sense. Social distancing can be difficult - these guidelines are temporary and can help you stay safe. So, please maintain your distance!



To learn more visit the COVID-19 Information Hub
www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus
or call 781-235-0135