



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: APRIL 13, 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: 26,867 **New Cases Today:** 1,392

Total cases in Norfolk County: 2,838

Total cases in Wellesley: 66 (23 new)

Health Department officials are reporting a major spike in the number of new Coronavirus cases in Wellesley. Our community and the entire Commonwealth has entered into the surge phase of the outbreak. It is critical that everyone in the community follow the restrictions in place to protect themselves and everyone in our community. **PLEASE!**

- **Remember to stay home as much as possible;**
- **Stay outside in your own yard with only your own family members;**
- **If you must go out, please wear a mask or cloth face covering;**
- **Do not congregate in open spaces, on trails, in conservation areas, or in parking lots.**

The Board of Selectmen is grateful to everyone in the community for the dedication in complying with these restrictions. It is encouraging to see everyone, of all ages, working to keep each other safe and healthy. Thank you for your patience when shopping, when waiting in line, when making trips to the RDF; for your understanding when staying away from our parks, fields and public areas and staying home; and for your compassion for one another. We will get through this, together.

Essential Construction Criteria Defined.

Town officials announced specific criteria for construction projects that will be allowed under the [Governor's essential services order](#). Construction may continue in Wellesley only if the project meets the Executive Order's definition of essential construction; the project currently has a valid permit issued prior to April 14, 2020; and the project complies with the Safety Guidelines and Procedures for Construction Sites issued by the Commonwealth including: strict social distancing, hand hygiene, employee health protection, and site risk prevention measures. Non-complaint projects will be handled by third-party inspectors with penalties for project owners. [Read the Essential Construction document here.](#)

Real Estate and Property Tax Due Dates Extended.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to adopt State legislation extending due dates for the 4th quarter FY2020 Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills that were just mailed out. The "Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting From COVID-19" gives cities and towns this local option. Due dates for tax payments and applications for property tax exemptions/deferrals are extended until **June 1, 2020**. Tax revenue supports Town of Wellesley operations. We encourage residents to pay their bills earlier than the extended due dates listed below and appreciate your support during this difficult time. [Read the Tax Notification here.](#)

#WellesleyWillBeWell

Residents Donate 2,500+ Masks.

Thank you to a group of 50 residents from Wellesley, Newton, Needham and other communities who are sewing masks and scrub caps for first responders, health care workers, grocery store workers, nursing homes, and others. With the severe PPE shortage, these handmade masks are available for individuals to cover their faces to keep themselves and others safe. This weekend, the group donated 95 masks to the Wellesley Fire Department and Wellesley Police Department, and another 150 masks to Wellesley College, and more supplies to other organizations in our community. Thank you "COVID-19 Sewing – Working Together"!



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