



## **CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MAY 1, 2020**

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Visit Wellesley's Coronavirus Information Hub at [www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus)

### **Health Department COVID-19 Case Update.**

**Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts:** 64,311    **New Cases Today:** 2,106

**Total cases in Norfolk County:** 6,065

**Total cases in Wellesley:** 181\* (2 new) \*71 cases in long-term care facilities

For comprehensive information and daily updates on COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts, [view the Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Daily Dashboard.](#)

### **Executive Order Requiring Masks or Face Coverings in Public Places.**

Governor Baker today signed an order requiring face masks or cloth face coverings in public places, whether indoor or outdoor, where social distancing is not possible. This applies to both indoor and outdoor spaces. Exceptions to this order include children under the age of 2 and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition. This order is effective on Wednesday, May 6. [Read the Order here.](#) Specific requirements in the order apply to:

- All workers and customers of businesses and other organizations that are permitted to operate as defined COVID-19 Essential Businesses.
- All persons inside grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retail businesses.
- All persons using taxi, car, livery, ride-sharing or similar service or any means of mass public transit, or while within an enclosed or semi-enclosed transit stop or waiting area.

If a customer refuses to wear a mask for non-medical reasons, a business may decline entry to that individual. The order gives state and local Boards of Health and authorized agents the authority to enforce this law with the assistance of State and municipal police. A violation of the terms of this order may result in a \$300 fine.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has provided additional information and guidance on wearing a mask in public. [See that guidance here.](#)

### **Discussion Continues on Town Mask Order.**

As a result of the Governor's order, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health took no action on a Face Covering order for Wellesley. Officials will further review of the executive order this weekend and determine if additional clarification or guidance specific to a supplemental Wellesley mask order is needed. [Read the draft of the proposed Town of Wellesley Face Covering order here.](#) Both boards welcome further comments from residents on this issue. Please email [sel@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:sel@wellesleyma.gov)

Discussion on the Town order will take place on Monday, May 4, during the regular Board of Selectmen meeting. The Board of Health will join the Selectmen for this joint discussion at 6 p.m. [See the meeting agenda here.](#)

## **REMINDER: Leash Laws and Town Parkland Restrictions in Place.**

Town officials continue to remind residents about the current guidelines in place for all parks, trails and conservation areas. Dogs must be leashed at all times. Town parks, playing fields, playgrounds and sports areas remain closed. While trails and conservation areas are open, users must practice social distancing and not congregate. Please remember to keep moving as you enjoy the outdoors. [See guidelines from the Natural Resources Commission and Animal Control Officer Sue Webb.](#)

## **#WellesleyWillBeWell**

### **May is Mental Health Month.**

Mental health care is especially important during the ongoing Coronavirus crisis. Loneliness and situational depression resulting from isolation, anxiety about becoming ill, grief from losses, and economic security worries can have a negative impact on mental health. Resources are available. Call the Health Department to speak with a social worker; dial Massachusetts **2-1-1** and use the **CALL2Talk** resources. Use the [Massachusetts Network of Care, a searchable behavioral health directory of mental health services and organizations.](#) Find additional information on the Health Department's [Mental Health webpages.](#)

### **Donate to the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund.**

The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund has awarded the first round of grants to local non-profits providing critical programs to support our residents. More grants will be announced next week. The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund is a partnership between The Community Fund for Wellesley, an endowed fund of the Foundation for MetroWest (501 c3) and the Board of Selectmen. To make a donation or to learn more, please visit: [www.CFFW-COVID.org](http://www.CFFW-COVID.org)

### **Mask Up Wellesley.**

A close-up view of some of our hard-working Wellesley Health Department employees. The staff is working staggered shifts to keep healthy and safe as they track and monitor COVID-19 cases, work with restaurants and local businesses, and answer all health-related questions. Thank you to these health care heroes: Vivian Zeng, Environmental Health Specialist; Ann Marie McCauley, Public Health Nurse Supervisor; Ashley Denton, Nurse; and Steve Calichman, Environmental Health Specialist!



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