



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MAY 11, 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: 78,462    New Cases Today: 669

Total cases in Norfolk County: 7,004

Total cases in Wellesley: 199\* (2 new)

\*82 cases total in Wellesley 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 dashboard.](#)

### COVID-19 Antibody Testing.

The Health Department reports that to date, 24 people in Wellesley have received positive COVID-19 antibody tests. Some of these cases are individuals who may have been ill a few weeks ago, were never tested and have recovered, or are cases where individuals are asymptomatic. Antibody testing is a blood test that looks for evidence of past infection. Antibodies are proteins produced by the immune system in response to an invading bacteria or virus. The blood test for COVID-19 looks for antibodies specific to this coronavirus. While we are seeing more of these tests being done, because this virus is new and there is still much that is unknown, this information can't be used to determine if a person is immune to COVID-19 or able to return to work.

### Four-Phase Approach to Reopening Massachusetts.

The Baker-Polito Administration shared preliminary plans to reopen the Commonwealth and will follow a four-phase approach that will begin around May 18. [Read the reopening plan announcement.](#) The four phases are loosely called Start, Cautious, Vigilant, and the New Normal. Key details will be announced by May 18. The phased reopening plan is modeled after those in other states. [Read more information on the four-phased approach here.](#)

### Morses Pond Gate Open, Beach Closed.

To reduce parking issues along Turner Road, **effective on Wednesday, May 13**, the gate leading to Morses Pond will be open daily from 7 am to 6 pm to allow residents access to trails around the pond and the North 40 area. However, the Morses Pond beach and bathhouse areas, picnic area and playground remain temporarily CLOSED. There are no lifeguards on duty and swimming is off limits. Town officials hope this plan will balance the need for outdoor recreation with public health concerns about congregating and using facilities that are not properly sanitized. Officials will review these plans in the coming weeks and revise them if needed. As most trails around the pond are less than 6-feet wide, please wear masks when necessary and adhere to social distancing guidelines.

### Selectmen Hold Virtual Office Hours on May 12.

Speak with Board of Selectmen member Lise Olney via Zoom on May 12 from 10 am to Noon.

Residents are invited to share concerns, give feedback and ask questions about Town operations.

Please email [lolney@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:lolney@wellesleyma.gov) for a 15-minute time slot; you'll receive a confirmation with your Zoom meeting information.

## #WellesleyWillBeWell

### Fire Department Provides Medical-grade Masks for Most Vulnerable.

Senior citizens (ages 65 and older) and medically vulnerable residents can now request a KN95 mask from the Wellesley Fire Department through a program made possible by a grant from the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund. These masks are for high-risk activities including grocery shopping, doctor visits, outdoor recreation, etc. **Call Fire Department headquarters at 781-235-1300** to request a mask; a fire fighter will return your call to schedule a delivery and mask fitting. Thank you to resident John Schuller for being our mask "model." [Read the news release here.](#)



### HRS Community Support Forums starting May 13.

Two community support forums developed with grants from the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund are beginning on May 13. These forums are free and facilitated by clinicians from The Human Relations Service, Inc. (HRS) Wellesley's private, non-profit community mental health agency. Watch for more support forums coming soon.

- *Grandparenting from Afar, Wednesdays @ 1:30 PM via Zoom:*  
Stay connected with children and grandchildren. Email HRS clinician Linda Galper, [lgalper@hrshelps.org](mailto:lgalper@hrshelps.org) to participate.
- *Connecting Senior Citizens During Social Distancing, Wednesdays @ 11 AM by phone:*  
Discuss your concerns and find ways to feel less isolated. Call HRS clinician Allan Wyatt, Psy.D. at 508-276-1223 to participate.

### Vote Safe, Vote from Home!

The Town Clerk's office continues to process mail-in ballot requests for the 2020 local Town Election. So far, 2,095 voters have requested ballots by mail; more than 1,400 were sent out last week alone. This is the safest way to vote. Request your ballot from the Town Clerk's office, complete it at home and return it by mail or drop off ballots in the Town Hall drop box. A rescheduled local Election Day has not been announced yet. [Learn more here.](#)

### Food of Love Day.

Town of Wellesley departments received lunch from Sichuan Gourmet in Framingham and messages of support today from the Wellesley Chinese American Network and the Wellesley Chinese Language School. The delicious deliveries were part of Food of Love Day, a nationwide program providing food for hospitals and essential workers. Below are grateful employees from the Health Department, Municipal Light Plant, Planning Department, Town Clerk's office, and from Sichuan Gourmet. Thank you!

