



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MAY 18, 2020

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Visit Wellesley's Coronavirus Information Hub at www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus

Health Department COVID-19 Case Update.

Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts: 87,052 New Cases Today: 1,042

Total cases in Norfolk County: 7,524

Total cases in Wellesley: 204* (1 new)

*82 cases total in Wellesley long-term care facilities

Positive antibody tests: 2 new, 31 total

As Massachusetts and Wellesley begin to reopen, public health officials are closely monitoring six key markers to help guide reopening plans. These indicators must continue to show positive progress for the reopening phases to move forward. They are: COVID-19 positive test rate, number of individuals who died from COVID-19, number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals, healthcare system readiness (surge capacity), testing capacity, and contact tracing capabilities. This information is now included in the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Health officials know that reopening comes with the risk of additional virus surges and deaths. Residents should continue to follow the restrictions currently in place for wearing face coverings, practicing social distancing, and staying at home as much as possible.

Details on Reopening Plan for Massachusetts.

The Baker-Polito Administration released the Reopening Advisory Board's report with details on the data-driven, four-phased strategy to reopen businesses and activities while continuing to fight COVID-19. [Read the Reopening Massachusetts announcement here](#). Comprehensive information is available on the State's [Reopening website](#).

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health also released a new Safer-at-Home Advisory which asks residents to stay at home unless engaging in newly opened activities, to continue limiting the spread of COVID-19. [Read the Safer-at-Home Advisory here](#).

Phase 1 of the Reopening plan, **Start**, begins today and allows the following business activity: Essential Businesses that are already operating, Manufacturing and Construction (Note: The Building Department is reviewing construction guidance and will announce updates once that process is complete), and Places of Worship. Additional business activity allowed to begin on May 25 is: Offices and Laboratories, Retail (remote fulfillment and curbside only), Hair Salons, Car Washes, Pet Grooming, and expanded Elective Medical Procedures. This phase is expected to last at least three weeks.

Phase 2, of the Reopening plan, **Caution**, is expected to include in-store retail, restaurants and lodging (the limitations are under review), additional personal services (nail salons or day spas), campgrounds, playgrounds, public and community pools, athletic fields, limited youth sports (no games). Phase 3, **Vigilance**, is expected to include bars, gyms, museums, other arts & entertainment (other than nightclubs and large venues), youth sports with games and tournaments (with limited crowd sizes).

To reopen, all businesses must develop a written COVID-19 plan that outlines how each workplace will follow [Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards and protocols](#) to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Enforcement of these standards will be a combination of self-certification by businesses and local boards of health if needed. [More reopening information is available on the Town of Wellesley website.](#)

Vote Safe! Vote from Home Update.

Request a ballot by mail to vote in Wellesley's local election! So far, more than 3,300 residents, about 21% of all registered voters, have received a mailed ballot. Fill out the [Mail-in Early Voting application](#), complete your ballot safely at home and return it as soon as possible, by mailing it to the Town Clerk, or by dropping it in the drop box at Town Hall. [Read more Election information here.](#) Tomorrow, the Board of Selectmen will discuss plans and a possible date for the rescheduled Local Election. [Watch the meeting online at 5 p.m.](#)

Signage at Morses Pond.

A reminder that restrictions remain in place at Morses Pond – the trails are open; the beach is closed. The gate at Turner Road is open daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. so residents can access trails and not congregate. Strong winds this weekend damaged many of the signs leading to Morses Pond. These signs will be replaced as soon as possible, along with any damaged signs along Fuller Brook Park.

#WellesleyWillBeWell

Council on Aging Programs Televised by Wellesley Media.

Beginning this week, Wellesley senior citizens can watch specific programs on the Wellesley Media Community channel (Comcast 9 and Verizon 39). Program days and times are:

Mondays: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Thursdays: 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Mental Health Help.

May is Mental Health month – please seek help if you're feeling stressed or anxious. Talk to Health Department social worker Joyce Saret on Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. or on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. **Dial 781-489-4354.** Find more resources on the [Town of Wellesley website.](#)

Love Notes.

Some local students shared their thanks and love for much-needed school supplies purchased with a grant from the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund. The COVID-19 Relief Fund is a partnership between the Community Fund for Wellesley, an endowed fund of the Foundation for MetroWest (501c3), and the Board of Selectmen.

