



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: SEPTEMBER 30, 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)

**Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts:** 129,753

[View the COVID-19 daily dashboard.](#)

**Total confirmed positive cases in Wellesley:** 286 (1 new case)

**Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000:** 2.2 (past 14 days)

[Read the Weekly COVID-19 Public Health report.](#)

The Wellesley [Coronavirus Information Hub](#) includes an enhanced dashboard with data on Wellesley COVID-19 cases. This information is updated on Wednesdays with statistics from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The Hub also includes the [COVID-19 community level data map](#) with stoplight colors indicating COVID-19 risk levels by community: red (high risk), yellow (moderate risk), green and white (low risk). Wellesley remains in the **green** (low risk) category.

### Phase 3, Step 2 Reopening for Lower Risk Communities.

Governor Baker has announced that beginning on Monday, October 5, lower-risk communities such as Wellesley may move to the next step in Phase 3 of the plan to reopen Massachusetts. Wellesley Health Department officials are currently reviewing what this new step means for our community. In general, Step 2 expands the activities allowed for indoor and outdoor recreation businesses like trampoline parks or laser tag; permits fitting rooms to open in stores; increases the capacity for gyms, museums, and libraries to 50%; and other changes. Step 2 also includes revised outdoor gathering guidelines for event venues and in public settings. [Read more information and details here.](#)

### Expanded Restaurant Seating.

New restaurant rules went into effect on September 28 and allow for more diners at Wellesley restaurants. Restaurants may now seat up to 10 people at a table and may seat customers at the bar. Bars must still comply with local Wellesley liquor licensing laws, meaning that **food must be ordered along with any alcohol**. Staff working behind the bar must be at least six feet away and separated from customers by Plexiglas or another barrier. People seated at bars must be spaced six feet away from others not in their same group. Customers may not stand or wait around the bar area. All other COVID-19 restrictions about masks/face coverings, social distancing, and hygiene protocols remain in place.

### Drive-thru Community Flu Clinics.

The Health Department will hold three drive-thru flu clinics for Wellesley residents in October at the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant. The clinics are **appointment only** and residents must sign up in advance online at [www.wellesleyma.gov/fluclinic](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/fluclinic). Vaccinations will be offered to everyone ages 6 years and older. As a reminder, this year all school-aged children must be vaccinated for flu by December 31, 2020. Everyone is urged to be vaccinated to help lessen the impact of flu cases during the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. [Read flu clinic details here.](#)

## Wellesley Public Schools Hybrid Learning Begins.

[Wellesley Public Schools](#) moves to hybrid learning on October 1. The plan includes in-person and remote learning for all students K-12. Each school in the district has shared specific information on logistics with families. Administrators, teachers, staff and students participated in a baseline COVID-19 viral testing program prior to the hybrid start.

School, Town and Health officials are asking everyone in our community to continue to follow all guidelines and do your part to help schools start and stay in person.

- Wear a mask or face covering
- Practice social distancing and do not gather in groups
- Wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizer
- Stay home if you feel sick



## Halloween Guidelines.



As families begin to think about Halloween plans this year, Health officials want residents to be aware of and follow all current guidance. [Read State guidance here.](#) [Read guidance from the CDC here.](#) Trick-or-treating is a personal decision that should be made by families. The Health Department does recommend that face masks/coverings be worn along with costume masks for the best protection.

The Recreation Department is offering safe, family-friendly Halloween events including its annual Halloween Haunted House decorating contest and a Halloween mobile movie night on October 27 at the Tailby lot, showing Hotel Transylvania. [Read more here.](#)

## Mail-in Ballots.

Ballots for the November 3 Presidential and State Election will be mailed in mid-October to all residents who applied for a mail-in ballot. If you do not remember whether or not you applied for a mail-in ballot, check your status using the [TrackMyBallot](#) online search function provided by the Commonwealth. A “pending” ballot is one that is in process and will be mailed to you. [Visit the Town Clerk webpages for more Election 2020 information.](#)

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