



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: DECEMBER 4, 2020

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Visit Wellesley's COVID-19 Information Hub at www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus

Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts: 232,246

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

**Case numbers include 680 cases tested by one Massachusetts laboratory prior to December 1. The delay in reporting was caused by a technical issue.*

Total confirmed positive cases in Wellesley: 469 (81 new cases in past 14 days)

Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000 for Wellesley: 19.5 (past 14 days)

Percent Positivity of Testing: 0.88% (past 14 days)

[View the Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report.](#)

**Data is based on information available to MDPH at a specific time. Case counts may change as data cleaning occurs.*

While Wellesley remains in the yellow (moderate risk) group, we continue to see a surge in cases and evidence of community spread. Please use good judgment for yourself and your families when considering activities. Health officials recommend this behavior risk assessment as a guide.

RISK	ACTIVITY
Highest (Eliminate)	Time in a confined space, no masks, w/non-household members (examples include: indoor events/parties/dining; shared lunch rooms or offices with no dividers; high contact sports)
Moderate (Minimize)	Extended time inside, w/ or w/o masks, w/non-household members (examples include: travel; gyms/recreation facilities; medium contact sports)
Low (Ok)	Outdoor activities, limited time inside w/masks (examples include: outdoor exercise/dining; grocery and pharmacy trips; shopping)

Reduce your risk by:

- Wearing a mask or face covering
- Staying home as much as possible
- Avoiding gatherings outside of your own household
- Practicing good hygiene

Wellesley Public Schools Updated Data Dashboard.

WPS and Health officials have updated the Public School Reopening Measures on the [COVID-19 Information Hub](#). All three measures now include **two consecutive weeks** of data, the current week and the prior week, which are used to evaluate in-person learning. Also, the approved threshold for the average daily incidence rate for COVID-19 cases has been updated from 4 to 10 to better fit with the State's community risk level metrics that factor in the size of our community. See the [complete WPS Case Data](#).

Updated Quarantine Guidance from the CDC.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) revised its [COVID-19 quarantine guidance](#) on December 2, giving someone who may have been exposed to COVID-19 (a close contact) options to reduce the length of quarantine from 14 days, as long as specific criteria are met. State health officials are submitting a proposal to adopt these updated guidelines. The new CDC options are:

- Quarantine can end after day 10, without testing, and if no symptoms have been reported with daily monitoring; OR
- Quarantine can end after day 7, **with a confirmed negative test result*** and if no symptoms have been reported with daily monitoring. *Please note: We are currently seeing delays in test results. Quarantine CANNOT end before day 10 without a documented negative COVID-19 test.

For both options, close contacts should continue to wear masks and monitor symptoms throughout day 14. The Wellesley Health Department will follow new quarantine guidelines from the State, but until those are official, residents must adhere to current [Wellesley Health Department quarantine guidelines](#).

Important COVID-19 Test Information.

According to State reports, the total COVID-19 tests for Wellesley are nearly 83,000, and Wellesley health officials continue to urge residents to be tested if they are at risk for Coronavirus exposure. [See the MA COVID-19 Test Site Locator](#).

There are two types of COVID-19 tests: a viral (PCR) test and an antigen (blood) test. A **PCR test**, done by a nasal swab, is the MOST ACCURATE test to confirm COVID-19, and is the only test accepted by health officials to end quarantine early. A rapid antigen test is not as accurate and should not be used to determine whether to end isolation or end quarantine early. [See the MDPH COVID-19 testing information](#).

As the demand for testing continues to rise, laboratories are experiencing delays in processing the high volume of tests, and results are taking longer. If you feel sick and think you may have COVID-19, or have symptoms, call your primary care physician immediately! If you do not feel sick but are getting tested for COVID-19 for travel, concern of exposure, or for any other reason, it is critical to wait until you receive definitive **negative** results before continuing with your activities.

Holidays in Wellesley.



Thank you to so many in our community who are brightening spirits this holiday season! Hundreds of new toys were donated by residents for the Wellesley holiday toy drive.

While the traditional Holiday Shopping Stroll will not take place this year due to the pandemic, our retailers have decked their windows and storefronts with stunning displays and lights. Be sure to check out the [Festival of Trees – A Community Celebration](#) to see trees decorated by downtown merchants, organizations, and Town departments.



And thank you to the businesses and individuals who donated to the Town holiday wreath and lights program, decorating trees and streetlight posts along Central and Washington Streets, and to the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant and DPW crews for hanging the lights.