



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: FEBRUARY 12, 2021

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

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

Total confirmed COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts: 525,486

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

Total confirmed positive cases in Wellesley: 961 (84 new cases in past 14 days)

Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000 for Wellesley: 20.2 (past 14 days)

Percent Positivity of Testing: 0.82% (past 14 days)

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

Health officials are encouraged that Wellesley's percent positivity rate has dropped below 1%. We continue to be in the yellow (moderate) risk category.

Across the State, the number of high risk (red) communities is decreasing, however currently there are an estimated 48,280 active COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts. As of today, there have been more 15,000 COVID-related deaths in the State.

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

Vaccinations continue for seniors 75+. So far approximately 184,149 individuals have received their first shot out of more than 500,000 in this eligibility group. There are no dates scheduled yet for vaccination clinics in Wellesley.

Check these websites to schedule vaccine appointments online:

- [Massachusetts vaccine finder](#) (State website)
- [MA COVID Vaccine appointments](#) (independent website)
- [Vaccinate MA](#) (independent website)
- [CVS pharmacies](#) also added appointments today; the closest location to Wellesley is in Watertown

NOTE: Because of limited vaccine supply, Mass General Brigham is no longer scheduling NEW appointments for their patients.

[Companion appointments](#) can be scheduled for one caregiver/companion who is accompanying a senior to their vaccine, but these appointments are ONLY available at the large vaccine clinics such as Gillette Stadium or Fenway Park. **SENIORS: Please be aware of scams related to companion appointments and make sure you are receiving help from someone you trust.**

The Council on Aging continues to provide scheduling help for residents at **781-235-3961**. Seniors can also call the State call center at **2-1-1** for assistance, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Double Masks for More Protection

Precautions against the virus continue to be critical, even with the vaccine. This week the Centers for Disease Control released [new mask guidance](#) recommending that tighter fitting masks and more layers, such as wearing a surgical mask under a cloth mask, may offer more protection against the virus and some of the new variants.

WPS February Break

Wellesley Public Schools officials are reminding families to follow all current COVID-19 precautions during February break next week, especially the guidelines relating to gatherings and travel. [Massachusetts Travel Order guidelines](#) remain in effect; this order also applies to day trips – owning or renting homes in another state is not an exception.

Vote-by-Mail Ballots

The Town Clerk's office has mailed ballots for the March 2, 2021 elections to all residents who've requested them so far. Registered voters can still request a Vote-by-Mail ballot by completing the [application](#), signing and returning it by email, U.S. mail, or placing it in the Town Hall drop box. The last day to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot is February 24. In-person voting will take place on March 2 at specific polling locations in Wellesley. COVID-19 precautions will be in place to keep workers and voters safe. Complete election information is available on the [Town Clerk webpages](#).

Celebrate 50 Years of Wellesley Recycling!

Wellesley first started recycling in February 1971 when a group of residents asked if the Town would provide a place to collect used glass containers and bottles.

What began with a few plywood boxes in the corner of the dump is now our high-tech recycling program that has served as a model for other programs and facilities worldwide. More on this 50-year anniversary coming soon!



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