



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: APRIL 9, 2021

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Visit Wellesley's COVID-19 Information Hub at [www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus)

Total confirmed COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts: 613,763

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

\*The Mass.gov Interactive dashboard now includes City and Town data.

**NEW confirmed positive cases in Wellesley: 86 (past 14 days)**

**Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000 for Wellesley: 20.7 (past 14 days)**

**Percent Positivity of Testing: .70% (past 14 days)**

### A Letter to the Community from the Board of Health and the Health Department

We recently marked just over one year from the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wellesley. We all had high hopes that at this point, active case numbers in our community would be in a much better place. Unfortunately, we are discouraged to report that this is not happening. During the past several months and especially in recent weeks, data for Wellesley is trending in the wrong direction and our case numbers are climbing. Many of these new cases are in children and young adults. **Children and younger members of our community are routinely seen playing pickup athletic games and participating in other activities without masks.** This is extremely worrisome to Town and Health officials.

As the Commonwealth begins to reopen and some restrictions are eased, it is important to remember that **masks or face coverings are still required when in public areas in Wellesley and throughout Massachusetts.** The [Governor's COVID-19 Order No. 55](#) states that a face mask is required to be worn in public spaces, including outside when not on your own property. Unfortunately, as the weather is improving, as more people are being vaccinated, and as more of us are out and about, we are seeing many instances of individuals NOT complying with this critical safety measure. We are still receiving multiple calls every day from citizens who are concerned about this behavior and worried for the safety of our community. Through our contact tracing, we continue to see the negative public health impacts of unmasked social gatherings, both large and small, travel, and sports, both organized and casual.

We have asked a lot of our community during the past year and you have responded. As our schools return to full, in-person learning and we look toward expanded reopening in Wellesley in the coming summer months, we are pleading with everyone to continue to remain vigilant during these times.

We know you can do this and we are so grateful for your efforts.

#### Wellesley Board of Health

Shephard Cohen, Chair

Marcia Testa Simonson, Vice Chair

Linda Oliver Grape, Secretary

#### Wellesley Health Department

Lenny Izzo, Director

Ann Marie McCauley, Nursing Supervisor