



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: OCTOBER 8, 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)

### COVID-19 Boosters



COVID-19 vaccines continue to be very effective in reducing the risk of severe Coronavirus infection, even against the Delta Variant. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has said protection provided by the vaccine may wane over time, especially among individuals who are high risk or who were vaccinated during earlier phases of the rollout.

As a result, the CDC is recommending a booster dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for certain groups.

- Individuals who are immunocompromised
- People 65 years and older
- Residents of long term care facilities
- People aged 50-64 with underlying medical conditions
- People aged 18-49 with underlying medical conditions
- People aged 18-64 who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure or transmission because of jobs or institutional setting

These eligible groups may be expanded as more data on the protection from vaccines becomes available. Visit the [State COVID-19 vaccine webpages](#) to learn more about the COVID-19 booster and when you may be eligible to receive one. **Please note:** The Health Department currently is not offering COVID-19 boosters. Please check with local pharmacies and physician offices to receive the booster.

**COVID-19 Testing.** COVID-19 testing continues to be available by appointment at some local pharmacies, urgent care centers, and hospitals. A new drive thru testing site in Ashland, MA opened on Monday, October 4 at the MBTA Commuter Rail Station on the Route 135 side. Site hours are:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday – 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Use this [link](#) to pre-register for appointments. This site is provided in partnership with the Town of Ashland, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and Transformative Healthcare. There is no cost for this service if you do not have insurance.

**Masking Requirements Remain in Effect.** The Board of Health and Select Board emergency order requiring masks inside municipal buildings is still in effect. Also, following an extension by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Wellesley Public Schools will require all students, staff, and visitors to wear masks inside schools through November 1.

## Practice Personal Responsibility during the Boston Marathon



Running or watching the Boston Marathon on Monday, October 11? Health officials, Town leaders, and the B.A.A. are asking everyone to take personal responsibility to stay safe by keeping distance, wearing masks when appropriate, and practicing good hygiene. Runners are urged to refrain from kissing strangers. Wellesley Health officials and Wellesley College officials are working together to provide additional guidance to students for Monday.

**A reminder from the Wellesley Police Department that Central Street (Rt. 135) and Washington Street (Rt. 16) will be closed to traffic from 7:30 a.m. until at least 3:00 p.m. on Monday.**

## Flu and Mosquito Reminders

Health officials are also reminding residents to get flu shots this fall. It is safe to get both flu shots and COVID-19 shots in the same time period. Flu shots are readily available at pharmacies and physician offices. The Health Department may be holding additional community flu clinics later this fall; check the [Town website](#) for information.

Also, with the warmer than usual fall temperatures, West Nile Virus remains a concern. Please take precautions to prevent mosquito bites when outdoors. Visit the [Health Department webpages](#) for information and resources on these public health issues.

And a reminder that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month! Thanks to the Wellesley Police Department for reminding all of us to "Think Pink."



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