



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: JANUARY 14, 2022

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

### Wellesley Case Update



Updated COVID-19 case information from the past 14 days shows:

- **671 new reported cases.** Wellesley is averaging more than 40 cases/day
- **13.75% test positivity rate.**

**Isolation & Quarantine Guidelines.** If you receive a **positive test result**, regardless of vaccination status you must:

- Isolate for 5 days\*
- Wear a mask for an additional 5 days

\*After 5 days positive cases can leave isolation if symptoms are absent or improving. If you still have symptoms, stay home until they improve.

If you are a **close contact**, have been boosted, have received the Pfizer or Moderna 2-shot series in the past 5 months, or the J&J series in the past two months, you must:

- Wear a mask for 10 days after exposure
- Testing is recommended on day 5 after exposure

If you received the Pfizer or Moderna 2-shot series more than 5 months ago and are not boosted, received the J&J series more than 2 months ago and are not boosted, or are NOT VACCINATED, you must:

- Stay home for 5 days after exposure
- Wear a mask around others for 5 additional days
- Testing is recommended on day 5 after exposure

Visit [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) for complete details.

**Remember to Mask Up Wellesley!** The Health Department is advising that all individuals over the age of 5 wear surgical or other medical grade masks when indoors in a public setting. Learn [the difference between various masks](#) and the level of safety they provide and wear the best mask you can tolerate. Read this [Boston Globe article](#) for more mask information.

Wear a mask  
with the best  
fit, protection,  
and comfort  
for you.

<b>N95 Respirator</b> <small>NIOSH-approved</small>	<b>KN95 Respirator</b>	<b>Disposable Mask</b> <small>Sometimes referred to as "surgical masks" or "medical procedure masks"</small>	<b>Cloth Mask</b> <small>Non-medical, made of fabric</small>
<small>When worn correctly, respirators offer the highest level of protection and filter 95% of particles.</small>	<small>Filtration varies depending on standard. When worn correctly, KN95s provide more protection than disposable masks.</small>	<small>Disposable masks offer more protection than cloth masks.</small>	<small>Layered finely woven cloth masks offer more protection. Loosely woven cloth masks provide the least protection.</small>

Masks and respirators should not be worn by children younger than 2 years old.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## **New! For All Massachusetts Residents**

**My Vax Record.** The State is offering a digital vaccine tool where you can access your personal COVID-19 vaccination record from the state's immunization registry and get a 'SMART Health Card' QR code. Visit [www.myvaxrecords.mass.gov](http://www.myvaxrecords.mass.gov) for the secure web portal to electronically view and save your COVID-19 vaccine record. By providing a cell phone number or email address, you'll receive a unique QR code that can be saved to a phone file, camera roll, Apple Wallet, or be printed for a paper record.

**School Mask Mandate.** The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has extended the mask mandate for all Massachusetts public schools through February 28. Continued mask use remains a key measure to keep students safely in school at this time. The Health Department will continue to work with medical experts and state health officials to evaluate the mask requirement beyond that date.

**State Antigen Tests.** The State has purchased 26 million rapid antigen tests to be distributed over the next three months. K-12 schools and childcare facilities will have first priority for the tests, which will be shipped on a rolling basis. Locally, the Health Department is working on a program to obtain and distribute antigen test kits to residents at the greatest risk, and those most vulnerable. Watch for additional details in the coming weeks. **Please note: Currently the Town does not have a surplus of test kits on hand due to shipping issues and limited supplies.**

**Reimbursement for At-Home Test Kits.** Beginning on Saturday, January 15 anyone with private insurance can be reimbursed for up to 8 at home COVID-19 test kits per individual. Remember to save your receipts to submit to insurance companies.

AND on Wednesday, January 19, all U.S. residents can order up to 4 free at-home test kits per household from the Federal government website [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.COVIDTests.gov) The kits will be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service and should ship within 7 to 12 days after orders are placed.

**A reminder that COVID-19 data is updated weekly every Friday on Wellesley's COVID-19 Information Hub at [www.wellesley.ma.gov/coronavirus](http://www.wellesley.ma.gov/coronavirus)**

-END-