



TOWN OF WELLESLEY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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www.wellesleyma.gov/health

Community FAQs

What is the risk level in Wellesley for COVID-19?

The risk of acquiring COVID-19 remains relatively low. The presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in Wellesley is not an instance of community spread but resulted from close contact. The Health Department and Town officials are working with State officials to communicate with anyone who may have had close contact with this presumptive case to reduce any spread of illness.

What can area residents do to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19?

First and foremost, remain calm. While there are significant concerns right now around COVID-19, the risk of acquiring the virus is still relatively low. The risk of contracting the flu is still far greater.

It's also important to take care of yourself:

- *Wash hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based sanitizers*
- *Avoid touching your face, eyes or mouth with unwashed hands*
- *Avoid close contact with people who are sick, and keep your distance from others if you are sick*
- *Cover your mouth or nose when coughing or sneezing with a tissue, throw the tissue away and wash or sanitize your hands. If a tissue isn't available, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve*
- *Avoid shaking hands*
- *If you have concerns, please contact your medical provider (primary care physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner)*

What is recommended for people who may have come in contact with family members of the person diagnosed with COVID-19?

If individuals who have come in contact with family members of the person diagnosed with COVID-19 have specific concerns, they should contact their medical provider (primary care physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner) or the Department of Public Health for further guidance. Each day the DPH updates a dedicated COVID-19

website, which provides information on the COVID-19 status and resources including facts sheets in multiple languages: www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus.

Can I be tested for COVID-19?

Only your healthcare provider can order a test for COVID-19. If you are feeling ill, contact your provider by phone, email, text or video platform to determine next steps.

What should individuals do if they are experiencing symptoms (fever, cough)?

If you are experiencing symptoms (fever, cough), you should contact your primary care provider for further guidance. Please do not go directly to the Emergency Department. If your medical provider directs you to the ED based on their assessment, please call ahead to the ED.

Newton Wellesley Hospital Emergency Room: 617-243-6193

BID- Needham: 617-754-0600 (After Hours: 781-453-3765)

For any medical emergency, call 911 or go to the ED.

Will upcoming community events and activities be cancelled as a result of this case?

There are currently no recommendations for cancelling community events or non-international trips. In accordance with guidance from the State, the Superintendent of Wellesley Public Schools has cancelled international trips scheduled for Spring and Summer 2020. Private entities and individuals make their own decisions about their own events.

How are our public schools and buildings being cleaned?

All of our public schools and buildings are regularly cleaned, including disinfecting bathrooms and wiping down surfaces. Upon learning that children of the presumptive positive case attend Wellesley Public Schools, out of an abundance of caution, WPS released students early from two schools to thoroughly clean and sanitize these buildings.

Wellesley Facilities Management Department is applying a disinfectant specific for the COVID-19 virus using electrostatic dispenser guns. Custodians have already been using this equipment in all schools as part of enhanced cleaning techniques. There is currently no recommendation to close any Wellesley Public Schools due to COVID-19.

In addition to buildings, all school buses continue to be cleaned daily.

Is there anything else individuals can do to protect themselves?

Get the flu shot if you haven't already done so! The risk of contracting the flu is still far greater than contracting COVID-19.

These FAQs will be updated as new information becomes available.