



TOWN OF WELLESLEY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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MARCH 9, 2020 – 5:00 PM DAILY BRIEFING

TOWN AND SCHOOL EVENTS TO GO ON AS SCHEDULED, CORONAVIRUS PLANNING AND PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES CONTINUE

After consulting with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Wellesley Health Department (WHD) and Town and School officials are currently not recommending canceling or postponing meetings or events planned at schools or municipal buildings, due to the current Coronavirus outbreak.

Wellesley officials have determined these activities may take place at this time, with the understanding that this decision may change suddenly if we become aware of new information.

Organizers of specific events may decide on their own if they prefer to cancel or postpone activities and should notify anyone who will be affected by these decisions.

Currently the Commonwealth of Massachusetts remains at low risk for COVID-19. However, there are two additional presumed positive cases in Wellesley, which do not impact Wellesley Public Schools. These individuals have been isolating according to MDPH protocol.

Two Wellesley school buildings linked to a presumed case last week have been cleaned and sanitized, and enhanced cleaning efforts continue to be used in all schools and municipal buildings. The Facilities Management Department (FMD) is well-prepared to meet these needs and can support this level of cleaning long-term.

Town and School officials continue to work together with local hospitals, MDPH and the CDC on plans and precautionary measures to maximize safety for everyone in Wellesley. We are attempting to balance smart decision-making without creating unnecessary panic.

We encourage all residents to make personal health decisions they feel are best for themselves and their families. The WHD is encouraging the following precautions:

- All residents should practice good hygiene (frequent hand-washing; avoid touching face/eyes/mouth; use tissues if possible when coughing or sneezing and **throw them away immediately**, or cough into your elbow; avoid shaking hands).
- Practice social distancing (the CDC has determined COVID-19 is most frequently spread through “close contact” - defined as contact for at least 10 minutes at a distance of less than 6 feet) **Please note, the CDC does not recommend testing, symptom monitoring or special management for people who may be exposed to COVID-19 but DO NOT show symptoms. These individuals are asked to self-quarantine according MDPH protocol.*
- Older individuals, those with chronic illnesses, or compromised immune systems should take precautions, ensure they have groceries and adequate medical supplies, and avoid crowds.

WHD is frequently updating a [Community Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) webpage on its website, and residents with specific questions may fill out an online form and submit it to WHD for response.

We will continue to provide regular COVID-19 updates to the community each day at 5:00 p.m. or earlier if necessary through our regular communication channels.

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