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## MARCH 18: COVID-19 DAILY BRIEFING

### NEW RESTRICTIONS, SUPPORT FOR LOCAL RESTAURANTS AND BUSINESSES, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As the Coronavirus situation becomes increasingly serious, Town of Wellesley officials are asking the community for a serious response. Currently, the number of COVID-19 cases in Wellesley remains stable with seven positive cases identified since March 6, 2020. No additional information on these cases is available.

In order to protect everyone in our community, **all residents need to do their part**. Officials are urging the community to stay home when possible. Strict restrictions are currently in place, with more to come.

- All municipal buildings and Wellesley Public Schools are closed; public access is limited to only essential personnel; [meetings](#) are taking place remotely and most employees are working from home;
- All parks, playgrounds, playing fields, and the Hunnewell Field athletic areas (including the Wellesley High School track and fields) are closed. See information from the [Natural Resources Commission](#);
- The 2020 Annual Town Meeting and the Special Town Meeting are postponed until April 27, 2020;
- Town of Wellesley elections are postponed;
- Wellesley Free Library curbside service ends on March 20; staff is still available to answer phone calls;
- Residents are urged to use [Online licensing](#) and [bill payment](#) services are available through the Town of Wellesley website, by mail or by using the drop-box in front of Town Hall for financial transactions.

**Childcare Changes and Small Business Tax Relief:** Governor Baker announced new measures for childcare providers, asking all early education centers and family child care providers to close, effective Monday, March 23. ONLY exempt emergency childcare programs will remain open. The Governor also announced administrative tax relief measures for small local businesses affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, especially restaurants and hospitality providers. [Read more](#).

**Local Restaurant and Business Support:** Dine-in service at all restaurants, cafes, and coffee shops is suspended; however, many restaurants are offering take-out or delivery options. The Town has developed resources to help support these restaurants through the [Take-Out Challenge](#) on the Town of Wellesley website.

The community is also encouraged to Shop Local. Many stores are offering pick-up and delivery options and more plans will be shared in the coming day. Resources to [support local businesses](#) are available on the Town website.

Grocery stores and pharmacies remain open and stocked with essential supplies. Senior citizens (age 60 and over) are able to shop during specific hours at these stores:

- Roche Bros. – 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. daily
- Whole Foods – 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. daily
- Stop & Shop – 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. daily
- Market Basket – 5:30 a.m. to 7 a.m. daily

[Wellesley Food Pantry](#) continues to be open and stocked however procedures have changed. Clients will no longer be coming directly to the pantry, but will be provided with a shopping list. Volunteers will gather, bag and bring supplies to clients. Home delivery is also available.

**Wellesley Housing Authority:** Housing Authority residents needing support may contact the new resident services coordinator, Pam Meehan, at [pmeehan@wellesleyhousing.org](mailto:pmeehan@wellesleyhousing.org) or by calling 781-235-0223. See the [Housing Authority website](#) for additional information.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** The Town is working to coordinate volunteer opportunities in the community including meal delivery for families, senior citizens, and others in need. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Wellesley Council on Aging at 781-235-3961 or the Health Department at 781-235-0135.

Please continue to be vigilant in following the restrictions in place; remind children, teens and young adults to adhere to these restrictions; and check on neighbors and those who may be frail, vulnerable, lonely or feel isolated. Visit the [Wellesley Health Department website](#) for Mental Health resources and regular updates to the Community Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Help is also available by calling [Massachusetts 2-1-1](#).

Town officials appreciate the many individual, grassroots and outreach efforts offered to residents as we all work together to protect our community.

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