



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MARCH 26, 2020

THIS IS THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE ENTIRE TOWN OF WELLESLEY AND IS SHARED ACROSS ALL COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORMS

Here's what you need to know today.

The United States has the world's most reported number of COVID-19 cases at 81,321.
(Source: *The New York Times*, March 26, 2020).

Get text updates about COVID-19 in Massachusetts sent to your phone by texting COVIDMA to 888-777.

Health Department COVID-19 Case Update.

Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts: 2,417 New Cases Today: 579

Total cases in Norfolk County: 292

Total cases in Wellesley: 14 (8 active cases, 6 recovered cases)

The Health Department continues to respond to COVID-19 questions. Check the [Coronavirus FAQs](#) for answers to questions regularly received. Submit your own questions using our [online form](#).

Disaster Request for Massachusetts.

Governor Baker submitted a request to the federal government for a Major Disaster Declaration for Massachusetts. If approved, this would provide additional federal funds to the State, make financial assistance available to cities and towns, state agencies, and certain non-profits, and provide disaster unemployment and crisis counseling assistance to residents. [Read the announcement here.](#)

Construction Project and Landscaping Clarification.

All interior building inspections remain on hold in Wellesley as Town officials continue to wait for clarification on alternative inspection protocols to protect the Building Department. When guidance is received, no inspections will be scheduled until after the Building Department staff is trained on proper precautions to ensure safety during site visits.

The Governor's [COVID-19 essential services order](#) was clarified today to explicitly allow landscaping or pest control services. These companies are required to take measures to ensure workers maintain social distancing (6 feet of separation) in all aspects of their jobs. This includes when workers are coming to and from sites, as well as while on site. The order does not provide enforcement guidance. Landscaping is a private one-to-one service between homeowners and the companies they hire with no permitting or licensing from the Town.

Excise Taxes and Real Estate Bills Mailed.

Fiscal Year 2020 Real Estate bills and excise taxes have been mailed to residents in an effort to continue to provide cash-flow needed by the Town to keep delivering much-needed services during this unprecedented period. Online [bill payment](#) is available to all residents. Bills may also be mailed or

dropped in the payment drop-box in front of Town Hall. For assistance, please call the Treasurer's Office at 781-431-1019 ext. 2266.

#WellesleyWillBeWell PPE Donation Program.

Residents continue to support the Town's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) program. To donate **please call the Fire Department at 781-235-1300**. This program is **PICK-UP ONLY**. Please note, following guidance provided today by Newton Wellesley Hospital/Partners HealthCare, PPE donations currently accepted by the Wellesley Fire Department must meet the following criteria:

We are not able to accept any products that are perishable, flammable or homemade. We are also unable to accept items that have been opened or are expired, and all items must meet quality standards. <https://www.nwh.org/home/covid-19-donations>

Cleaning Product Cautions.

As cleaning supplies become more limited, residents are urged to use caution when making their own cleaning solutions. Some products can be hazardous to health when mixed together. [See information from the City of Boston and CDC.](#)

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