



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MARCH 31, 2020

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

The official source for the most accurate information on Coronavirus in Wellesley. Here's what you need to know today.

Health Department COVID-19 Case Update.

Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts: 6,620 **New Cases Today:** 868

Total cases in Norfolk County: 738

Total cases in Wellesley: 17 (0 new today)

The Health Department and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health are predicting a surge in COVID-19 cases in the coming week.

Non-Essential Business Closure Order Extended Until May 4.

Governor Baker has extended the State non-essential business closure emergency order until May 4, 2020. This means that all businesses providing non-essential services as identified by the State, must keep all brick-and-mortar operations closed to workers, customers and the public. This closure does not apply to grocery stores, pharmacies or restaurants providing take-out options. This order is enforced by local health departments and Town officials. [Read the extension order here.](#)

Entire Wellesley College Campus Closed to Public.

Effective immediately, the entire Wellesley College campus is closed to the public. Wellesley College President Paula A. Johnson posted this message today.

To the Wellesley Community,

Earlier this month in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we reached out to officials from the Town of Wellesley and neighboring towns to ask for their help advising the public about the importance of observing social distancing on our campus. We posted notices and signs regarding the need to follow public health guidance on our campus, and we restricted public use of our parking lots and facilities.

Despite these efforts, increasing numbers of visitors to our campus are not following these guidelines. In fact, many people have been gathering on campus who are not observing social distancing and who are using our parking lots, athletic fields, and facilities despite clear signage and guidance to the contrary.

Therefore, in consultation with officials of the Town of Wellesley and the Wellesley Police Department, we have made the difficult decision—a first for the College—to close our campus to the public, effective immediately.

The purpose of this decision is to protect the health and safety of our community and to comply with public health guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The campus remains open and operational to support College business and those students still living on campus.

Please Note: This closure also applies to the walking path around Lake Waban. This entire area is privately owned by the College and the Hunnewell family. This closure will be enforced by Town of Wellesley officials and the Wellesley Police Department. [Read the entire message from President Johnson here.](#)

Dog DOs and DO NOTs.

Animal Control officer Sue Webb and the Natural Resources Commission have issued a strict message to dog owners and all visitors to Town conservation areas and trails. [Read the full message here.](#)

For all Trail and Conservation Users:

- *Keep at least 6 feet away from others at all times*
- *Keep visits brief so everyone can enjoy the outdoors*
- *Pay attention to parking*
 - *If parking lots are full, do not park – come back later*
 - *Only park in marked spaces*
 - *Ensure distancing while entering and exiting your car*

For Dog Owners/Walkers:

- *Keep at least 6-feet away from others at all times.*
- *Keep your dogs leashed at all times. Electronic collars are not leashes. (Town voice control guidelines are suspended during COVID-19)*
- *DO NOT ALLOW YOUR PETS TO APPROACH OTHER DOGS OR PEOPLE.*
- *Do not pet or play with dogs that don't live with you.*
 - *It is unclear how long COVID-19 stays on fur/hair*
- *When exercising pets on trails/conservation areas, keep your visit brief.*
 - *Be mindful that many people want to visit our conservation areas*
 - *More frequent visitor turnover is necessary during this time*
- *If parking lots are full, please try again later.*
- *Please clean up after your dog immediately, and make sure trash is disposed of properly.*

#WellesleyWillBeWell

Supporting Wellesley Call Center.

Beginning today, the Council on Aging and the Health Department are staffing a call center for residents in need of services including medical support, prescription pick-up, meal assistance, or grocery delivery or pick-up, during the COVID-19 crisis. This hotline is staffed by COA employees who will direct callers to appropriate Town resources or certified volunteers who can help with these services. **For help, call 781-239-0256 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Monday through Friday.**

Recreation Department Virtual Activities.

The Recreation Department is coordinating virtual activities, challenges and programs for the community. [Visit the Recreation website for information.](#)

Complete the 2020 Census Online.

Please remember to respond to the 2020 National Census. Residents should have received information in the mail. The Census impacts funding for education, healthcare and vital services in our community. [Fill out the 2020 census online.](#)

MOVED: Red Cross Blood Drive on April 1.

The Blood Drive has been moved to Dedham. Donors who signed up have been notified.

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