



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: APRIL 7, 2020

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

Visit Wellesley's new Coronavirus Information Hub at

[www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus)

### Health Department COVID-19 Case Update.

**Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts:** 15,202    **New Cases Today:** 1,365

**Total cases in Norfolk County:** 1,592

**Total cases in Wellesley:** 33 (2 new)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Wellesley Health Department are predicting that April 10-22 will be peak time for COVID-19 infections in the Commonwealth. The case counts are expected to rise dramatically in the coming days. To slow the spread of the virus and help save lives, please take personal responsibility and remember these important guidelines.

- Stay home as much as possible
- If you must go out, limit trips only the grocery store and other essential errands
- Practice social and physical distancing
- Wear masks when out in public
- Continue to wash hands often/use hand sanitizer
- Cough or sneeze into the crook of your elbow
- Parents should make sure children and friends stay separated (no gatherings in in public areas or private homes, at beaches or on fields, don't play sports/socialize with anyone other than family)
- Be considerate of workers who are doing their jobs and performing essential services

### State Announces Funds for Health Care Providers and Plan to Prevent Grocery Store Overcrowding.

Governor Baker announced an \$800 million plan to help hospitals, nursing homes, community health centers and other providers that have been strained by the demands of COVID-19. [Read more here.](#) And in an effort to limit the number of people in food stores, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announced that these stores may only be occupied at 40 percent of capacity; this number includes all store employees and customers. The guidance is intended provide safer environments for store employees and customers.

**PLEASE NOTE: In Wellesley some grocery stores may be changing hours and procedures for the Easter holiday weekend, please call ahead.**

### Wellesley Fire Chief Shares COVID-19 Message.

Wellesley Fire Chief Rick DeLorie has sent a message to the community to let all residents know fire officials are committed to protecting everyone in Town and working together to help us all. The Department has been impacted by COVID-19 but is taking all necessary precautions to keep firefighters and the community safe. [Read the message here.](#)

## **#WellesleyWillBeWell**

### **Vote Safe.**

While a new date for Town elections has not yet been determined, Town Clerk KC Kato is asking all residents to vote by mail. If you have already voted by absentee ballot, as the ballot is the same, your absentee ballot will count and you will not need to vote again. If you did not vote absentee, you may request to have an election ballot mailed to you by completing the mail-in early voting ballot form now. Allow plenty of time to mail your request form. Mail-in ballot requests can also be dropped in the payment drop box in front of Town Hall. [See the mail-in ballot request form here.](#)

### **MassBay Seeks Donations for Student Emergency Funds.**

Wellesley's MassBay Community College is currently requesting donations to help support the Student Emergency Grant Fund which helps students with outside college expenses so they can continue their education during the COVID-19 crisis. Due to the restrictions in place, some students lack basic needs such as housing and food and have no financial help. The Student Emergency Fund ensures students can receive support while continuing their education. [Learn more or donate here.](#)

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