



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: APRIL 15, 2020

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

Visit Wellesley's Coronavirus Information Hub at www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus

Health Department COVID-19 Case Update.

Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts: 29,918 **New Cases Today:** 1,755

Total cases in Norfolk County: 3,122

Total cases in Wellesley: 69 cases +6 recovered = 75 (1 new) *see the explanation below

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is now reporting COVID-19 cases by city and town. This information is updated each week on Wednesday. Today's numbers for Wellesley include the six recovered cases that the Health Department originally reported in March but was no longer listing in these briefings. The total case counts for our Town since January 2020 are **75 cases**. [See the COVID-19 case counts by cities and towns here](#). In addition, daily updates and information about COVID-19 continue to be available on the [MDPH COVID-19 website](#).

Health Department officials continue to expect the virus to peak in the next 10-14 days and appreciate the efforts of everyone to follow all restrictions currently in place. Detailed information is available on the [Town of Wellesley Orders and Advisories page](#).

Updates to Essential Services Guidance.

The State announced significant updates to previous guidelines for COVID-19 Essential Services that are allowed under Governor Baker's state of emergency order. This information is important for Wellesley businesses as it specifically clarifies questions related to brick-and-mortar operations, ecommerce, and curbside pick-up. [Read the updated guidelines and FAQs here](#).

Attorney General's Website for Frontline Workers.

The Attorney General's office has a new website that offers resources and messages of support for workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit frontlinema.org

Assistance for Rent or Utility Payments.

Funds are now available from the State for residents who need help with rent or utility payments (an account and password is required.) These funds are administered by the South Middlesex Opportunity Council. [Learn more here](#).

Mail-in Ballot Typo and Dog Licensing Extension.

From the Town Clerk's office. There is a typo on recently mailed Town election ballots that lists an election date of June 30, 2020. This is an error as no rescheduled date for elections has been determined yet. Voters are encouraged to vote from home now and mail in completed ballots to the Town Clerk or drop them in the payment drop box in front of Town Hall. [See Vote Safe, Vote from Home information](#).

Due to COVID 19, the deadline to license dogs in Wellesley has been extended to May 1. All pet owners are encouraged to license their dogs using our online option. If your pet's rabies vaccine has expired, please contact your Veterinarian. Veterinarians remain open to take care of your pets. [See online dog licensing information.](#)

REMINDER: Supporting Wellesley Call Center Offers Non-Urgent COVID-19 Help.

Town employees are staffing a call center for residents with limited resources as a result of COVID-19. The call center provide support for non-urgent COVID-19 issues such as medical questions, securing prescriptions, identifying available grocery and financial assistance options, and providing a listening ear. Callers will be connected to providers or certified volunteers for further assistance as needed. **For help, call 781-239-0256 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.**

#WellesleyWillBeWell

Good News!

You heard our request for good news and responded. Thank you to everyone who emailed, please check [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to see today's posts. Be sure to follow us. Here are some highlights:

- Wellesley restaurants are working together to make meals for 600 first responders at 20 local hospitals as part of a Rotary Club of Wellesley fundraising event. [Learn more from this WCVB video.](#) Want to help? [Donate here.](#)



- Wellesley students sent thank you messages to teachers and staff by socially distancing through social media.
- The Lunch with Kate Committee and the Linden Store prepared and delivered 300 sandwiches to front line workers at Boston Medical Center.



Email your stories, photos, videos and more to shawkinson@wellesleyma.gov

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