



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: APRIL 21, 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: 41,199 **New Cases Today:** 1,556

Total cases in Norfolk County: 4,062

Total cases in Wellesley: 122 (35 new)

Health Department officials report that the large spike in case numbers is due to increased testing at long-term care facilities in Wellesley. 32 of the new cases announced today are in these facilities.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has launched a new COVID-19 Dashboard with comprehensive Coronavirus data from the Commonwealth that includes daily and cumulative confirmed cases; cases by hospital, county, and age/sex/ethnicity; testing by date; deaths; hospital capacity; nursing home data; and PPE distribution. This information is updated daily. [View the dashboard here.](#)

Governor Extends School and Non-Emergency Child Care Closures.

All schools in the Commonwealth will be closed through the end of the school year, and all non-emergency child care programs will be closed until June 29, 2020. These orders were signed by Governor Baker today and extend the previous closure date of May 4. [Read the school closure order here.](#) [Read the child care order here.](#)

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will be updating guidelines to support remote learning through the rest of the school year, including expanded STEM learning, and recommendations to strengthen summer learning opportunities. Wellesley Public Schools will be surveying the community in the next week, checking in to see how students, staff, and parents are doing as they balance remote learning with other responsibilities. Wellesley High School administrators and staff are working to plan creative ways to recognize graduating seniors and celebrate this important milestone.

Also, the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education is deferring scheduled repayments for its No-Interest Loan Program for four months to help provide relief for students affected by COVID-19.

New Law Prevents Evictions and Foreclosures.

To ensure housing stability for residents and families, Governor Baker signed legislation to protect homeowners and tenants from evictions and foreclosures during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read the Act here.](#)

Spring Hydrant Flushing Postponed.

The Water and Sewer Division is postponing spring hydrant flushing scheduled for April 27-May 1. With most people at home, officials did not want to disrupt water usage and wanted to keep Water and Sewer employees safe. Residents will be notified when the flushing is rescheduled at a later date.

REMINDER: Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund.

The Community Fund for Wellesley, an endowed fund of the Foundation for MetroWest (a tax exempt 501(c)(3), in partnership with the Wellesley Board of Selectmen, has created the **Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund** to grant funds on a rolling and rapid basis to nonprofit organizations and town departments providing critical services and support to our community. To make a donation or to learn more, please visit: www.CFFW-COVID.org

#WellesleyWillBeWell

1,000 Masks Donated to WFD.

A group of residents representing Wellesley's Chinese community donated 1,000 masks to the Wellesley Fire Department through the PPE donation program. The majority of these supplies will be distributed to Wellesley's long-term care facilities that have the most critical need. To donate **please call the Fire Department at 781-235-1300**. This program is **PICK-UP ONLY**.

More Virtual Classes and Activities.

The Recreation Department continues to expand its virtual activities and programs for families, adults and kids. Be sure to check webpages and social media. [Learn more here.](#)

Tune in to Earth Day 2020.

Tomorrow, April 22 is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. For the first time in history, the civic event is going completely digital and offering online events, programs, calls to action and more. [Learn more and watch live here.](#)

Mask Up Wellesley.

While most Town Hall employees are working remotely, the Treasurer's Office has staggered schedules in order to process tax bills, parking tickets and other financial transactions. And the Town Clerk's Office continues to send and receive mailed ballots. Pictured below are Donna Thompson and Jeannie Koushouris with daily mail and drop box payments, and Diane Innes with a pile of mailed ballots.



Please keep sending us good news and check [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to see today's posts. Email your stories, photos, videos and more to shawkinson@wellesleyma.gov

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