



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: APRIL 22, 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: 42,944 **New Cases Today:** 1,745

Total cases in Norfolk County: 4,212

Total cases in Wellesley: 155 (33 new)

Today's large spike in case numbers is again due to increased testing at long-term care facilities. The Health Department reports that all 33 new cases announced today are in these facilities. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health updates case information by city and town every Tuesday. That data lists Wellesley's case count as 164, which includes cases that are under investigation and waiting for further confirmation. [View the MDPH case count here.](#)

See comprehensive Coronavirus data on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard. [View the dashboard here.](#)

Buoy Health Offers Telemedicine for COVID-19.

State officials are reminding residents about available online medical resources. Buoy Health offers an online COVID-19 symptom checker. [Learn more here.](#) After users answer a series of questions, Buoy will share options for next steps based on symptoms and other risk factors. Telehealth consultations with physicians are also offered and are a good way to get approved for testing. To date, Buoy has connected more than 83,000 people to services.

Officials are also reminding residents to check updated information on the availability of hospital beds in the Commonwealth. [See the hospital capacity and surge response here.](#)

USDA Expands Food and Nutrition Services.

To help protect families and children from food insecurity during the COVID-19 crisis, the United States Department of Agriculture is expanding its food and nutrition services. States will now have more flexibility in administering nutrition programs for families and children, and others on nutrition assistance. Additional resources for Massachusetts will be announced in the coming days.

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

Celebrate Earth Day!

Today is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. With most residents staying home, yards are a safe refuge and a recreational resource for many residents. The Health Department, Natural Resources Commission and Sustainable Energy Committee are reminding residents of ways to stay safe and protect our planet.



[Learn more about Seasonal COVID-19 Safety here.](#)

Mask Up Wellesley.

The Facilities Management Department staff are our heroes! This group has been on the front lines of the Coronavirus crisis from the very beginning. Custodial staff is continuing to provide cleaning and disinfection services to our public safety workers, Health Department staff, and Department of Public Works employees who are all providing essential services. Maintenance work on all buildings is limited to emergency repairs and most new facilities projects are postponed. In the pictures below, Jason Scafidi and Bob Hurley disinfect Fire Headquarters, Paul McDonald sanitizes the Police Department, and Oscar Vasquez uses an electrostatic sprayer to disinfect DPW.



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

-END-