



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: APRIL 23, 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: 46,023 **New Cases Today:** 3,079

Total cases in Norfolk County: 4,541

Total cases in Wellesley: 160* (5 new) *65 cases in long-term care facilities

The Health Department reports that Wellesley's five new cases today are from community spread. Today, the Commonwealth reported the single highest day of new cases, 3,079, since the COVID-19 crisis began. See comprehensive Coronavirus data on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard. [View the dashboard here.](#)

The Elizabeth Seton Residence, one of Wellesley's long-term care facilities, is taking extraordinary measures to protect their vulnerable residents and staff and manage the spread of COVID-19. The facility administrator, Lori Ferrante, shared a news release with the Town, explaining the toll the virus is taking and thanking the entire community and local officials for their support. [Read the Elizabeth Seton news release here.](#)

Hospitals Are Safe, Seek Care If You Are Ill.

Governor Baker is reminding all residents not to wait to seek care for medical conditions and illnesses. Health care officials are concerned that people are avoiding going to hospitals, walk-in clinics, and physician offices for fear of being exposed to COVID-19. This is dangerous and can cause serious consequences. The number of patients at Newton Wellesley Hospital has dropped by 50 percent since January. All Massachusetts residents should be reassured that hospitals and health care settings are open and seeing patients, have beds available, and are taking all precautions to keep patients safe. [See the COVID-19 hospital and surge capacity response.](#)

Help for Domestic Violence.

Stay-at-home advisories and school cancellations may increase domestic violence. The Wellesley Police Department officers and social worker can help. **For emergencies, dial or text 9-1-1;** officers will respond even if callers do not speak. Other available resources are:

SafeLink 24-hour Hotline: 877-782-2020

REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, 24/7 Hotline: 800-899-4000, <https://reachma.org/>

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

Guidelines for Landscapers.

According to the Governor's Essential Services Order, landscaping services are not prohibited but must follow the same terms and conditions as construction. Town officials have mailed guidelines to all landscaping companies and are handing out information to workers. Town bylaws allow commercial services from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday; no work is allowed on Sunday.

[Read the guidelines here.](#)

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

Plant a Persimmon Sapling.

The Natural Resources Commission and the Wellesley Rotary Club are looking for good homes for 500 tree saplings. These are usually distributed through our schools to fourth graders by DPW horticulture technician Susy Jordan and were ordered before schools closed. The saplings will be available tomorrow afternoon (Friday, April 25) for pick-up at the following locations:

1. By the gate to Morse's Pond, under the trail sign.
2. By the parking lot at Longfellow Pond
3. By the sign for the Kelly Memorial conservation area on Elmwood Road
4. On Fuller Brook Trail, near the bridge behind Hunnewell School
5. By the parking lot in Centennial Park.

The DPW and the Rotary Club will place the seedlings in buckets wearing gloves and masks. Please pick the seedlings carefully and do not rummage through the bucket.

Some Good News!

We asked and you answered. Some good news about great projects going on in our community. Wellesley students **Sanah and Sanya Goenka** are working on two initiatives: Help Educate, providing virtual tutoring services to middle school and elementary school students (and parents!) For assistance, email sanyasanahgoenka@gmail.com; and Help Thank Our Healthcare Heroes, providing meals from local restaurants to healthcare workers on the front lines. To donate go to <https://mtyc.co/hlebvf>

The **Wellesley Mother's Forum** is helping families manage COVID-19 stress by providing virtual lectures on parenting topics and is supporting two local donation programs. Members are helping fill Wellesley Food Pantry shelves with groceries and diapers for those in need. And mothers and their kids are providing meals from local restaurants and notes of support to Newton Wellesley Hospital, Tufts Medical Center, and a Boston-based pharmacy and clinic.

And an anonymous Wellesley resident bought lunch for Wellesley Police Officer Tim Barros today at the Linden Store! [Read that story here.](#)

Mask Up Wellesley

A marriage license with masks! Town Clerk KC Kato continues to issue marriage licenses to local soon-to-be wed couples. She stands at least six feet away to administer the license oath so they can be together. Congratulations!



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