



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: APRIL 28, 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](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus)

### Health Department COVID-19 Case Update.

**Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts:** 58,302    **New Cases Today:** 1,840

**Total cases in Norfolk County:** 5,567

**Total cases in Wellesley:** 170\* (3 new) \*67 cases in long-term care facilities

For comprehensive information and daily updates on COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts, [view the Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Daily Dashboard.](#)

As testing for COVID-19 continues to become more available, the Wellesley Health Department is expecting to receive more questions. A list of Frequently Asked Questions is on the Health Department webpages and is updated regularly. [See Coronavirus FAQs.](#) Residents may also submit Coronavirus questions online to the Health Department [here.](#)

### Non-Essential Services Order Extended to May 18.

Today the Baker-Polito Administration extended the essential services emergency order to May 18, 2020. Businesses and organizations not on the list of essential services must continue operations through remote means that do not require workers, customers, or the public to enter or appear at the brick-and-mortar premises. Learn more about essential COVID-19 services [here.](#)

The Administration also announced that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Stay at Home Advisory remains in effect, and gatherings of 10 or more people remain prohibited until May 18. [Read the Baker-Polito Administration news release here.](#)

### Contact Tracing for COVID-19.

The Wellesley Health Department continues to conduct contact tracing for all COVID-19 cases in Town. If you receive a call from the Health Department, please answer the phone.

In some cases, residents may have been exposed to COVID-19 outside of our community and contact tracing is done by staff from the [Contact Tracing Collaborative \(CTC\)](#) team set up by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Your caller ID will show the call is coming from one of these two numbers: 833-638-1685 or 857-305-2728. Contact tracers will ask for your full name, date of birth, address, phone number, race and ethnicity. Contact tracers WILL NOT ask for social security numbers or health insurance information. **Please watch for possible scams if this information is requested.**

### Resources for Unemployment Assistance and Paycheck Protection.

The Commonwealth is providing assistance for workers not traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits (self-employed, independent contractors, workers with limited work history, and others) who are unable to work as a direct result of the coronavirus public health emergency. [Learn more here.](#)

The United States Small Business Association is also accepting applications for its paycheck protection program. Through this program, lenders are providing loans to small businesses impacted by COVID-19. [More information here.](#)

### **Speak with a Social Worker.**

The Health Department community social worker is offering call-in hours every Tuesday and Friday for residents to discuss issues related to COVID-19 and tips for healthy coping during times of stress. **Call-in on Tuesdays from 1:00 PM-2:00 PM and on Fridays from 8:30 AM-9:30 AM. Dial 781-489-4354.**

### **Non-toxic Aerial Spraying for Mosquitoes.**

The East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project will be spraying a non-toxic biological larvicide (Bti - Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis) over three wetland areas in Wellesley in the next few days. Spraying is done by a low-flying helicopter. The areas are located between Cartwright Rd., Eisenhower Circle and the RDF. Residents do not need to take any special precautions for this application. Read the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project announcement [here.](#)

### **#WellesleyWillBeWell**

#### **Parade and Practice Social Distancing.**

Local families are celebrating and supporting each other with drive-by parades. Thank you to residents who shared photos of two recent events. The Hardy Elementary “School Spirit Car Parade” connected and checked on families and students in the Hardy neighborhood, some of whom hadn’t seen each other since March.

And friends of Natalie Ruggles celebrated her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday with a balloon and sign drive-by party.



### **Mask Up Wellesley.**



**Safely assessing property values.** Much of the Town budget (more than 85%) is funded by property taxes. The Town updates its property database with all new construction for Fiscal Year 2021. The effects of COVID-19 on property values, if any, will be monitored. Assessed values are reviewed and adjusted annually based on a full year of property sales. Tax bills for Fiscal Year 2021 are based on the market value as of January 1, 2020. Sales from calendar year 2019 will be analyzed to develop a model for the upcoming tax year. The sales occurring this spring will be analyzed for the fiscal year 2022 tax year.

Assessor Technician Ellen Muller is masked up and measuring new homes when there are no construction workers are on-site.

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