



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: APRIL 29, 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.wellesley.ma.gov/coronavirus

Health Department COVID-19 Case Update.

Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts: 60,265 **New Cases Today:** 1,963

Total cases in Norfolk County: 5,700

Total cases in Wellesley: 174* (4 new) *71 cases in long-term care facilities

The Health Department reports that the four new cases today are from re-testing conducted at Wellesley's long-term care facilities. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health released its weekly update of COVID-19 cases by city and town, listing Wellesley with 187 cases. This number includes cases that are under investigation and waiting for further confirmation. [See the MDPH case count here.](#)

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

Commonwealth Creates Reopening Advisory Board.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy are co-chairing a newly formed Reopening Advisory Board that includes public health officials, municipal officials, and leaders from the business community. The Board will advise the Commonwealth on strategies to reopen the economy in phases based on health and safety metrics, meeting with key stakeholders and soliciting input from a variety of constituencies. A report will be submitted by May 18 that will include MDPH approved workplace safety standards, industry frameworks, and customer protocols and guidelines, including enforcement mechanisms and coordination with municipal leaders. Comments are accepted and will be reviewed and considered. [Submit comments to the Reopening Advisory Board here.](#)

Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund Awards \$12,800 in Initial Grants.

The recently established Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund awarded \$12,800 in first round grants to local non-profits providing critical support for residents. This money will fund programs to connect long-



term care residents to loved ones, support remote learning for vulnerable school-aged children, and support Wellesley restaurants, while serving COVID-19 affected residents. [Read the announcement here.](#) The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund is a partnership between The Community Fund for Wellesley, an endowed fund of the Foundation for MetroWest (501 c3) and the Board of Selectmen. To make a donation or to learn more, please visit: www.CFFW-COVID.org

Above, staff from Elizabeth Seton Residence says thank you for their grant. (Photo by Beth Shedd).

Facilities Management Department Staff Returns to Work on April 30.

The Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards (DLS) has lifted restrictions for work done in schools, providing that COVID-19 protection measures are followed according to guidelines from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control. This means Wellesley's Facilities Management Department may conduct cleaning and maintenance projects not directly related to the COVID-19 response. This work includes floor stripping and maintenance typically conducted during summer vacation, painting projects, locker cleaning, repairing of windows and doors, etc. In addition to guidance from the DLS, FMD has developed specific public health precautions for staff to ensure as safe a work environment as possible, including adequate PPE (masks and gloves), staggered shifts, and establishing protocols to screen staff for COVID symptoms. [See the FMD Return-to-Work precautions here.](#)

#WellesleyWillBeWell

Support Local Businesses.

Non-essential businesses in the Commonwealth remain closed until May 18, according to the extended Executive Order, but many local retailers are offering services online, for pick-up, and by delivery. The [Wellesley Square Merchants Association](#) has compiled a list of retailers and services that is updated periodically. Information is also available on the Town of Wellesley website. [See Support Services for Businesses.](#) Thank you for supporting our local retailers during this time!

Vote Safe! Vote from Home!

Wellesley's safe voting initiative continues; yellow postcards were mailed to all residents this week. Request a ballot for the 2020 Town Election by mail, fill it out at home, and mail it back to the Town Clerk (or leave it in the drop box in front of Town Hall). To date, more than 600 mailed ballots have been requested. Wellesley has approximately 17-thousand registered voters, so we have a long way to go. A rescheduled date for Town elections has not been determined. [Read more here.](#)

Senior Citizens: Register for New Fitness Classes.

The Council on Aging is offering virtual fitness classes through Zoom. Beginning tomorrow, April 30, COA patrons may register for May and June offerings. Sign up online at myactivecenter.com or call the COA at 781-235-3661 after 9:30 a.m. [See the list of virtual classes here.](#)

Heed Your Speed.

Wellesley Police Chief Jack Pilecki was interviewed on WBZ-TV news about excessive speeding by drivers during the Coronavirus crisis. [Watch the video here.](#)

WHS Runners Surpass Fundraising Goal.

Last week, the Wellesley High School cross country and track runners held a virtual runathon to raise money to provide meals to health care workers at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston Medical Center, and Newton Wellesley Hospital. Their fundraising goal was \$2,000. This week donations totaled **9 times** that amount. To date the group has raised nearly \$20,000!! [Learn more here.](#)

Send your good news, pictures and videos! Please email Stephanie Hawkinson at shawkinson@wellesleyma.gov