



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MAY 4, 2020

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Visit Wellesley's Coronavirus Information Hub at www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus

Health Department COVID-19 Case Update.

Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts: 69,087 **New Cases Today:** 1,000

Total cases in Norfolk County: 6,382

Total cases in Wellesley: 189* (8 new, all in long-term care facilities)

*79 cases total in Wellesley long-term care facilities

Health Department officials report that Wellesley's new COVID-19 cases are all in long-term care facilities. There are no new cases of community spread. For comprehensive information and daily updates on COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts, [view the Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Daily Dashboard.](#)

Executive Order for Masks or Face Coverings in Public Places Effective on May 6.

Governor Baker's executive order requiring face masks or cloth face coverings in public places, where social distancing is not possible, goes into effect on Wednesday, May 6. This order includes specific guidelines and applies to all locations statewide including both indoor and outdoor spaces. Exceptions to this order include children under the age of 2 and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition. A violation of the terms of this order may result in a \$300 fine. [Read the Order here.](#) The Massachusetts Department of Public Health continues to review this order and provide additional guidance. [See the MDPH guidance here.](#)

Town of Wellesley Issues Supplemental Local Order to Expand on Executive Order.

Tonight, in a joint meeting the Wellesley Board of Selectmen and Board of Health approved a Supplemental Order which expands the Governor's Order and applies to Wellesley ONLY by:

- Requiring face coverings to enclosed worksites, common areas, and communal spaces of commercial and residential buildings.
- Requiring face coverings regardless of whether one can maintain 6 feet of distance at banks and restaurants.
- Requiring face coverings in parking lots appurtenant or adjacent to essential businesses regardless of whether one can maintain 6 feet of distance.
- Requiring that all essential business employers require employees to wear a face covering, regardless of the business (does not limit the business to being classified as a grocery store, retail store, or pharmacy).
- Requiring that employee surveillance increases by ensuring that employees do not come to work while sick and asking employees, at the beginning of a shift, if they have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Requiring signage to be posted at all entry doors of all essential businesses.
- Requiring 6 feet of distance while inside essential businesses and clear markings for purposes of queue formation and relocating high-demand items to easily accessible areas.
- Requiring restaurant employees to wear masks when delivering food to curbside.

- Requiring essential business employees/independent contractors without confined space or Building (aka construction and landscaping) to wear a face covering to the extent they are within 6 feet of others.
- Reminding residents that is mandatory to wear a mask outside if a 6 foot separation is not possible and further advising pedestrians to pass each other on opposing sides of the street when possible and step aside to avoid close proximity to other person; asking people to maintain social awareness when in or on narrow pathways or trails to allow for safe passage by others; and emphasizing all dogs must remain on leash at all times until further notice.
- Based on DPH Guidance exempting children ages 2-5 subject to parental discretion.

The signed supplemental order will be posted on the Town of Wellesley website on Tuesday, May 5.

State Senate Begins Discussing Legislation on Town Meetings.

The Massachusetts State Senate is beginning discussion on legislation that will impact municipal Town Meetings. This legislation includes information for adjusting quorum requirements and remote meeting participation. More information to come. [Read the proposed bill here.](#)

#WellesleyWillBeWell

Vote Safe, Vote from Home! Update.

Remember, you can safely vote in Wellesley’s local Town Elections by requesting a ballot by mail, filling it out at home and returning it by mail or placing in the drop box at Town Hall. While a new date for the elections has yet to be scheduled, so far more than 850 ballots have been requested in the Vote Safe, Vote from Home campaign. Together with the absentee ballots received by the Town, about 10 percent of eligible voters have participated in the Election process. Let’s see that number climb!

[Request your ballot from the Town Clerk’s office now.](#)

A Sky-eye View of Wellesley.

Thank you to the Town of Natick and its Geographic Information Systems department for capturing this aerial video of Wellesley and some recognizable landmarks. [Watch the video.](#)

Mask Up Wellesley.

Wellesley Free Library services are at your fingertips. The [Library website](#) is your portal to a robust menu of virtual library services, including eBooks, audiobooks, movies, magazines, language learning and more, all with your library card. [Click here if you need a card.](#) Have questions? Need suggestions on what to read next? WFL Librarians are on duty remotely through email and chat, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. [Click here to email.](#) Virtual programs for people of all ages are available on a wide range of topics. Check out video story times, online book group, and technology tutorials. [Play WFL Bingo and receive a prize when the library reopens.](#) While the buildings and book drops are closed, all due dates have been extended to June 30th. Hold on to donations and borrowed items, and don’t worry; no fines will accrue during this time.



Thanks to the Library Board of Trustees for sharing these photos of working from home while staying safe! Pictured: Ann Rappaport, Ann-Mara Lanza, Diane Savage, Ann Howley, and Maura Murphy.