CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MAY 5, 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:** 1,184
Total cases in Norfolk County: 6,466
Total cases in Wellesley: 191* (2 new)
*79 cases total in Wellesley long-term care facilities

The Health Department is reminding residents that most COVID-19 cases in our community do recover. For comprehensive information and daily updates on COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts, view the Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Daily Dashboard.

Statewide Face Covering Order and Supplemental Wellesley Order in Effect Tomorrow.
Governor Baker's order requiring masks or cloth face coverings in public places goes into effect tomorrow. This order includes specific guidelines and applies to all locations statewide including both indoor and outdoor spaces. A face covering can be anything that covers your nose and mouth, such as a bandana, scarf or mask. Medical-grade masks should be reserved for health workers. Read the Governor's order here. Please remember that wearing a face covering is not a substitute for social distancing; continue to maintain physical distance (at least 6') from others.

The Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen issued a local order regarding wearing face coverings in public in Wellesley that supplements the Governor's order and includes specific guidelines for outdoor activities in Wellesley. Read the Wellesley order here. Based on DPH Guidance, this local order gives parents discretion for children ages 2-5.

Specific requirements for outdoor activities where physical distancing is not possible include:
Covering your face and nose
Not congregating
Walking in single file on paths
Dismounting bikes when appropriate
Keeping dogs leashed and near owners
Not blocking pathways

Governor Eases Some Restrictions on "Non-Essential" Businesses.
Governor Baker has revised some restrictions for the operation of "non-essential" businesses, allowing certain businesses to bring in a small number of employees to remotely fulfill online or phone orders for delivery. Customers are not allowed to enter any business, and businesses themselves must follow strict guidelines. More updates are expected in the next few days. Read more here.

Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund Announces a Donation Match Challenge.
Donate to the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund now through May 18 and your donation will be matched up to $12,500. The fund hopes this effort will generate up to $25,000 in additional available grant money**.** The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund was established less than three weeks ago as a partnership between The Community Fund for Wellesley, an endowed fund of the Foundation for MetroWest, a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization, and the Wellesley Board of Selectmen to support critical programs for residents affected by the ongoing Coronavirus crisis. Read the news release announcing the match challenge.

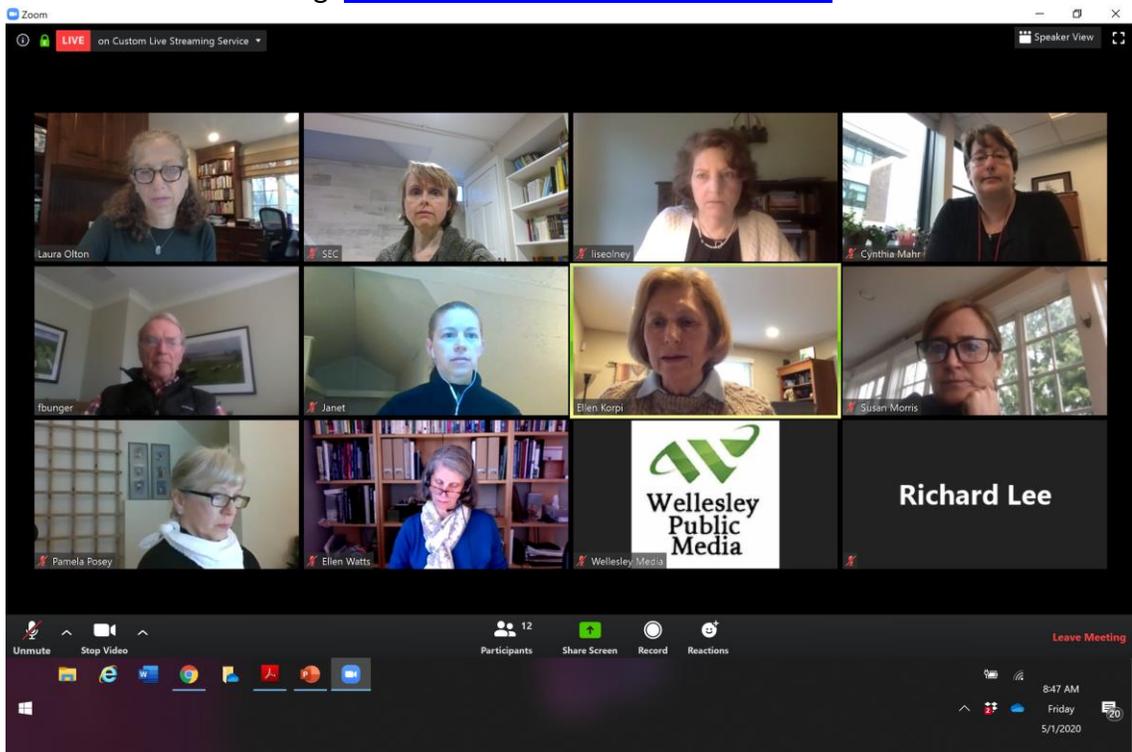To donate to the donate to the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund or learn more, please visit: www.CFFW-covid.org

#WellesleyWillBeWell
Look Up Wellesley!
As part of Operation American Resolve, tomorrow at 12:15 p.m. fighter jets will fly over Wellesley, Boston and local hospitals in a salute to first responders and health workers. The jets are from the 104th Fighter Wing of the Massachusetts Air National Guard in Westfield.

Mask Up Wellesley.
The Sustainable Energy Committee continues to work on Sustainable Building Guidelines for the Town, to help lower Wellesley's carbon footprint, increase resilience, provide healthier indoor environments and serve as important exemplars and teaching tools for the community. The guidelines outline a process and criteria so municipal buildings can be designed, construct and operated cost-effective and sustainable ways. Many Town boards have already approved these guidelines. Here's a photo of the SEC's most recent Zoom meeting. Learn more about the guidelines here.

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