TOWN OF WELLESLEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wellesley Fire Department Providing Medical-grade Masks for Most Vulnerable Residents

May 11, 2020 (Wellesley, MA) – The Town of Wellesley's most vulnerable residents are receiving medical-grade masks through a new program made possible by a grant from the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund and coordinated by the Wellesley Fire Department, Health Department and Council on Aging.

The Fire Department purchased 2,000 KN95 masks using funding from the COVID-19 Relief Fund, a partnership between The Community Fund for Wellesley, an endowed fund of the Foundation for MetroWest, a non-profit 501c3, and the Board of Selectmen. This inventory is now available for distribution to Wellesley's senior residents 65 years and older, and medically vulnerable individuals such as those with chronic illnesses, compromised immune systems, and other high-risk medical conditions.

Masks will be distributed to these residents by Wellesley fire fighters who will come directly to residents' homes to ensure the masks are properly fitted for civilian use.

"These masks are for our most vulnerable residents to use for high-risk outings like grocery shopping, doctor visits, and outdoor activities where their health and safety may be compromised," said Wellesley Fire Chief Rick DeLorie. "In personally delivering them, our newer fire fighters can become familiar with Wellesley streets and check on our citizens to make sure they're staying well."

To request a KN95 mask, residents should **call the Fire Department non-emergency line at 781-235-1300**. Please provide your name, address, and daytime phone number. Fire fighters will call back to schedule delivery and fitting appointments; delivery routes and times will be determined by locations in Town.

Health Department and Council on Aging staff are helping identify residents who should receive masks. If more masks become available, the Fire Department will offer them to an expanded group by request.

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