



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MAY 12, 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: 79,332 New Cases Today: 870

Total cases in Norfolk County: 7,046

Total cases in Wellesley: 199* (0 new)

*82 cases total in Wellesley long-term care facilities

Positive antibody tests: 1 new, 25 total

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

Antibody Testing.

There are no new COVID-19 cases in Wellesley today, however the Health Department is reporting one new case of a positive antibody test. A total of 25 people in Wellesley have now received positive COVID-19 antibody tests. Some of these cases are individuals who may have been ill a few weeks ago and recovered but were never tested, or are cases where individuals are asymptomatic. There is still very little known about antibody testing and this information can't be used to determine if a person is immune to COVID-19 or able to return to work.

Close Contact Testing.

As new cases of COVID-19 slowly decline and restrictions begin to loosen, it becomes more critical for health officials to quickly identify every case to help prevent a second wave of the outbreak. Close contact testing is a priority as these are people most likely to become infected, regardless of symptoms. The Wellesley Health Department is not offering testing; anyone identified as being a close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 should call their personal physician for guidance. If that is not possible, the State has [information on testing sites in Massachusetts.](#)

Reopening Massachusetts.

State and local officials continue to develop plans for reopening. Complete details on the four-phased approach to reopen the Commonwealth will be shared beginning on May 18. The phases are Start, Cautious, Vigilant, and the New Normal, and many restrictions and new protocols will be in place. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the COVID-19 Command Center have developed mandatory Workplace Standards that will apply to all workplaces that are open in the Start phase. [Read the Workplace Standards here.](#) The Reopening Advisory Board is still taking comments on reopening plans to include with its May 18 report. [Submit your comments here.](#)

Morses Pond Gate Open from 7 am to 6 pm. Beach Closed.

The gate leading to Morses Pond will be open daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. beginning on Wednesday, May 13. This is to help prevent cars congregating on Turner Road and to allow residents access to trails around the pond and the North 40 area. **Please note: Morses Pond beach, bathhouse, swimming area, picnic area and playground remain temporarily CLOSED.** Signs are posted and Recreation staff

will be monitoring the area. Voluntary compliance is expected, and trail users must follow [COVID-19 safety guidelines](#). Please contact the Wellesley Police Department with any enforcement concerns at 781-235-1212.

Reminder: Pay Tax Bills Online.

Tax revenue supports Town of Wellesley operations. Real estate and personal property tax bills were mailed in early April. While the due date for these bills has been extended until June 1, 2020 due to COVID-19, residents are encouraged to pay bills earlier if possible. As Town Hall remains closed to the public, bills may be paid using the online payment system or payments may be left in the locked drop box in front of Town Hall. [More information here.](#)

#WellesleyWillBeWell

Community “Art in the Home” Event.

Wellesley’s annual Art in the Park event, a May activity promoting creativity and connection, is moving online this year. Renamed “Art in the Home” the event has a new theme to reflect positive aspects of the Coronavirus pandemic. Organizers are inviting participants to use art to show the *Silver Linings* of how the virus has affected them, create their works at home, and share them on Instagram at #artinthehomewellesley. Artwork can also be displayed in windows and on doors. Information and instructions are available on Instagram by following @art_in_the_home_wellesley.

Celebration for Cancer-Free Wellesley Fire Fighter.

Some great news for Wellesley fire fighter Joanie Cullinan, who last week finished her last day of treatment for stage three melanoma. She masked up and returned to Wellesley Fire Headquarters for a socially distant celebration captured by WHDH-Channel 7. [Watch the video here.](#)

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