



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MAY 13, 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: 80,497 New Cases Today: 1,165

Total cases in Norfolk County: 7,129

Total cases in Wellesley: 200* (1 new)

*82 cases total in Wellesley long-term care facilities

Positive antibody tests: 4 new, 29 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 Cautions.

The Health Department is reporting 4 new positive antibody tests, but there is still very little known about these tests. According to the Centers for Disease Control, depending on when an individual was infected and the timing of the test, this test may not find antibodies in someone with a current COVID-19 infection. Also, the accuracy of these tests is in question as there is a higher than average instance of false positive tests.

Antibody tests should not be used to diagnose someone as being currently sick with COVID-19. To see if you have a current infection, you need a viral test, which checks respiratory samples, such as a swab from inside your nose. [See information on testing sites in Massachusetts.](#) Without a viral COVID-19 test, a positive antibody test is treated like a positive case and therefore, that person will be asked to isolate for 10 days and close contacts will be asked to quarantine for 14 days. [Read more about COVID-19 testing here.](#)

Advisory Committee Updates Town Meeting Information.

The Advisory Committee issued a letter to residents updating information about the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. Currently, Annual Town Meeting and a Special Town Meeting within the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled to take place on May 27. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the Town Moderator will issue a third postponement for these meetings to late June. [Read the Advisory Committee letter here.](#)

Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund Announces Third Round Grants.

Two assistance programs will receive grants totaling \$5,500 from the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund. The fund awarded third round grants to a local sewing group that is crafting homemade face coverings to be used by residents who have difficulty with traditional masks, and to help continue a pilot program that is supplying meals from local restaurants to medically isolated families, seniors and veterans. The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund is 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. [Read the grant announcement here.](#)

#WellesleyWillBeWell

WMLP Keeps Lights and Masks On.

It's lights on and masks on at the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant, where employees have adjusted routines to ensure operations continue during the Coronavirus pandemic. The office is closed to the public, but customer service staff are working rotating shifts to make sure one representative is in the office to answer calls, while others work remotely. The billing administrator is working in the evening when the office is empty to make sure bills are processed in a timely manner. While non-essential work is temporarily suspended WMLP remains on call 24/7 in case of an emergency.

Pictured below are employees Mike O'Coin and Dennis Furbush, and customer service representatives Candyce Wright and Eileen Collett.



Rotary's "Taste of Wellesley" Online and On TV.

The Rotary Club of Wellesley's annual Taste of Wellesley fundraiser will not take place tomorrow, May 14, but local restaurants are still getting support. Thanks to an online fundraising effort many restaurants are making money which they're using to make meals donated to health care workers and first responders. [Watch this FOX-25 news video to learn more.](#)

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