



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MAY 20, 2020

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Visit Wellesley's Coronavirus Information Hub at [www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus)

### Health Department COVID-19 Case Update.

Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts: 88,970    New Cases Today: 1,045

Total cases in Norfolk County: 7,607

Total cases in Wellesley: 206\* (1 new)

\*82 cases total in Wellesley long-term care facilities

Positive antibody tests: 0 new, 31 total

The key indicators to guide reopening plans are now reported and updated daily on the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 dashboard](#). During reopening, these indicators must show positive progress for the Commonwealth to move forward with the next phase of the four-phased Reopening Massachusetts plan. Phases will be three weeks apart at least. [Read more on the Reopening Massachusetts website.](#)

As a reminder, to reopen all businesses must have and display the following:

- [COVID-19 Control Plan template](#) - Template that satisfies the written control plan requirement for self-certification. This must remain on site for review if requested by the Board of Health.
- [Compliance attestation poster](#) – Poster that customer facing businesses are required to print, sign, and post in an area within the business premises that is visible to workers and visitors.
- [Employer](#) and [Worker](#) posters – Posters that businesses can print and display within the business premises to describe the rules for maintaining social distancing, hygiene protocols, and cleaning and disinfecting.

### CDC Releases Additional Coronavirus Guidance.

The Centers for Disease Control released a report that gives more details on reopening guidance for schools, businesses, bars and restaurants, youth programs and camps, childcare programs and mass transit. Elements of the report include strategies to help lower the risk of virus exposure in these environments and keep workers and customers healthy. [Read the CDC report here.](#)

### Reopening Wellesley Playing Fields, Sports Courts and Morses Pond.

Town officials are waiting for more clarification from the State and the Health Department on guidelines for reopening playing fields, sports courts, and Morses Pond. The School Committee, Natural Resources Commission, and Recreation Commission are working together to make sure all appropriate safety measures are in place to protect the health of residents.

Today, the Recreation Commission discussed multiple scenarios to reopen Morses Pond but no firm decisions were made; the discussion will continue on Tuesday, May 26. **Please note:** The Morses Pond beach will not be open on Monday, May 25, but access to the trails around Morses Pond and the North 40 are available to residents.

## **Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund Awards \$17K in Grants.**

Programs to help Wellesley merchants safely reopen and provide essential caps and headbands for healthcare workers are receiving \$17,000 in grant money from the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund. This is the fourth round of grants awarded by the relief fund, which was established just one month ago, and is a partnership between the Community Fund for Wellesley, an endowed fund of the Foundation for MetroWest, a tax-exempt 501c3, and the Board of Selectmen. [Read more about the grants here.](#) To donate to the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund or learn more, please visit [www.CFFWCOVID.org](http://www.CFFWCOVID.org)

## **Local Town Election Now on June 13.**

Wellesley's local election will now take place on **Saturday, June 13, 2020.** In-person voting for ALL precincts will be at the Babson Recreation and Athletic Complex on the Babson Campus from 8 a.m. to Noon. Residents are encouraged to request a ballot by mail now and vote safely at home by downloading the [mail-in early voting application](#), filling it out and returning it to the Town Clerk by email or by dropping it into the drop box at Town Hall. [See more election information and a sample ballot here.](#)

## **#WellesleyWillBeWell**

### **Wellesley Square Preps for Business.**

Our local merchants are eager to safely welcome shoppers back to Wellesley Square! Some store owners masked up with sanitizing supplies - purchased with Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund grant money – to help keep workers, customers and our community safe. Pictured from left to right: Cathy Tai from Kidville, Kim and Alexis Kissam from Isabel Harvey, Pam Lofblad from Wellesley Holiday Boutique and Demian Wendrow (and daughter Addison) from London Harness -Tumi. Thank you to Beth Shedd for this photo.



**And a special thank you to our EMS professionals on the frontlines of the Coronavirus crisis during EMS Week 2020. We are grateful for your work during this time and always.**

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