



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MAY 27, 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:** 94,220 **New Cases Today:** 527

**Total cases in Norfolk County:** 7,880

**Total cases in Wellesley:** 210\* (1 new)

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

Positive antibody tests: 2 new, 35 total

State health officials continue to watch data on case information that will indicate it is safe to move to the next phase of reopening. Comprehensive information about the key public health indicators for reopening is updated daily on the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 dashboard](#). The State has also enhanced its [weekly public health report for cities and towns](#) to include more data on cases and testing, information on long term care facility cases and deaths, and nursing facility audit results. The discrepancy between the COVID-19 case counts from the Wellesley Health Department and the State case counts are due to cases that were reported in Wellesley but the infected individuals are not Wellesley residents.

### Reopening Information at a Glance.

The State continues to provide more clarification on the businesses and industries that can reopen in each phase of the Massachusetts Reopening Plan. [See this information at a glance](#); this may be updated frequently. All businesses are required to follow the [Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards](#) and [specific sector safety protocols and best practices](#) provided by the State.

### Morses Pond Status.

There will be no lifeguards at Morses Pond this summer. At its meeting last night, the Recreation Commission voted not to staff lifeguards, open the bathhouse, or open restrooms. Currently, the Morses Pond beach and swimming areas are completely closed. Fencing allows users access to the trails around the pond and the North 40 only. The Morses Pond gate and parking lot are open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily and a Wellesley Police Department officer is monitoring the area. The Recreation Department continues to work with the Natural Resources Commission, and the Wellesley Fire and Police Departments on a plan to allow access to the Morses Pond beachfront while taking into account public safety and safety of their staff.

Town parks, playing fields and tennis courts also remain closed at this time. A decision to reopen these areas is expected by the end of this week.

**An important reminder for all residents:** the Governor's [Executive Order requiring masks](#) to be worn indoors and outdoors when social distancing is not possible is still in effect. Town officials are reminding all residents that voluntary compliance is expected.

## Cleaning and Disinfecting Webinar for Businesses on May 28.

Sector-specific guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting local businesses include: Maintaining a cleaning log with date, time and scope of cleaning; and identifying heavy traffic/frequent use areas for more frequent cleaning. On May 28, at 10 a.m. the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) at UMass Lowell is offering a free webinar for businesses on how to adhere to the guidelines and keep employees and customers safe. Log into Zoom to attend: <https://uml.zoom.us/j/95535420430>  
[Read more cleaning guidance from TURI here.](#)

## Vote Safe, Vote from Home Update.

Wellesley's Annual Municipal Elections have been rescheduled to Saturday, June 13, 2020. Town officials continue to urge residents to participate in the *Vote Safe, Vote from Home* campaign. Nearly 4,000 ballots have been requested by mail so far; if these ballots are all returned, this would result in a 25% voter turnout. All mailed ballots must be returned by Noon on June 13. To request a ballot by mail, complete and return the [Mail In Early Voting application](#) to the Town Clerk's office. You may scan and email the application, mail it in, or drop it off in the locked payment drop box in front of the Washington Street entrance to Town Hall, across from the bell. An official ballot will be mailed to you, complete it at home, and return it to the Town Clerk's office. Postage for mailed ballots is 65 cents.

The last day to register to vote in Wellesley is June 3 until 8 p.m. In-person voting on June 13 will take place at the Babson Recreation and Athletic Complex on the Babson College campus from 8 a.m. to Noon. [Details are on the Town Clerk's webpages.](#)

Election workers are needed for June 13; interested residents, especially college students, are encouraged to email Town Clerk KC Kato at [kckato@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:kckato@wellesleyma.gov)

## #WellesleyWillBeWell

### Remote Home Energy Assessments.

As residents stay home to stay safe, utility bills may be increasing. The Wellesley Municipal Light Plant is partnering with Energy New England (ENE) to offer remote home energy assessments to help homeowners reduce energy use and save money. These assessments are performed by video on an iPhone or Android. To schedule a video appointment, call 888-772-4242 or visit the ENE energy efficiency website, [www.ee.ene.org](http://www.ee.ene.org).

## Safely Support the Class of 2020.

The Wellesley High School Class of 2020 celebrated the end of remote classes today. While the circumstances are unusual this year, the pomp continues. Yard signs are on display at the homes of all 380 graduates, and the Wellesley community is invited to safely cheer for graduates during a town-wide parade that will take place on Saturday, June 6. The parade will begin at Babson College at 9 a.m. Graduates and their families will drive through Town and end at Wellesley High School for the presentation of diplomas.

