



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: JULY 8, 2020

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Visit Wellesley's Coronavirus Information Hub at www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus

Wellesley Health Department COVID-19 Case Update.

Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts: 104,961 **Probable cases in Massachusetts:** 5,641

New confirmed cases Today: 162

Total cases in Norfolk County: 9,306

Total cases in Wellesley: 229 (3 new since July 1)

82 cases total in Wellesley long-term care facilities

Positive antibody tests: 63 (7 new since July 1)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is reporting today that more than 94,000 individuals infected with COVID-19 in the Commonwealth have recovered. State health officials are sharing this number on a weekly basis and are now also reporting both confirmed COVID-19 cases and probable COVID-19 cases. These numbers make up the total case count in the Commonwealth since the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic. [See the Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 dashboard.](#)

The majority of individuals in Wellesley who contracted Coronavirus have fully recovered. While the Health Department continues to monitor COVID-19 cases on a daily basis, officials are now updating case information on the [Wellesley Coronavirus Information Hub](#) **every Wednesday**, rather than every day unless there is significant case information that would warrant a more frequent update. Also, enhanced information specific to Wellesley is updated weekly on Wednesdays by State health officials and includes reports on cases and testing in communities, cases and deaths in long-term care facilities and other data. [Read the Weekly COVID-19 Cities and Towns Report.](#)

Phase 3, Step 1 is Proceeding.

Phase 3 of the Reopening Massachusetts plan began on Monday, July 6, with the reopening of gyms, health clubs, museums, cultural facilities, movie theaters, and outdoor performance venues. Certain indoor recreational activities with low potential for contact are now permitted, and professional sports teams, under the authority of league-wide rules, may hold games without spectators. Complete sector-specific guidance and the list of businesses able to open, along with mandatory safety standards can be found [here](#).

Like Phase 2, this current phase will have two parts and is expected to last significantly longer, with Phase 4 not likely to occur until there is a vaccine for COVID-19.

Up to 25 People Now Allowed for Gatherings.

Under the State's updated gatherings order, organized gatherings should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space. Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in a single enclosed outdoor space. This includes community events, civic events, sporting events, concerts, conventions and more.

Health officials are now allowing yard and garage sales however block parties are still not permitted.

Reminder: Please Wear Masks/Face Coverings.

Health officials continue to ask residents to wear masks or cloth face coverings when indoors. In addition, masks/face coverings are strongly encouraged to be worn outdoors, and especially when physical distancing (6 feet apart) is not possible. Face coverings are proven to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 virus particles. Face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing, and people should remain vigilant about distancing, as well as handwashing and sanitizing.

Vote-by-Mail in Fall 2020.

New legislation passed by Massachusetts lawmakers and signed by Governor Charlie Baker encourages all voters to vote safely from home in the upcoming Fall 2020 elections due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020 was approved on July 6, 2020. This legislation allows registered voters to request Vote-By-Mail ballots for the Tuesday, September 1 State Primary Election, the Tuesday, November 3 Presidential Election, and all other elections for 2020. [Vote-by-Mail applications](#) are available from the State to request a mailed ballot.

Wellesley will be conducting a Special Election on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 on the same day as the State Primary Election to fill a vacated Board of Selectmen's seat. Interested candidates may pick up nomination papers by appointment only from the [Town Clerk's office](#). Papers must be returned by Tuesday, July 14 at 5 p.m.

COMING SOON!

Watch for details on Wellesley's Mobile Movie Nights. This drive-in movie series in the Wellesley Square Tailby commuter rail lot will begin in late July. Schedules and reservation information will be released in the coming days on the [Town of Wellesley website](#).

-END-