



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: AUGUST 19, 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: 115,048

Total confirmed positive cases in Wellesley: 260 (2 new cases in the past week)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health continues to refine data and make changes to information about COVID-19 cases in the Commonwealth. As a result of these changes, Wellesley Health officials are now reporting only confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Town, determined by molecular (PCR) testing. Probable cases, determined by serology (antibody) testing, are no longer reported because a positive result indicates a past infection. It is not a diagnostic test. [View the MDPH daily COVID-19 dashboard.](#)

The State continues to provide enhanced COVID-19 data on every community in the Commonwealth, using an interactive map with stoplight colors red (high risk), yellow (moderate risk), green and white (low risk) to determine risk levels. Wellesley continues to be in the green (low risk) category with less than 4 cases per 100,000 residents. [See the most recent COVID-19 community map.](#) [Read the weekly COVID-19 Weekly Health Report by community.](#)

New Flu Vaccine Requirement for Students.

State Health officials now require that all Massachusetts students from age 6 months to 30 years get a flu shot by December 31, 2020. The requirement specifically refers to children 6 months of age and older attending childcare/preschool, students in all grades of school from Kindergarten through Grade 12, and students of post-secondary institutions. By vaccinating for the flu, officials hope to reduce flu-related deaths and reduce the overall impact of respiratory illnesses in a population still facing the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read the new school immunizations requirements.](#)

The Wellesley Health Department will offer community flu clinics this fall; the best time to get a flu shot is in September and October. Flu clinic dates and COVID-19 safety protocols are being developed and will be announced in the next few weeks. [Residents of all ages-](#) not just students- are urged to get flu shots. [Information on flu season in Massachusetts.](#)

Wellesley and Babson College Return to Campus.

Students at Wellesley College and Babson College will be returning to campus this fall following strict guidelines developed by both institutions. For up-to-date plans and campus Coronavirus information, visit the [Wellesley College website](#) and the [Babson College website](#). **An important note: Wellesley College and Babson College will remain closed to the public this year.** The Wellesley Health Department is in contact with all schools in Town and has reviewed and approved all plans. Local health officials will be in communication with the schools throughout the year, perform contact tracing, and review any confirmed and suspected cases.

September 1, 2020 Election Update.

Early In-person voting for the September 1 election starts on Saturday, August 22 at the Tolles Parsons Center/Council on Aging (500 Washington Street). Masks are required for all residents voting in person and COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place. Voting hours are:

- Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Monday through Thursday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
- Friday, 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon

Vote-by-Mail is continuing as residents receive their ballots for both the State Primary and the Town Special Election. Please remember to sign your ballot; unsigned ballots will not be counted. Completed ballots may be mailed or dropped in the ballot drop box at Town Hall (the larger box will be installed by Friday). This weekend ONLY, completed ballots also may be dropped off at the Tolles Parsons Center during early voting times.

Please remember to put ballots in the appropriate envelopes. State Primary ballots and Town Election ballots have separate envelopes. State Primary ballots are return postage paid. Town Election ballots need a 55 cent/FOREVER stamp if mailed; no stamp is needed if the Town ballot is dropped off.

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