



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

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

Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts: 123,720

[View the COVID-19 daily dashboard.](#)

Total confirmed positive cases in Wellesley: 278 (6 new cases in the past 14 days)

Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000: 1.4 (past 14 days)

The [Wellesley Coronavirus Information Hub](#) features an enhanced data dashboard that is specific to Wellesley COVID-19 cases. In addition to total and new cases, the Hub now includes information on testing, percent positivity rate, and the Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000, a key public health indicator. This information is updated weekly on Wednesdays with data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The Hub also includes the [COVID-19 community level data map](#) with stoplight colors indicating COVID-19 risk levels by community: red (high risk), yellow (moderate risk), green and white (low risk). Wellesley remains in the **green** (low risk) category.

State health officials report that 109,397 individuals in Massachusetts have **recovered** from the Coronavirus. [Read the Weekly COVID-19 Public Health report.](#)

Remote Start for Wellesley Public Schools.

It's back to school for Wellesley Public Schools! Remote learning for the 2020-2021 school year began on September 16; in-person hybrid classes are scheduled to start on October 1. School, Town and Health officials are asking the entire community to ensure a safe start by continuing to practice healthy behavior, follow guidelines, and wear masks. Watch for detailed information coming soon as part of the *Do Your Part* community campaign. Read the Back to School message from WPS Superintendent Dr. David Lussier.

Dear Members of the WPS Community:

This morning, we will officially welcome our students back for the 2020-2021 school year. It goes without saying that this year's opening is unlike any other in the past. What hasn't changed, however, is our excitement to engage with our students and families and begin building the classroom and school communities that make our district such an outstanding place.

I want to acknowledge the work of our staff over the past months to plan for our reopening this year. This has been an extraordinary challenge with few easy answers. We have all shared in the same frustrations, anxiety, and uncertainty as our broader community. We believe that our phased-in reopening strikes an appropriate balance of preparation, safety, and an urgency to return to in-person education, which will occur in just over two weeks.

I also want to underscore how important our partnership with parents will be this year. This will include supporting our students as they engage in at-home learning with our staff and serving as our eyes and ears when children may be struggling and need additional help.

This also includes supporting the pro-active strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 that we know work, such as wearing masks, social distancing, and hand washing. Adherence to these behaviors has resulted in our COVID-related measures being so low in Wellesley. At the same time, recent incidents in surrounding communities serve as a stark reminder of how easily our hard-earned

progress may be jeopardized if we don't maintain our commitment to preventing the spread of the virus. We are all in this together.

Thank you to our entire WPS community for your patience and support to get us to this opening day. Let's have a great year!

*Sincerely,
Dr. David Lussier
Superintendent of Schools*

Prepare for Flu Season.

A reminder that all children 6 months older who are attending Massachusetts childcare, preschool, K-12, colleges or universities **must be vaccinated** for the flu by December 31, 2020. This [requirement](#) is intended to help reduce the impact of flu and flu-related illnesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Health Department is encouraging everyone in the community to get a flu shot this year and will offer flu clinics this fall. [Watch for flu updates on the Health Department webpages.](#)

Travel Advisory Changes.

There are new changes to Governor Baker's [travel order](#) for all Massachusetts residents. **Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia** have been removed from the list of lower-risk states and are now subject to the travel order. **New Mexico, Washington, Wyoming, and Oregon** are now considered lower-risk states and are not subject to quarantine or completion of the [Massachusetts Travel Form](#).

Read up-to-date information on the risk level of each state in the U.S., quarantine requirements, and enforcement procedures [here](#).

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