



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: SEPTEMBER 23, 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)

**Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts:** 126,408

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

**Total confirmed positive cases in Wellesley:** 285 (10 new cases in the past 14 days)

**Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000:** 2.4 (past 14 days)

The Wellesley [Coronavirus Information Hub](#) features an enhanced dashboard with data on Wellesley COVID-19 cases. In addition to total and new cases, the Hub includes information on testing, percent positivity rate, and the Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000, a key public health indicator. This information is updated 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.

[Read the Weekly COVID-19 Public Health report.](#)

### **Restaurant Rules are Changing.**

Governor Baker has updated restaurant guidelines to allow for more customers. Effective on Monday, September 28, restaurants can seat up to 10 people at a table and serve food at bar spaces when social distancing is possible. Gatherings at bars are still prohibited. Health Department officials are reviewing these new guidelines and will provide more information to the community in the next few days.

### **COVID-19 Community Impact Survey.**

Massachusetts Health officials want your input on how to better help people through the continuing COVID-19 crisis. Complete the online [COVID-19 Community Impact Survey](#) to help officials better understand needs and inequities resulting from the pandemic and find new solutions to community problems. Information shared in the survey is completely confidential and anyone 14-years old or older can participate. [Find more information and FAQs here.](#)

### **Wellesley Public Schools *Safe Start* Campaign.**

In preparation for a return to in-person learning on October 1, Wellesley Public Schools, Town and Health officials are reminding everyone in our community to keep working together to limit the spread of COVID-19. **Do your part for a safe school start!**

- Wear a mask or face covering
- Practice social distancing
- Avoid gathering in large groups
- Stay home if you feel sick

WPS is encouraging COVID-19 testing for all Wellesley students. Free, drive-thru testing for school-age children will be offered this weekend at the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant garage. [Test scheduling](#) must be done in advance.

## **New! Mail-in Ballot Application System.**

Vote by Mail applications may now be submitted online through the State's secure [Mail-in Ballot Application](#) system. You must verify your voter registration information before submitting a ballot application. If you are not yet registered to vote in Massachusetts or need to update your registration information, go to [www.RegisterToVoteMA.com](http://www.RegisterToVoteMA.com) or contact the [Town Clerk's office](#). Ballots for the November 3 Presidential and State Election will be mailed in mid-October.

## **Massachusetts Travel Changes.**

Maine has eased restrictions for Massachusetts residents. If you're traveling to Maine, you are no longer required to provide a negative COVID-19 test or quarantine. The restriction was lifted on September 23; travelers are still urged to take all precautions. In other Massachusetts travel changes, **Wyoming** is no longer on the list of low-risk states and is now subject to the [travel order](#). The current low-risk states are: **Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington**. Travelers from these states do not need to quarantine or complete the [Massachusetts Travel Form](#).

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