



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: OCTOBER 8, 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:** 133,868

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

**Total confirmed positive cases in Wellesley:** 296 (10 new cases in past 14 days)

Health officials attribute the rise in case numbers to the increased testing in our community by colleges and Wellesley Public Schools.

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

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

The Wellesley [Coronavirus Information Hub](#) includes an enhanced dashboard with data on Wellesley COVID-19 cases. This information is updated on Wednesdays with statistics 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.

### **NEW! Wellesley Public Schools Information.**

Beginning today, the Wellesley Coronavirus Information Hub will include a dashboard of metrics for Wellesley Public Schools that will be used by the district and the Health Department to determine the closing and re-opening of in-person learning if Wellesley experiences a spike in COVID-19 cases. These metrics will be updated every week and available on Thursday mornings. Go to the [Wellesley Public Schools website](#) for comprehensive WPS information including Health and Safety guidelines.

School, Town and Health officials are asking everyone in our community to continue to follow all guidelines and do your part to help schools start and stay in person.

- Wear a mask or face covering
- Practice social distancing and do not gather in groups
- Wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizer
- Stay home if you feel sick



**USDA Free Meals for Kids Program Extended through December.** This program is operated through WPS food services and will ensure that Wellesley families receiving free meals for children from our schools will continue to get them through the end of this year, whether they are in-person or learning virtually. [Learn more about the Free Meals for Kids Program.](#) Non-Wellesley Public Schools families and students who would like to participate in this program should send an email to [Whitsons, the WPS food services provider.](#)

## NEXT WEEK: Drive-thru Community Flu Clinics.

Get vaccinated for the flu at one of three drive-thru flu clinics beginning on October 14. These Health Department clinics are **appointment only** and residents must sign up in advance online at [www.wellesleyma.gov/fluclinic](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/fluclinic) Vaccinations will be offered to everyone ages 6 years and older and will take place at the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant. All school-aged children must be vaccinated for flu by December 31, 2020. Everyone is urged to be vaccinated to help lessen the impact of flu cases during the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. [Read flu clinic details here.](#)

## November 3, 2020 Election.



The Town Clerk's office is mailing ballots for the November 3 Presidential and State Election THIS WEEK to all residents who applied for an Absentee or Vote-by-Mail ballot. If you do not remember whether or not you applied for a mail-in ballot, check your status using the [TrackMyBallot](#) online search function provided by the Commonwealth. A "pending" ballot is one that is in process and will be mailed to you. **Early in-person voting begins on October 17** at the Tolles Parsons Center (500 Washington Street). Residents may vote early in-person on Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on weekends from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. [Visit the Town Clerk webpages for complete Election 2020 information.](#)

**All residents have the right to vote, free from intimidation and harassment.** The Attorney General's office has set up a website with information on voter rights, voting methods, and election protection. Go to [Protect the Vote](#) to learn more.

## Halloween Safety.



State health officials have released [information for a safe and healthy Halloween](#) during COVID-19. In keeping with holiday [guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), recommendations include:

- Enjoying Halloween activities **outside** instead of holding/attending indoor gatherings
- Placing candy on platters instead of in bowls
- Opting for one-way trick-or-treating where kids "grab and go" instead of handing out candy individually
- Leaving hand sanitizer near treats for use by kids/parents
- Doubling up on masks – wearing a protective mask AND a costume mask
- Decorating homes and yards for others to enjoy from cars
- Holding virtual costume contests and pumpkin carving events
- Celebrating ONLY with your household

[Find more Halloween tips here.](#)

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