



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: OCTOBER 23, 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: 143,927

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

Total confirmed positive cases in Wellesley: 303 (7 new cases in past 14 days)

Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000 for Wellesley: 1.7 (past 14 days)

[Read the Weekly COVID-19 Public Health report.](#) The State weekly COVID-19 Health Report is now posted on Thursday to allow for more data analysis to help health officials target guidance for communities where there may be clusters of COVID-19 cases.

Wellesley remains in the green (low risk) category on the [COVID-19 community level data map](#).

Indoor Ice Rink, Skating and Hockey Order Effective October 23.

Due to clusters of COVID-19 outbreaks associated with organized ice hockey and ice skating, State officials have suspended games, practices and any other on-ice hockey and skating activities in Massachusetts for the next two weeks. [This order](#) is effective at 5 p.m. today, Friday, October 23 through Friday, November 6.

CDC Updates "Close Contact" Guidance.

The Centers for Disease Control has updated the definition and guidance for Coronavirus "close contacts." Previously a "close contact" was defined as someone who spent at least *15 consecutive minutes* within six feet of a confirmed coronavirus case. Now the CDC defines a close contact as someone who was within six feet of an infected individual for *a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period*. This [updated guidance](#) is used by health departments to conduct contact tracing.

Small Business Grants Now Open.

Massachusetts is offering \$50.8 million in grants to small businesses experiencing income loss and hardship due to COVID-19. [Applications are being accepted](#) now through November 12.

COVID-19 Community Impact Survey Deadline Extended.

The State has extended the deadline for the [Massachusetts COVID-19 Community Impact Survey](#) until October 30. Officials hope to collect more responses from teens, people of color, young parents, English language learners, pregnant/post-partum women, and others.

November 3, 2020 Election.



Early in-person voting continues through October 30 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. Questions about voting? The Town Clerk's office has a list of [Election FAQs](#) to help explain the process to all voters, along with

information on the in-person voting locations for November 3. On Election Day, voting locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

[Visit the Town Clerk webpages for complete Election 2020 information.](#)



Special Town Meetings Begin October 26.

Wellesley is holding two Special Town Meetings beginning at 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 26 via Zoom video conferencing. Town Meeting Members will discuss and vote on a number of topics; meetings will be live-streamed and broadcast on [Wellesley Media](#). Video presentations for all articles to be considered are available on the [Town of Wellesley website](#).

RDF Reusables Area is Open.

The Reusables area at the Wellesley Recycling and Disposal Facility is open on specific days from October 21 to November 27. There are limited hours and new procedures for dropping-off and picking-up/shopping for items. [Details are on the RDF webpages.](#)

Mobile Movie Double Feature on October 27.



Reservations are still available for *The Ring*, the second movie (showing at 8:30 p.m.) in [the Recreation Department's Halloween-theme mobile movie night](#) on October 27. There is a waitlist for the first movie, *Hotel Transylvania* (showing at 6 p.m.). Mobile movies are free for Wellesley residents and funded by the Kiwanis Club of Wellesley and a grant from the Community Fund for Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund, an endowed fund of the Foundation for MetroWest, a 501c3 non-profit.

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