



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: NOVEMBER 20, 2020

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Visit Wellesley's COVID-19 Information Hub at [www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus)

**Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts:** 192,050

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

**Total confirmed positive cases in Wellesley:** 387 (57 new cases in past 14 days)

**Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000 for Wellesley:** 13.7 (past 14 days)

**Percent Positivity of Testing:** 0.58% (past 14 days)

[View the Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report.](#)

\*Data is based on information available to the Department of Public Health at a specific time. Case counts may change throughout the day due to data cleaning (duplicate reports are removed) and new demographic information (assigning cases to their correct city/town of residence).

**Please Note:** The Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report for next week will be released on Friday, November 27 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

### Wellesley Moves to Yellow Level.

A rapid increase in positive Coronavirus cases during in the past two weeks has moved Wellesley into the moderate risk (yellow) group according to the revised city & town metrics on the State's weekly COVID-19 public health report. Until this week, our community remained green. Weston is also at the yellow level, while the neighboring communities of Natick, Needham, and Newton are green.

CITY & TOWN METRICS			
Population			
Group	Under 10k	10k - 50k	Over 50k
Grey	Less than or equal to 10 total cases	Less than or equal to 10 total cases	Less than or equal to 15 total cases
Green	Less than or equal to 15 total cases	<10 avg cases/100k AND >10 total cases	<10 avg cases/100k AND >15 total cases
Yellow	Less than or equal to 25 total cases	≥10 avg cases/100k OR ≥5% pos rate	≥10 avg cases/100k OR ≥4% pos rate
Red	More than 25 total cases	≥10 avg cases/100k AND ≥5% pos rate	≥10 avg cases/100k AND ≥4% pos rate

The Health Department strongly advises residents, workers, and visitors in Wellesley to strictly follow the State and local mandates for masks and face coverings, maintain physical distance from others, and be vigilant in taking all appropriate safety measures to help curb the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Health officials continue to work on investigating COVID-19 cases in our schools, colleges, and youth sports programs and will provide more information as it becomes available. Currently, Wellesley High School is in full remote learning until at least December 1; Wellesley Middle School and all elementary schools remain in hybrid learning. See the [complete WPS Case Data](#).

Babson College has also moved to full remote learning. Students will go home for the holidays in the coming days. On campus classes are expected to resume in mid-January.

### Maine and New Hampshire Move to High Risk States.

Maine and New Hampshire will move to **high risk** effective on Saturday, November 21 at 12:01 a.m. As required by the [Massachusetts COVID-19 Travel Order](#), anyone from a high risk state must complete the Massachusetts travel form and quarantine for 14 days or have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of arriving. With this change, the **ONLY** states that are not high risk are Hawaii and Vermont



### Thanksgiving Safety.

By now, all residents should be aware of the State recommendations for [Holidays during COVID-19](#). Residents may have received a phone message from DPH via the State resident alert system reminding them of these safety measures, current gathering limits (10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors), and the quarantine orders for visitors from high risk states.

**Reduce your risk during holiday celebrations.** Follow some basic safety guidelines from the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) to protect yourself and your family.

**HOLIDAY MEALS & COVID-19: REDUCE YOUR RISK**  
*Protect your loved ones from getting or spreading COVID-19 during the holidays*

	SAFEST	RISKIER	RISKIEST
<b>Who's Coming?</b>	Only household members gathering	People from households that are in your "quarantine bubble" (note new household gathering size limits - 10 indoors, 25 outdoors - in Governor's Order No. 54)	Multiple households gathering
<b>Where?</b>	Outdoors/Open Air	Indoors with doors and windows open	Indoors with no fresh air coming in
<b>How Close?</b>	Virtual dinner with people sharing a meal online	One table per household 6 feet apart	Seated less than 6 feet apart
<b>How to Serve?</b>	Each household brings their own self-contained food and drink	One person serves all food onto plates to minimize handling	Family-style passing of platters, containers, condiments

Get creative and modify your usual holiday plans!

- Watch the [Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade](#) together – at home.
- [Zoom](#) with family and friends. Zoom has lifted the 40-minute time limit for free users all day on November 26 and until 6 a.m. on November 27.
- Check out this CDC list of [Other Thanksgiving Activities](#).

### One More Week for Wellesley Holiday Toy Drive.

The Recreation Department and Youth Commission continue to collect new, unwrapped toys for families who need extra help this holiday season. Drop off toys at the collection shed in the Tailby commuter rail lot through Saturday, November 28.