



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: DECEMBER 18, 2020

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

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

**Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts:** 302,933

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

**Total confirmed positive cases in Wellesley:** 565 (87 new cases in past 14 days)

**Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000 for Wellesley:** 20.90 (past 14 days)

**Percent Positivity of Testing:** 1.05% (past 14 days)

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

*\*Data is based on information available to MDPH at a specific time. Case counts may change as data cleaning occurs.*

Wellesley Health officials report that our community continues to see 8-10 new COVID-19 cases every day. The primary source of virus transmission is among households; officials also continue to see case spikes that are the result of gatherings outside of households where COVID-19 protocols are not followed. Please! Remember to wear masks, keep your distance from others, practice good hygiene, and limit gatherings only to members of your household or COVID cohort/pod.

### December Holiday Guidance.

As we enter the height of the December holiday season in the middle of the current COVID-19 case surge, it's critical to follow the public health guidance that we know will help keep people safe.

- Limit in-person celebrations to household members only
- Postpone or cancel travel this holiday season. IF you do travel, be aware of and comply with [Massachusetts travel order](#) requirements.
- Follow all the current [State gathering size limits](#).

The State website has a list of low-risk activities and ideas to help you celebrate traditions such as caroling, visiting Santa, touring holiday lights, more while still staying safe. [Read the holiday guidance.](#)

### Newton Wellesley Hospital COVID-19 Testing Program.

The Health Department is partnering with Newton Wellesley Hospital on a limited testing program for residents and Town employees. This program is referral only and will be managed by the Health Department. If you may have been exposed to COVID-19 and are having difficulty getting tested, please contact Health Department nurses at 781-235-0135. To find COVID-19 tests sites throughout the Commonwealth, please visit the [Test Site Locator map](#).

### COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Massachusetts.

The State has started vaccinating health care workers and first responders for COVID-19 using initial shipments of the Pfizer vaccine. The shipments of the newly approved Moderna vaccine will begin arriving soon. Immunizations will be done in phases; the Department of Public Health will launch a public dashboard to help track immunization priority. Beginning next week, if you have questions

about the phase in which you can be vaccinated, you may email [COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov](mailto:COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov) for information. [Read complete vaccine information here.](#)

**Flu Vaccine Reminder.** This year, the State is requiring that any students attending daycare through graduate school be vaccinated for flu by December 31, 2020. Flu shot documentation must be provided to Wellesley Public School nurses for students to attend school in-person after the upcoming winter break.

### **Dog License Renewals Begin January 1.**



All dogs in Wellesley must have a current license. Owners may renew dog licenses online starting on January 1, 2021. Due to the pandemic, Town Hall is closed and licenses may not be renewed in-person. Visit the Town [online licensing webpage](#) for information.

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