



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: DECEMBER 23, 2020

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Visit Wellesley's COVID-19 Information Hub at www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus

*Due to the holidays, weekly case data will be updated on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts: 322,652

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

As we all prepare to celebrate the holiday season, Town and Health officials continue to be very concerned about COVID-19 community spread. Please! Do not let your guard down, especially if there are members of your household who have been exposed to or may be infected with the coronavirus. Everyone should follow these recommended guidelines to stay safe:

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

[Read the State holiday guidance.](#)

Local COVID-19 Testing Information.

The Health Department has compiled [this list](#) of local COVID-19 test sites for residents. If you or family members feel ill, please consult with your primary care provider to see if testing is needed and where they recommend you obtain testing. Check on coverage by contacting your insurance company. As test result processing times may vary at all locations, the turnaround time given is an estimate.

Tighter Restrictions in Effect on December 26.

Governor Baker has announced plans to temporarily further restrict capacity limits. Beginning on Saturday, December 26, capacity is limited to 25 percent at many businesses, including at restaurants, theaters, performance venues, personal services, casinos, offices, places of worship, retail, golf facilities, libraries, gyms and museums, and more. Workers and staff do not count toward the capacity totals for restaurants, personal services, places of worship and retail locations such as grocery stores.

The governor also reduced gathering limits at private homes, event venues and public spaces to 25 people outdoors and 10 people indoors. This new order will remain in effect for two weeks, until January 9, 2021 and may be extended longer. Read [a summary of the restrictions](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health will launch a public dashboard on Thursday, December 24 with information on the State COVID-19 vaccine plans. Residents can track immunization priority on the dashboard. If you have questions about the phase in which you can be vaccinated, email COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov for information. [Read complete vaccine information here.](#)

NEW: Flu Vaccine Deadline Extended. The State has extended the deadline requiring that any students attending daycare through graduate school be vaccinated for flu. The new deadline is **February 28**,

2021. WPS parents, please remember to provide flu shot documentation to Wellesley Public School nurses as soon as possible.

State Relief for Small Businesses.

Massachusetts restaurants, retailers, and other small businesses are eligible for grants through the State's new [\\$668 million small business relief fund](#). Qualified businesses could receive up to \$75,000 or three-months of operating expenses. This money can be used for salaries, utilities, rent, debt or other expenses. Grants will be administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation. Businesses who have already applied for a smaller \$50 million grant program do not have to reapply. More details will be available in the next few days.

Happy Holidays from the Town of Wellesley!

This year has been one of the most challenging ever faced by our community. Thank you to our businesses, our elected officials and staff, and most of all our residents for your endless support and your compassion for each other during this time.

We wish everyone safe celebrations and a healthy New Year.



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