



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: JANUARY 22, 2021

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

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

Total confirmed COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts: 467,845

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

Total confirmed positive cases in Wellesley: 809 (104 new cases in past 14 days)

Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000 for Wellesley: 25.0 (past 14 days)

Percent Positivity of Testing: 1.61% (past 14 days)

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

Wellesley is seeing a record number of new Coronavirus cases; most are from household transmission. If someone in your house is sick, try to isolate that person as much as possible and wear masks, even while inside your house.

State Lifts Some COVID-19 Restrictions on Jan. 25. 25% Capacity Limits Remain.

Massachusetts will lift the current [Stay at Home advisory for residents and early closing](#) 9:30 p.m. curfew for restaurants and businesses, effective on Monday, January 25. However, the existing 25% capacity limits and current gathering orders (10 people max. indoors/25 people max. outdoors) remain in effect for two more weeks, until Monday, February 8. All other orders and COVID-19 safety guidelines remain in place throughout the State and our community.

All Phase One Residents Can Be Vaccinated.



Effective immediately, all Massachusetts residents in Phase One can receive the COVID-19 vaccine. This includes: COVID-facing healthcare workers; first responders; long-term care facility residents, patients and staff; congregate care residents and staff; home-based healthcare workers; and non-COVID facing healthcare workers.

Check the [State map](#) with locations and scheduling information to make appointments at vaccination sites including the mass vaccination location at Gillette Stadium, regional hospitals, and participating CVS Health and Walgreens pharmacies. More mass vaccination sites including Fenway Park (opening on February 1), other pharmacy sites, and community clinics will open on a rolling basis in the coming weeks. **PLEASE NOTE: Unless you are eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase One, you cannot yet sign up for other Phases at any sites.**

COVID-19 Vaccine for Veterans. Veterans who are currently enrolled in the Federal government VA Health Care Systems may be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine now if you are: 65+ years, and at high-risk of severe illness from COVID-19. [If you meet these criteria](#), a VA Health Care staff member will contact you directly. Veterans who are not receiving VA Health Care and would like to enroll should call 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or [apply for these benefits](#) through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The State [COVID-19 vaccine website](#) provides the most up-to-date information on the vaccine timeline, details, and scheduling information for you and your family members. While the vaccine is an

important step in containing the virus, please remember to wear masks, stay socially distant, and wash your hands EVEN after you've been vaccinated to protect everyone in our community.

Masks Required for Interstate Travel.

To comply with CDC guidelines, travelers are now required to wear masks on all interstate transportation (planes, ferries, trains, buses, and other public transportation modes) and in all airports. This new COVID-19 order was among several announced by the Biden-Harris administration and is effective immediately.

Return Papers for Town Meeting Member Positions by Jan. 26.

Any residents running for Town Meeting Member positions must return nomination papers by Tuesday, January 26 at 5 p.m. The annual [Town Election](#) is Tuesday, March 2. Residents may request a [Vote by Mail ballot](#) until February 24.

Mental Health Chat.

One more week to sign up for a virtual chat about self-care during COVID-19 with Wellesley Health Department Social Workers on **Thursday, January 28th from 1:00-2:00 p.m.** To register, please email your name and phone number to Senior Community Social Worker Joyce Saret at jsaret@wellesleyma.gov

NN Chamber to Host Open House on Feb. 4.

Learn about Wellesley's new partnership with the Newton Needham Chamber of Commerce. Businesses and non-profits are invited to a virtual Open House hosted by the Chamber on Thursday, February 4 at 10 a.m. on Zoom. The program includes a presentation about how the Chamber serves members and a meet-and-greet with leaders and staff. [Advance registration](#) is required.

More Townsman 10 Honorees!

Each year *The Wellesley Townsman* profiles ten individuals or groups who were nominated by residents for the impact they've made in our community and beyond. This week's profiles featured two dedicated members of Wellesley Public Schools (more profiles will be published next week.)

Congratulations to [School Building Committee chair/School Committee member Sharon Gray](#) and [Wellesley High School's Diane Zinck](#)!

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