



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MARCH 19, 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: 574,135

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

Total confirmed positive cases in Wellesley: 1142 (61 new cases in past 14 days)

Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000 for Wellesley: 14.7 (past 14 days)

Percent Positivity of Testing: 0.47% (past 14 days)

[View the Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report.](#) Updated on March 18, 2021

Vaccine Update

Total vaccination rate for Wellesley: 24.1%

[View the Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Report.](#) Updated on March 18, 2021

The State announced the dates for all remaining groups to be [eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine](#). The timeline is as follows:

- March 22: Residents 60+ and certain workers
- April 5: Residents 55+ and residents with one certain medical condition
- April 19: General public ages 16 years and older

All residents are encouraged to [preregister for vaccine appointments](#) at the State mass vaccination clinics. Once you are eligible, you will be notified when an appointment becomes available. Eligible residents should also check CVS, Walgreens, and Wegmans retail pharmacies for vaccine appointments.

Vaccine Dates for Educators. The State will hold four dedicated vaccination clinics for educators, all school staff, and childcare workers on March 27, April 3, April 10, and April 11. These clinics will take place at the mass vaccination sites; educators can sign up using the preregistration system.

Phase 4 of Reopening Begins on March 22

The Commonwealth will [move to Phase 4 of the reopening plan](#) on Monday, March 22. Under this phase, large sports and entertainment venues will be able to open with 12% capacity. These venues include indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas, and ballparks. In addition, gathering limits for public settings increase to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. For private settings, gatherings are limited to 25 people outdoors and 10 people indoors. Dance floors are permitted at weddings, and summer camps will be allowed to operate. **Please note: The Wellesley Recreation Department is reviewing these new guidelines and will share information soon about decisions for local summer camps.**

Travel Advisory Replaces Travel Order

As of Monday, March 22 travelers entering Massachusetts are now advised but not required to quarantine for 10 days, or produce a negative COVID-19 test. In addition, travelers who are fully vaccinated (have received 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna, or 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson, 14 days or more ago) are exempt from this advisory.

WPS Full In-person Return Update

Wellesley Public Schools has announced its expanded school reopening plans. The timeline for a full, in-person return to schools is as follows:

- Elementary schools (Grades K through 5) – Monday, April 5
- Wellesley Middle School – Week of April 12
- Wellesley High School – Week of April 26

The Remote Learning School will continue through the remainder of the school year for students currently enrolled in that learning model.

Babson and Wellesley College Update

This week [Babson](#) and [Wellesley](#) Colleges announced plans for a full return to campus in the fall of 2021 including in-person classes, increased capacity housing, and in-person social and campus opportunities. Babson College will hold a summer session from May 10 to July 16 with a mix of hybrid and online classes. Wellesley College will offer summer courses remotely from June 7 to July 23, along with a limited on-campus Science Center Summer Research Program. **Please note:** The Wellesley College campus continues to remain closed to the public.

Limited In-Person 2021 Boston Marathon

The Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) will hold an [in-person Boston Marathon](#) on Monday, October 11, 2021. The in-person field will be limited to 20,000 runners, along with a virtual field of up to 70,000 runners. Wellesley will receive 22 invitational entries for the in-person race. The Select Board is currently reviewing its process for recruiting nonprofit organizations and their runners for these entries. More information will be announced next week.

Yard/Garage/Tag Sale Permits

Starting on April 1, yard/garage/tag sales will again be permitted in Wellesley. Anyone interested in holding a sale must apply for their permit online through the [ViewPoint Cloud platform](#). Only one permit per residence per calendar year is allowed; this rule will be strictly enforced. Permit holders are responsible for following all State mandated COVID-19 standards for retailers and businesses.

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