



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MAY 14, 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: 654,734

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

NEW confirmed positive cases in Wellesley: 28 (past 14 days)

Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000 for Wellesley: 6.7 (past 14 days)

Percent Positivity of Testing: .28% (past 14 days)

Vaccination Rate in Wellesley: 47% (fully vaccinated residents)

[View the COVID-19 Vaccination Report.](#) (Updated May 13)

Wellesley Health officials continue to be very encouraged by the positive trend in data from the State and in our community. COVID-19 cases continue to decline. On May 11, Massachusetts reported zero deaths from COVID! Wellesley's percent positivity is under .3%, the lowest in more than a year, and nearly 50% of all residents are fully vaccinated. We know this is due to everyone in our community doing their part and continuing to take precautions. Thank you!

Mask Update.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has revised [indoor mask guidelines for fully vaccinated individuals](#). We understand this is causing some confusion however, our community continues to follow all State guidelines regarding masks. We expect to receive details in the coming days from the Governor and Mass DPH which will provide more specific information on when and where to wear a mask or face covering. We will continue to update the community as we learn more. **Please note:** Wellesley Public Schools is continuing its practice that **masks are to be worn at all times (indoors and outdoors) while on school property** except during mask breaks.

Vaccines for Children Ages 12-18.

Children ages 12-17 can now receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is safe and effective and individuals do not need insurance to be vaccinated, but a consent form from a parent or guardian is required for a minor and must be brought to the vaccination location. [Appointments for children](#) are now available at all State vaccine clinics.

Please note: Health Department nurses are happy to speak with anyone who has questions about the COVID-19 vaccine. The Department is also able to provide transportation to vaccine clinics for all Wellesley residents. If you need assistance, please call 781-235-0135.

WPS Vaccine Clinic.

Wellesley Public Schools is working with Pelmeds Pharmacy in Waltham to host a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at Wellesley High School on Tuesday, May 25 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Wellesley High School. Any student receiving a vaccine that day will be invited back on June 15 for their second dose. This clinic is

free of charge and open to any WPS student between the ages of 12 and 18. [Contact WPS for information.](#)

Employer vaccine program. The State is offering a new program to allow employers to vaccinate their employees. Appointments for this program are available beginning on May 17. There is no financial cost to the employer. Detailed information and forms to request appointments are [available on the State website.](#)

Restrictions Continue to Ease.

The State continues to relax capacity guidelines and restrictions for certain industries and sectors. On May 10, capacity guidelines increased to 50 percent for large venues, arenas, ballparks, and stadiums, and road races and outdoor group athletic events are now allowed with approved COVID-19 safety plans. More changes take effect on May 29, when the State plans to allow larger public and private gatherings. If you are holding events, please remember to contact the Health Department to make sure your plans follow specific guidelines. Changes to business, restaurant, and industry guidelines are being handled directly by the Health Department on a case-by-case basis.

May is Mental Health Month.

This past year has challenged our mental health and well-being as we've all navigated the COVID-19 pandemic. May is mental health month, and Town and Health officials want to make sure all of us take care of ourselves and each other!

A flag display is set up on the lawn of the Wellesley Free Library to help create awareness, reduce



stigma, educate, and provide support and resources for individuals and families in our community struggling with mental health. “We hope this display will encourage more people to talk about mental health to help all of us better understand these illnesses and realize that no one should feel alone,” said Jessica Cliff, Health Department specialist.

- 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year
- 1 in 6 U.S. youth ages 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year

Health officials are reminding everyone to take time for themselves. Anything from talking with a friend, going for a walk, or reading a good book can improve mental health. Thank you to our partners at the Wellesley Free Library for their help supporting this unique display.

Teen Depression Program. On May 24, parents and other adults are invited to take part in a Health Department program discussing Teen Depression. Join a free webinar and learn from a clinician about how to recognize the signs of depression and support our teenagers. [Register with the Health Department in advance to participate.](#)

At any time if residents have questions about COVID-19, vaccines, or other concerns, our community social workers are available. Please contact Joyce Saret directly at jsaret@wellesleyma.gov and Wanda Alvarez directly at walvarez@wellesleyma.gov