



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MAY 21, 2021

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

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

**Total confirmed COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts:** 658,841

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

**NEW confirmed positive cases in Wellesley:** 9 (past 14 days)

**Average Daily Incidence Rate/100,000 for Wellesley:** 2.2 (past 14 days)

**Percent Positivity of Testing:** .16% (past 14 days)

**Vaccination Rate in Wellesley:** 65% (residents with at least 1 vaccine dose)

[View the COVID-19 Vaccination Report.](#) (Updated May 20)

Public health data for Wellesley is among the best in the Commonwealth! Thank you to all of our residents, businesses, and visitors for following COVID-19 protocols throughout the past 14 months. As restrictions in the Commonwealth and in Wellesley are lifted on May 29, and the State of Emergency ends on June 15, we are all eager to “get back to normal.” Town and Health officials are asking everyone in our community to be respectful of each other. We all have different comfort levels for behavior post-COVID; please be sensitive, kind, and not make assumptions. We encourage family conversations about appropriate risk levels, and remind everyone that businesses, retailers, and employers can individually determine the best practices they would like all of us to follow.

We look forward to the full reopening of our community this summer.

### Restrictions Lift on May 29.

Wellesley is aligning with the Commonwealth and lifting COVID-19 restrictions **effective May 29**. All public buildings and industries will be fully open and capacity will return to 100 percent. Town Hall will also reopen to the public. All public meetings will resume on June 15 when the State of Emergency ends. Changes to business, restaurant, and industry guidelines are being handled directly by the Health Department on a case-by-case basis.

The mask/face covering order will end on May 29, and be replaced by a [new mask/face covering advisory](#) that is consistent with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. This advisory has specific information for vaccinated and not vaccinated individuals and children. The advisory also requires that masks continue to be worn in certain settings including transportation and health care facilities. [See the complete list here.](#)

**Wellesley Public Schools guidelines.** WPS has updated its mask guidance to align with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Students no longer need to wear masks when outdoors, even if distance cannot be maintained. This applies to recess, physical education, athletics, youth sports, and outdoor learning environments. Adults must continue to wear masks outdoors if distancing cannot be maintained. **At this time, adults and students must continue to wear masks indoors.**

## **WPS Vaccine Clinic.**

Wellesley Public Schools and [Pelmeds Pharmacy in Waltham](#) will host a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at Wellesley High School on Tuesday, May 25 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. The clinic is free of charge and open to both Wellesley students and anyone in the community who would like to be vaccinated. Those receiving a vaccine that day will be invited back on June 15 for their second dose. [Contact WPS for information.](#)

**Trip Advisor Walk-in Vaccine Clinic.** From June 1 to June 16, Newton Wellesley Hospital is offering walk-in vaccine appointments at the Trip Advisor clinic in Needham. Vaccine appointments are available on Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, call 855-890-9241.

**Teen Depression Program Rescheduled for June 8.** On Tuesday, June 8, 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 to participate.](#)

A reminder that we are continuing to educate our community on the importance of mental health awareness. 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](mailto:jsaret@wellesleyma.gov) and Wanda Alvarez directly at [walvarez@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:walvarez@wellesleyma.gov)

## **Donate Food and Touch a Truck Tomorrow!**

Celebrate the end of National Public Works week. On Saturday, May 22, all residents are invited to stop by DPW Headquarters (20 Municipal Way) or the RDF book exchange area and bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Wellesley Food Pantry.



Fill a bucket or a truck bed and see a selection of trucks, front loaders, fire apparatus, and police cruisers. And masks are not required outside!

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