



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Wellesley Health Department

## TOWN OF WELLESLEY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### COVID-19 Delta Variant, Mosquitoes, Sunscreen Recall

**July 16, 2021 (Wellesley, MA)** – The Commonwealth is continuing to see a slight rise in COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant. Wellesley Health officials want to remind everyone in the community that the COVID-19 vaccine provides the safest protection against this variant and helps limit the transmission of the virus. If you have **NOT** been fully vaccinated for COVID-19, now is the time to do it. Access to the [COVID-19 vaccine in Massachusetts](#) is widely available at local hospitals and physician offices, pharmacies, and through the State’s in-home and mobile vaccination programs. The vaccine is free to all individuals and you do not need insurance to be vaccinated.

Wellesley is [reporting](#) eleven new cases of COVID-19 in the past two weeks which are attributed to the Delta variant. The percent positivity of cases is .66%; this data is slightly higher than reported a few weeks ago. This slight uptick is **not** unexpected – the Delta variant is more contagious than other COVID-19 variants but so far has not been more severe.

Wellesley, like surrounding communities, has also seen some breakthrough COVID-19 cases. This is also **not** unexpected. Some individuals, even if they’re vaccinated, may not be completely immune but if they are infected, their cases will likely be very mild. It’s important to remember that vaccine protection against all of the identified COVID-19 variants, including the Delta variant, remains extremely high. At this time, public health officials are not recommending a third vaccine dose for most people.

#### Protect Yourself from Mosquito Bites

Recent heavy rains mean more mosquitoes in the area and an increased risk of mosquito-borne illnesses such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV). Wellesley is part of the [East Middlesex Mosquito Control Commission](#) and conducts testing throughout peak periods during the year in addition to treating catch basins, and applying larvicide when necessary.

To stay safe, the Health Department is reminding residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites by avoiding high risk times and using repellent. Homeowners are also encouraged to eliminate standing water in yards by emptying containers, bird baths, toys, etc. that collect water and could become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Visit the Health Department webpages for [information and resources on mosquito and tick protection](#).

## **Sunscreen Recall**

Johnson & Johnson is voluntarily [recalling five Neutrogena and Aveeno aerosol sunscreens](#) because these products may contain trace amounts of benzene. Benzene is classified as a human carcinogen, a substance that could potentially cause cancer depending on the level and extent of exposure.

The specific sunscreen products are:

- NEUTROGENA® Beach Defense® aerosol sunscreen,
- NEUTROGENA® Cool Dry Sport aerosol sunscreen,
- NEUTROGENA® Invisible Daily™ defense aerosol sunscreen,
- NEUTROGENA® Ultra Sheer® aerosol sunscreen, and
- AVEENO® Protect + Refresh aerosol sunscreen.

**Please review your sunscreen products and stop using these specific ones.** Parents, caregivers, and camp operators should also review any sunscreen applied to children. It's important to replace these recalled products with another broad spectrum sunscreen with SPF values of 25 or higher. Sunscreen is critical to public health. It provides preventative measures from skin cancer, early skin aging and other risks of overexposure to the sun.

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