



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Public Indoor Mask Advisory for Wellesley



The Wellesley Board of Health has issued an indoor mask **advisory** for all individuals ages 5 and up when in public settings, to help combat the COVID-19 Delta Variant. The full advisory is below and was approved by the Board on Thursday, September 9.

In light of the recent increase in the COVID Virus Delta variant, which has proven to be significantly more transmissible, we are strongly advising that individuals over the age of 5 wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth when indoors in a public setting, regardless of their vaccination status. Please understand that information and data is changing rapidly, and we are doing our best to respond in a thoughtful and expedient manner. As additional information is released from the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health our decisions may change. It's important that we all remain flexible and vigilant during these times.

This advisory is an additional precaution that goes hand-in-hand with the Board of Health and Select Board [emergency order](#) currently in effect that requires the public to wear masks when inside municipal buildings, regardless of vaccination status, and requires Town employees to wear masks when assisting customers. The Wellesley School Committee is also requiring that Wellesley Public Schools students, staff, and visitors wear masks indoors throughout the month of September.

Wellesley Public Schools Joins State COVID-19 Testing Program



To help stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep schools open, Wellesley Public Schools is participating in a State-sponsored COVID-19 testing program for students and staff. This program includes three testing elements: Symptomatic Testing, "Test & Stay", and Surveillance Testing. Through these three offerings, WPS will be able to identify COVID-19 cases quickly and early, which will help stop an outbreak before one occurs and enable the district to keep students in classrooms and participating fully in school activities.

WPS COVID-19 Dashboard. Data from this testing will be used to update the reactivated [WPS COVID Case Tracking Dashboard](#) on the WPS website and linked on the Wellesley COVID-19 Information Hub.

U.S. to Require COVID-19 Vaccine for Federal Employees, Health Care Workers, Some Private Businesses

President Biden has announced [a vaccine mandate](#) for employees in the executive branch of the U.S. government, and health care workers in institutions that accept Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements including hospitals and nursing homes. Private sector businesses with more than 100 employees are being urged to require vaccinations for all employees or mandate weekly COVID-19 testing. The President cannot require all Americans to be vaccinated as that decision is up to individual states.

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