



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: NOVEMBER 19, 2021

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Health Officials Expect a COVID-19 Winter Surge



Wellesley Health officials continue to monitor COVID-19 cases in our community. A rise in infections is expected this winter as people travel, gather for the holidays, and activities move indoors. Data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) shows 43 new cases in Wellesley in the past 14 days. Wellesley's percent positivity rate has increased slightly to .71 %. Here's what you can do to stay as healthy as possible:

- **Get the COVID-19 vaccine and booster.** See details below.
- **Get a flu shot.** You can receive the COVID-19 and flu vaccines at the same time. Health officials are predicting a difficult flu season this winter.
- **Wear a mask when indoors in public buildings.** The [emergency order](#) requiring masks when indoors in Wellesley municipal buildings remains in effect.
- **Consider the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission when planning activities.** Current public health information shows that the COVID-19 virus is not going away. All of us need to adjust behavior according to individual comfort levels.

A reminder that COVID-19 data is updated weekly on Wellesley's COVID-19 Information Hub at www.wellesley.ma.gov/coronavirus

COVID-19 Boosters for All Fully Vaccinated Individuals 18+

All Massachusetts residents 18+ are [now eligible to get the COVID-19 booster](#) six months after receiving their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or two months after receiving one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. COVID-19 vaccines can greatly reduce the risk of serious illness and hospitalization. Boosters are readily available for eligible adults at local pharmacies and physician offices. Visit vaxfinder.mass.gov to find vaccine locations and schedule shots. Some pharmacies, [including CVS](#) are offering COVID-19 vaccine appointments 24-hours a day. For detailed information on boosters and mixing vaccines, see this [Wellesley Health Department flyer](#).

COVID-19 Vaccines for Children

The [Pfizer COVID vaccine is approved for children ages 5 to 11 years old](#). Earlier this week, Wellesley Public Schools held a 2-day vaccine clinic for more than 700 students. A limited number of children's appointments are now available at local pharmacies; more appointments are being added daily. If you have questions about vaccines for children, please consult your pediatrician or family physician.

Please note: The Wellesley Health Department is not offering COVID-19 vaccines for adults or children.

Thanksgiving Food Safety

Avoid food borne illnesses this Thanksgiving by following some [basic food safety tips](#) from the Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). And above all else, keep washing your hands!

Happy Thanksgiving from the Town of Wellesley!