



## CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: DECEMBER 10, 2021

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

### Health Officials Reinforce Mask Advisory



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

The Wellesley Health Department issued the following community advisory today, reinforcing masking up when indoors in public.

***In light of the continued increase in COVID cases, 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.***

***We are closely monitoring public health data about the COVID variants and responding in a thoughtful and expedient manner. As additional information is released from the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health, decisions concerning the health and safety of our community may change. It is important that we all remain flexible and vigilant during these times.***

An [emergency order](#) requiring masks when indoors in Wellesley municipal buildings remains in effect. In addition, many local businesses are again requiring patrons to wear masks; please be mindful of these guidelines as you shop, dine, and support our local retailers and restaurants this holiday season. Please consider the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission when planning activities, and 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](http://www.wellesley.ma.gov/coronavirus)**

### Get COVID-19 Boosters

All Massachusetts residents 18+ are [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. Visit [vaxfinder.mass.gov](http://vaxfinder.mass.gov) to find vaccine locations and schedule shots or check local pharmacy websites like [CVS](#) for vaccine appointments. **Please check websites frequently!** Vaccine appointments are added on a rolling basis and spots open up throughout the day.

**Natick Booster Clinic on December 11.** The Natick Department of Public Health is holding a COVID-19 booster clinic on Saturday, December 11 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Natick High School. **This clinic is open to all adults 18+ (no teens or children).** You do not need to be a Natick resident to attend. [Sign up here](#) and bring your vaccine card.

**Boosters for Ages 16-17.** On December 9, the FDA and CDC approved the [Pfizer COVID-19 booster for teens ages 16-17 years old](#). Parents and guardians may begin scheduling vaccine appointments six months after teens received their second vaccine dose.

## Flu & Cold Infections Rise

Health officials are seeing a sharp increase in cases of influenza and colds this winter. All individuals are urged to get a flu shot if you have not received one. You can get the flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time.

A well-fitting mask can also help prevent flu and cold transmission especially when indoors and in large groups. Continuing to practice good hygiene – washing hands frequently and using hand sanitizer – is also recommended to help reduce the spread of flu, the common cold, and other respiratory infections.

## A (Safe) Blue Ribbon Celebration for Hardy School



Congratulations to the students and staff at Hardy Elementary School who celebrated their U.S. Department of Education [“Blue Ribbon Schools”](#) designation today with an outdoor ceremony!

-END-