



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: MARCH 4, 2022

THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Wellesley Lifts COVID-19 Mask Restrictions



As of **March 7, 2022** the Town of Wellesley's indoor mask mandate for municipal buildings, issued by the Board of Health and Select Board on September 1, 2021, is lifted. Going forward, wearing a mask indoors is optional in Wellesley and strongly advised for individuals with weakened immune systems, those who are at risk for severe disease, or those who are not vaccinated.

In lifting this local mandate, Town and Health officials want everyone in our community to determine and follow the virus protection efforts that make the most sense for them individually. Some people may continue to need or want to wear a mask. Please be respectful of these choices. As we take additional steps to restore greater levels of day-to-day normalcy, please remember to stay at home if you are experiencing any [COVID-19 symptoms](#).

Council on Aging Vaccine and Mask Provision: Due to the vulnerable population served by the Wellesley Council on Aging, the COA Board has [voted a provision](#) requiring that individuals participating in in-person COA programs and activities at the Tolles Parsons Center be vaccinated and continue to wear masks at this time.

Wellesley Public Schools COVID-19 Changes

On March 7, 2022 Wellesley Public Schools (WPS) will transition to a new COVID-19 mitigation plan developed by Health and School officials and approved by the School Committee. This transition plan includes moving to a mask optional environment for all students and staff, with the exception of health offices, individuals who are returning between days 6 and 10 of a COVID-positive diagnosis, or individuals who have had known, prolonged exposure to someone with COVID-19.

The transition plan also includes details on changes to school lunches, visitors and volunteers, performing arts and athletics, field trips, and specific COVID mitigation measures. Complete details are available in the [WPS Transition Plan](#) on the Wellesley Public Schools website.

Massachusetts Downsizes Stop the Spread Sites

Due to a significant decrease in the need for COVID-19 state-sponsored testing sites, and the wide availability of rapid antigen tests, Massachusetts will downsize Stop the Spread testing sites to only 11 locations by April 1, 2022. The Framingham site, which is closest to Wellesley, will stay open through at least May 15, 2022 and will continue to offer free PCR testing to any Massachusetts resident, with no ID or insurance required. To find locations for other test sites in the Commonwealth, go to the [State's Get Tested webpages](#).

COVID-19 data continues to be available on Wellesley's COVID-19 Information Hub at www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus