

LATEST UPDATE – JANUARY 19, 2021

We are pleased to inform you that both residents and staff of public and private low income and affordable senior housing are now included in the first group of Phase Two of vaccine deployment in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which is anticipated to begin in February.

Additional guidance and information can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-senior-housing-settings>. The new guidance means that residents of the vast majority of our properties will be able to be vaccinated in Phase Two, Group One, including specifically, residents of:

- Elm Park Tower Apartments
- Lincoln Park Tower Apartments
- Webster Square Towers East & West
- Pleasant Tower Apartments
- Murray & Wellington Apartments
- Belmont Tower Apartments
- Mill Pond Apartments
- Addison Apartments
- Mayside Apartments
- Lafayette Place
- Curran Terrace
- Booth Apartments
- Greenwood Gardens



Residents of WHA family and other sites not listed above may also be included in Phase Two, Group One if they meet one or both of the following criteria: 1) individuals with two or more [comorbidities](#); or 2) individuals age 75 and over. All other residents will be eligible in other phases, as outlined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts [COVID-19 vaccination program](#).

The WHA is working with local public health officials to coordinate and set-up vaccination sites on our properties in order to ensure the highest possible participation and outcomes. Please pay close attention to all WHA resident notices and calls. More information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks as we work out the details.

We hope that you will all participate and get vaccinated. It is the only way that our community will defeat this deadly virus that has held our country hostage for the last year. There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Thank you.

SHOULD I WEAR A MASK INDOORS?

Remember, Massachusetts is under a mask mandate order, which means that **masks must be worn at all times while in public**, even when you can social distance appropriately. Masks are **required** on all WHA properties, at all times that you are outside of your unit.

However, it is just as important to remember to wear your mask when indoors at all times if visiting with family, friends, or others who do not live with you.

Our data shows that a majority of the spread of the Coronavirus within our residents and employees has been via asymptomatic family members. Visits with a parent, aunt, uncle, cousin, or grandparent. Celebrations over the holidays or for special occasions. Anytime you visit someone outside of your immediate household, you are putting yourself and them at risk.

Just because they are part of your family does not mean that they are part of your circle. They may be having visits from caregivers or service providers. They may be going to different stores or workplaces than you. Their children may be attending a different school or classroom. All of it means a wider contact pool. Keep your family safe - wear your mask!

Assume everyone around you is infected - wear a mask!



THE NUMBERS

- **In Massachusetts:** As of January 14th, there were **91,396 active cases**, with 2,226 people hospitalized, 454 in ICU, and 13,156 deaths.
- **In Worcester:** As of January 14th, there were 17,129 confirmed positive cases. The current highest percentage of cases have been diagnosed in people ages 20-39.
- **At our properties:** 30 WHA households are currently under quarantine because someone is positive for COVID-19.

RESOURCES

- **Need a COVID test?** Click here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>; or here: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>.
- **Need information?** Call the City of Worcester COVID-19 hotline at 508-799-1019, Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Albanian. Text WHACOVID to 67076 for alerts, or visit: [website](#).
- **Infected or exposed? Need a mask?** Call your Property Manager or Resident Services at 508-635-3306 for resources to quarantine safely.