

# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES & GUIDANCE



## URGENT UPDATE – DECEMBER 22, 2020

We are in the midst of a true crisis across the nation in regard to COVID-19. Infection rates across the country are skyrocketing and quickly surpassing anything we saw in the spring. **The “second wave” is here.**

### I MASK UP FOR my health



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I wear a mask for many reasons, the main one that I have existing health issues and was sick when the virus started. It keeps us all safe.

– Ed Laliberte,  
WHA Resident, Greenwood  
Apartments & JWRC Chair

WE ARE IN THIS  
TOGETHER.



### WEAR YOUR MASK – IT’S MANDATORY

**It is CRITICAL that we all stay vigilant.**

We have received a number of reports that residents and visitors are continuing to move about the properties without masks.

**Masks are REQUIRED on all WHA properties.**

WHA staff will be visiting our properties over the next few weeks to:

- Remind residents/visitors to wear masks.
- Hand out masks to ensure compliance.

Follow [the WHA’s Facebook page](#) to see our “Mask Up” campaign, where every week, your neighbors, friends, and community members tell us why they are masking-up for your safety and their own. **Return the favor - wear a mask!**

### THE VACCINE IS COMING

There is a light at the end of this long tunnel – the vaccine is on the way! **However, it will likely be months at a minimum before the majority of us are able to get the vaccine.** Health care workers, people in long-term care facilities, essential workers/front-line personnel, and the elderly will get the vaccine first. Public health officials estimate that 70-75% of the population needs to be vaccinated before we can begin getting “back to normal.” Individuals with questions about what phase they can be vaccinated in can send an email to [COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov](mailto:COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov). Read more about the vaccine here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/14/well/live/covid-vaccine-questions.html>.

### GATHER SAFELY FOR THE HOLIDAYS – GO VIRTUAL

Once again, the holidays are upon us. However you celebrate, please do it safely. Public health officials note that many of the infections we are seeing now are as a result of Thanksgiving gatherings. Do not invite people to your unit who do not live with you. Do not share food or drink. Do not congregate in groups. There are a number of video services available like Zoom, Google Meet, FaceTime, and Facebook chat where you can safely celebrate with your family, from a distance.

***The best gift you can give to your loved ones this year is the gift of good health - stay home!***

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## RESOURCES

- **Need a COVID test?**
  - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>
  - <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>.
- City of Worcester **COVID-19 hotline: Call 508-799-1019**, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This line is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Albanian.
- **Infected or exposed?**  
Contact your Property Manager, or WHA Resident Services at 508-635-3306 for assistance and resources to quarantine safely.
- **WHA COVID-19 updates:**
  - <http://www.worcesterha.org/covid19.html>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/WorcesterHousing>
  - Sign up for text alerts by texting WHACOVID to 67076.



**COVID-19**

It's not on anyone's wishlist.  
**Spread cheer, not COVID-19 for the holidays!**

**WASH YOUR HANDS**   **WEAR A MASK**   **STAY 6FT APART**   **STAY AT HOME**   **GATHER VIRTUALLY**

To receive up-to-date WHA alerts, text **WHACOVID** to 67076  
Visit the WHA COVID-19 page for up-to-date news and info:  
[www.worcesterha.org/covid19.html](http://www.worcesterha.org/covid19.html)



## THE NUMBERS

- In Massachusetts: As of December 20th, there were **82,617 active COVID cases across the state**. 1,919 patients are hospitalized and 387 are in an intensive care unit.
- **In Worcester:** One out of every four tests in Worcester is coming back positive. From December 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 1,390 new cases were diagnosed and eight more people died.
- **At our properties**, the numbers continue to rise, particularly at our family sites and in higher numbers at **GBV, Curtis, and Lakeside Apartments**. **Current WHA statistics:**
  - 36 active cases; 28 positive for COVID-19; 8 in quarantine pending results; 5 resident deaths.