

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES & GUIDANCE

LATEST UPDATE – MARCH 22, 2021

The WHA is pleased to announce that it has completed its first round of COVID-19 vaccine doses to eligible senior residents. In total, almost 70% of eligible residents have been vaccinated. In addition, from January to February, COVID-19 infection rates in WHA properties has dropped by almost 50%. These numbers reflect what our efforts as a community can do to reduce the spread of this virus.

Whether you are vaccinated or not all restrictions remain in place. Our COVID Taskforce is meeting regularly to discuss reopening plans and as decisions are made, more information will be shared.

- There is still a mask mandate in place and **masks continue to be required**, whether you are vaccinated or not, on all WHA property.
- Please **continue to frequently wash your hands and sanitize high-touch areas**, such as doorknobs, light switches, remote controls, and countertops.
- Avoid crowded and poorly-ventilated spaces and **maintain social distance** from others.
- Many of our school-aged residents are attending school virtually and many adult residents are working remotely. Be respectful of your neighbors **keep noise to a minimum**.
- Benches will be reopened, but **social distancing must be maintained**; two people, max.
- **Elevator capacity is still limited** to a maximum of 4 people at one time.
- **Community rooms will remain closed** for the time being.

The City of Worcester is partnering with the WHA to run vaccine clinics in the Great Brook Valley/Curtis Apartments area, which will be open to all residents age 16 and over. More information will be shared as those details are confirmed; however, we expect those clinics to begin in early April. We hope you will participate for yourself, your loved ones, and the community.

Thank you.



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RESOURCES



- **Want to know if you're eligible for, or want to book a COVID vaccine?** Click here: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>.
- **Need a COVID test?** Click here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test>.
- **Need information?** Call the City of Worcester COVID-19 hotline at 508-799-1019, open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Albanian.
- **Infected or exposed? Need a mask?** Call your Property Manager or Resident Services at 508-635-3306 for resources to help you quarantine safely.
- **Other resources:** Text WHACOVID to 67076 for text alerts or visit our website: <http://www.worcesterha.org/covid19.html>.

VACCINATED?

- People are considered "fully vaccinated" two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna), or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson).
- If it has been less than 2 weeks since your shot, or if you still need to get your second dose, you are NOT fully protected. Keep taking all precautions!
- Fully vaccinated people can gather indoors with other fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask, or with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people has an increased risk.
- If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
- You are no longer required to quarantine or test negative for COVID-19 after traveling (unless you are demonstrating COVID symptoms).

UNVACCINATED?

- You are still at a high risk for contracting COVID-19 and spreading it to others, including those at high risk, such as elders and the immune-compromised.
- Continue to wear your mask at all times, indoors and outdoors, when congregating with or visiting with others from outside your household.
- If you are exposed to the virus, quarantine and get tested to ensure you do not pose a risk to others. A large segment of the spread of the virus has been attributed to asymptomatic individuals.
- Continue to maintain social distance at all times and sanitize high touch items and areas frequently to protect yourself and your loved ones.
- Talk to your doctor about getting vaccinated! Researchers estimate that 70-85% of the country needs to be vaccinated for COVID to stop. In the US, approximately 80 million people have been successfully vaccinated to date. We need your help building immunity for the community.