

Subject **MWCIL News - Covid-19 Policies will Change**
From MetroWest Center for Independent Living <srorke@mwcil.org>
To <srorke@mwcil.org>
Date 2020-11-09 16:19



[View this email in your browser](#)



Covid-19 Continues

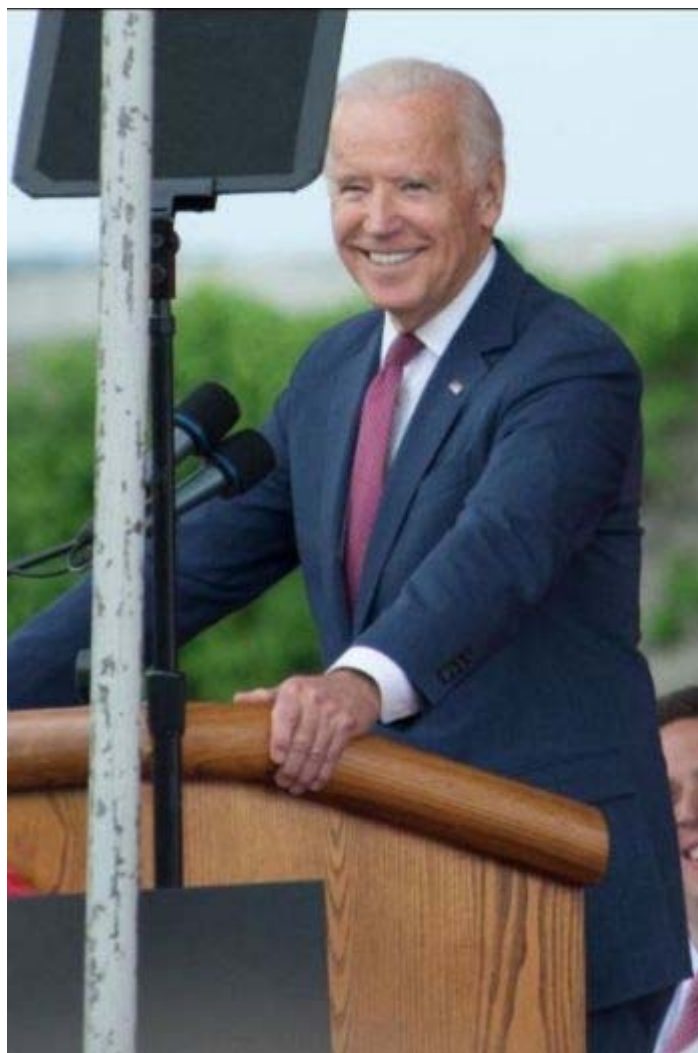
While no one thinks the drama of the past 4 years is over, the U.S. has elected a new president. President Elect Joe Biden has already announced a new Coronavirus Task Force and new coronavirus priorities. As of November 9, a worldwide Covid-19 Tracker shows 50,523,485 cases, with 9,073,666 in the United States. Worldwide is 665 cases / 100,000, while the United States has 3,053 per 100,000. Worldwide has seen 1,260,000 deaths with 238,000 in the United States. The science tells us that our numbers do not need to be this high. New policies won't go into effect until the inauguration in January, but we hope people will begin to try harder...

Meanwhile, Massachusetts infection rates are concerning. Sunday reported 1,809 new cases and 20 additional deaths.

We are also sharing a petition to prevent a Waltham Holiday Lights display at the former Fernald Center.

MetroWest Center has not yet begun to bring staff back into the office. We are fully staffed on-line and ready to work with all consumers. We will resolve as much as possible remotely to protect both our staff and consumers.

Paul Spooner, Executive Director



President Elect Joe Biden

MetroWest Covid-19 Resources

[MWCIL.org](https://www.mwcil.org) has a Covid-19 page with local and national resources, information on the disease, and more.

[MWRTA](https://www.mwrta.com) (MetroWest Regional Transit Authority) has a Grocery Shuttle, requires masks and disinfects all vehicles nightly. Some routes have changed - visit the website and stay informed.

[MetroWest Health Foundation](https://www.metrowesthealthfoundation.org) shares a wide range of resources.

Mass.gov Covid-19 Resources

Main information page on the Coronavirus: <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

[Covid-19 Test Site Locator](#) hosted by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)

Mass Health:

- **Long Term Supports and Services including PCA information:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ltss-provider-updates-for-covid-19/download>
- Expansion of **Home Health Aide Services:** [MassOptions.org](#).
MassOptions hotline at 1-844-422-6277
- **Consumer Information:** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/masshealth-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-applicants-and-members-0>
- **General MassHealth Information:** www.mass.gov/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-and-masshealth

Attorney General: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/resources-during-covid-19>

Massachusetts Data and Recommendations

The [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#) (DPH) lists the weekly data with new numbers are now being posted on Thursdays. Drill down for town-specific infections and deaths. The charts are color coded. For those who like data, keep scrolling for statistics on everything from higher education to nursing homes. [Download the data from November 6](#). The color coding / severity index has changed for the town by town data - we recommend you look at the numbers for the last 14 days to determine the state of your community.

Thanksgiving Guidelines

Governor Baker is recommending a non-traditional Thanksgiving Day, with gathering limited to your household or a small group of individuals with whom you are in regularly in contact. Private gathering size guidelines have been reduced to 10 people indoors and 25 outdoors. Testing and minimizing contact for 14 days before and after the holiday are also recommended.

Please read the full guidance from the Baker administration in [Boston.com](#).

President Elect Joe Biden's Covid-19 Plans

President Elect Joe Biden is assembling a Covid-19 Task Force and has released his plan to combat the disease.

[WBUR has reported on his plan](#) which contains the following 6 topics.

1. CDC will provide specific guidance and sharing of data for slowing community spread.
2. Seriously ramp up testing.
3. Hire thousands of public health care workers to perform contact tracing and other services for populations at high risk.
4. Help people get health insurance.
5. Create a caregiving workforce.
6. Boost vaccine distribution and personal protective equipment

On November 9, "Biden announced a 13-member [Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board](#), to be led by former Food and Drug Administration commissioner [Dr. David Kessler](#), former Surgeon General [Dr. Vivek Murthy](#) and

Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith of the Yale University School of Medicine."

Covid-19 Vaccine

Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine promising

Joe Palca with WBUR and NPR reported [Pfizer Says Experimental COVID-19 Vaccine Is More Than 90% Effective](#).

"Pfizer and German mRNA biotech partner BioNTech have released an early look at their experimental pandemic vaccine, and the news is good.

The pair's mRNA-based vaccine candidate, BNT162b2, has shown in its closely watched phase 3 that it was more than 90% effective in preventing COVID-19 in participants without evidence of prior SARS-CoV-2 infection in the first interim efficacy analysis.

This is a big deal, given that most saw 50% to 70% effectiveness as a strong win; 90% is likely the best case for the vaccine, and Pfizer cautioned that as more data come in, this could change. The data are based on a two-shot dosing schedule, and the 90% figure comes 28 days after the initial dose."

Other important caveats - the data has not been per reviewed, and the trials were conducted on very few people. In addition, the vaccine needs to be stored at very cold temperatures (60 minutes reported that the Virgin Islands has no capacity for storage.).

Vaccine Distribution Plans

[Inside the Operation Warp Speed effort to get Americans a COVID-19 vaccine](#)

On 60 Minutes, David Martin reported on the military efforts underway to inoculate 300 million Americans with an anticipated COVID-19 vaccine. Operation Warp Speed is a complex undertaking with heightened security, very cold storage requirements (60 minutes reported that the Virgin Islands has no ultra-cold freezers.) and two doses needed.

David Martin asked General Gus Perna (in charge of Operation Warp Speed):

"What's your worst nightmare?" The General answered: "We get vaccines to the American people and they don't take them. Shame on us. "Hey, I was already sick, I don't need it." Shame on us. "Hey, I don't believe in vaccines." Shame on us... Just shame on us and it does keep me up at night."

Voting 2020

Report Accessibility Voting Issues

- Contact the state at elections@sec.state.ma.us or call at (617)727-2828
- Contact the Disability Law Center at mail@dlc-ma.org or call at (617)723-8455
-

Share Your 2020 Voting Experiences

[SABE](#) - Self Advocates Becoming Empowered - is working towards greater voting accessibility. One of their tools is their surveys. Let them know your experiences with the November 3 election!

- [English Voting Survey](#)
- [Spanish Voting Survey](#)

Disability Advocates Decry Waltham Light Show at Abandoned Institution

We are calling on the City of Waltham and the Waltham Lions to move a proposed holiday light show that they plan to hold at a former state institution, Fernald Developmental Center, where thousands of disabled people lived and died.

"In a letter to Waltham Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, the advocates—including The Arc of Massachusetts, the Disability Law Center, the Boston Center for Independent Living, and the MetroWest Center for Independent Living—said the use of the site was disturbing and inappropriate, given its history of human rights abuses and experimentation on children." [Download today's press release from Alex Green.](#)

We are asking people to please sign this petition, share widely, and call the Mayor of Waltham at (781) 314-3102 to make your voice heard."

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/help-disability-advocates-stop-a-holiday-light-show-at-former-state-institution>.

Partner Websites and Organizations



[REV UP Massachusetts](#) - Increasing the Disability Vote!



[MA Tales of Independence](#) - a collection of videos by people who are successfully living independently.



[Dignity Alliance of Massachusetts](#) is dedicated to secure fundamental changes in the provision of long-term services, support, and care.

About MetroWest Center for Independent Living

We provide an array of independent living services that enable people with disabilities to live in the community. The center was created by people with disabilities seeking full integration into society. We empower people with disabilities by teaching the practical skills and confidence to take control over their lives and become active members of the communities in which they live. We promote access and change within society while advocating for programs and services needed by people of all ages with a wide range of disabilities. MWCIL is a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agency.

We enable people with disabilities to gain freedom from nursing homes and other institutional settings.

If you have a disability, live within our area (26 towns in Metrowest section of Massachusetts) and have needs, goals, or barriers related to your living independently, then contact us at 508-875-7853.

MetroWest Center for Independent Living is a scent-free environment. Please keep this in mind when you plan a visit.

[View our Services](#)



MetroWest Center for Independent Living

280 Irving Street,
Framingham, MA 01702
(508)875-7853



Copyright © 2020 MetroWest Center for Independent Living, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:
MetroWest Center for Independent Living
280 Irving St
Framingham, MA 01702-4300

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

