



TOWN OF WESTPORT
WESTPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 02790

OFFICE OF BOARD OF HEALTH
856 MAIN ROAD

Tel: (508) 636-1015
Fax: (508) 636-1016
Health@Westport-MA.gov
westport-ma.com

Matthew J. Armendo
Director

Westport Board of Health
COVID-19 Update
April 9, 2021

Case Status:

Total number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents on the state's weekly city & town report of April 8, 2021 was **1492** – an increase of 26 cases since last week. Unfortunately, **Westport has moved back into the RED** – highest risk level. This is not the direction we want to see. Please get vaccinated as soon as you can and keep up with the mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing. The rolling 14-day incidence rate of cases climbed from **23.9 to 28.6/100,000**. Visit the state's [interactive data dashboard](#).

Testing Data:

There were **67** positive tests out of 1275 done in the last 14 days for a positivity rate of **5.88%** (over the 5% RED risk threshold). The statewide positivity rate increased again to 2.54%.

Westport Vaccination Data

As of April 8, 2021, at least **6868 or 41%** of Westport residents are at least partially vaccinated against COVID-19, either through a Westport sponsored clinic or through any one of the other vaccine sites. That means another **732** individuals received a vaccine shot in the last week. This is well above the Bristol County vaccination rate of 31%. Happily, we can report that another 40 persons age 75 and over (1537 individuals) have received at least one vaccine dose – that is 84% of this population in town and 72% are fully vaccinated. Vaccine reports, including one with the town level data, can be found [here](#).

Westport Vaccine Clinics this week: The BOH is conducting second dose clinics for residents of Greenwood Terrace and homebound individuals this week and early next week. We hope to receive additional vaccine specifically for additional eligible homebound residents, but have not heard back yet from the state.

NEW! The **Westport Apothecary** has received a second allotment of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine. They will be contacting those who have already registered online for an appointment. If you would like to register for the vaccine, visit their website at WWW.WESTPORTAPOTHECARY.COM

COVID Vaccine Update:

- **NEW! Walk-in COVID Vaccine Clinics for Veterans/Spouses:** There are 2 walk-in veteran vaccine clinics this **Saturday, April 10**. Both clinics are open to ALL veterans and their spouses (must be accompanied by veteran) of all ages:
 - **Cape Cod Community College campus**, 2240 Iyannough Road, West Barnstable, MA 9 am to 1 pm

- **Raynham American Legion Post 405**, 291 Mill Street, Raynham, MA 10 am to 1 pm

Veterans not enrolled in VA healthcare must bring a copy of their DD214 and picture ID and a completed 10-10EZ enrollment form. Additional vaccination events are being planned, so if you cannot make this clinic there will be others coming soon.

The VA Providence Healthcare System continues to vaccinate Veterans and their spouses, Monday to Friday from 8am to 2pm at the main campus in Providence.

- **Homebound Vaccination Program:** In-home vaccinations are available for homebound people who are not able to leave their home to get to a vaccination site, even with assistance. Massachusetts has set up a [statewide homebound program](#). The BOH is participating and expects to get more vaccine for eligible Westport homebound residents who have not yet been vaccinated. You can call the BOH at 508-636-1015 to be screened for this program.
- **UPDATED Vaccine Eligibility Timeline:**
CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE: Residents 55+ and anyone 16 years or older with [one certain medical condition](#) (expanded list), along with all previous categories – such as health care workers, K-12 educators, restaurant & grocery store workers, etc.
APRIL 19th: General public ages 16 years of age and older will become eligible. The full timeline is available [HERE](#).

Youth ages 16 to 18 are only eligible for the Pfizer vaccine currently and must go to a site using that type of vaccine for their appointment. The [Dartmouth Circuit City](#) site uses Pfizer. Some [Southcoast Health vaccine clinics](#) also offer Pfizer.

- **UPDATED: Reserve your spot in line for vaccines:** All residents can pre-register at <https://vaccinesignup.mass.gov/#/> to book an appointment at a mass vaccination site. Starting next week, people will have the opportunity to select their vaccination location before proceeding to select from available appointments. Once you sign up for preregistration, you'll receive weekly status updates. You can opt out at any time if you find an appointment elsewhere.
To date, around 1.5 million people have preregistered, with over 800,000 having been contacted with the opportunity to book appointments.
- **Finding general vaccination sites:** Use [VaxFinder.mass.gov](#) to search for appointments at mass vaxx and other public sites. This includes health care locations, pharmacies and grocery stores, with availability updated daily.
- **Second Dose Appointments:** Individuals who cannot schedule their second dose at the same site as their first dose, may schedule a second dose at a mass vaccination site (with the same type of vaccine) online through the same process as scheduling a first dose. If you are unable to access an appointment online, you may also call the mass vaccination site vendor. Contact information is listed for each site on their [Vaxfinder](#) page. This option is only available and is limited in supply. It is only available for people who just require a second dose.

- **Guidelines for Fully Vaccinated Individuals:**
<https://www.mass.gov/guidance/guidance-for-people-who-are-fully-vaccinated-against-covid-19>
- **Call 211 - telephone support for persons without internet access** who need help making vaccine appointments at public clinics.

Other COVID-19 News:

COVID-19 Variants in Massachusetts: Surveillance data indicates that B.1.1.7 (UK variant) is widespread in Massachusetts and is circulating within communities. Data has also identified B.1.351 (South Africa) and P.1 (Brazil) cases without any recent travel. It is critical to do everything possible to keep variants of concern from becoming more widespread.

The best defense against variants of concern is to prevent the spread of COVID. This includes wearing a mask, social distancing, avoiding groups, staying home when you are sick, getting tested if you have symptoms or are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID, and getting vaccinated when it is your turn.

COVID Testing: Testing for COVID-19 is widely available. You should get tested if you have any symptoms or have been a close contact of someone who tested positive. Find a test site here. Free testing is also available in Fall River and New Bedford through the Stop the Spread initiative, which has been extended through June.

MassSupport: MassSupport is the Massachusetts Crisis Counseling Program funded by FEMA. Contact MassSupport by phone at 888-215-4920 or by email at MassSupport@riversideecc.org

Travel Advisory - On March 22 the Massachusetts Travel Order was replaced with a [Travel Advisory](#). The Travel Order form and map of lower risk states are no longer in effect. All visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, are advised to quarantine for 10 days upon their arrival.

Exemptions: Travelers with a negative COVID test, residents returning within 24 hours of leaving the state, critical infrastructure workers, and fully vaccinated travelers who have no COVID symptoms.

Phase IV, Step 1 and Gathering Changes:

All communities in Massachusetts moved into Step 1 of Phase IV of the state's reopening plan this past Monday. For details, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-when-can-my-business-reopen>

Also effective on March 22, gathering limits for event venues and in public settings increased to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. Outdoor gatherings at private residences remain at a max of 25 people, with the indoor max at 10 people.

The following must continue to remain closed until Phase IV, Step 2:

- ✓ Amusement parks, theme parks, indoor and outdoor waterparks and ball pits
- ✓ Street festivals and parades and agricultural festivals
- ✓ Road races and other large, outdoor organized amateur or professional group athletic events
- ✓ Bars, dance clubs and nightclubs

- ✓ Beer gardens, breweries, wineries and distillates not providing seated food service

Updated mask guidance: The CDC has updated its guidance around mask wearing, by emphasizing the importance of a tight fit and improved filtration. You can 'double mask' by wearing a cloth mask over a surgical mask. [CDC Mask guidance](#).

Town COVID Updates:

- **Town Election** – Tuesday, April 13, 2021. Polls open 10 am to 8 pm. Be sure to wear a mask and keep 6 ft. distance from others.
- **Annual Town Meeting** – Will be held outdoors starting at 9 am on Saturday, June 5th behind the Westport High School.
- **Town Hall and Annex** – Open to the public BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Service by phone, mail, outdoor drop box, or online is recommended. Face masks are required for in-person appointments.
- **The Westport Food Pantry is at the Westport Grange, 931 Main Rd.** Next food pantry pick-up will be on Monday from 9 am to noon. Monetary donations can be sent to the FWCOA Attn. Food Pantry, PO Box 4228, Westport, MA 02790. Food and grocery gift card donations are accepted on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. You may also recycle any Westport Heart fundraisers signs at the Grange.
- **Pet Food Pantry** – Donations of dry or canned dog or cat food, (maximum weight 25#), as well as treats, toys, cat litter and puppy training pads are accepted. Please drop off your pet supply donation at the Grange, during its regular donation times.
- **Schools** - The Westport Community Schools now reports weekly updates on COVID cases at <https://westportschools.org/covid-19/>.

In closing:

With the rising level of cases in town, I would ask everyone to not let your guard down. Continue wearing masks, social distancing and washing hands - even if you have received one or two doses of the vaccine. These efforts will help meet and defeat this challenge before us. I want to encourage all of our residents, businesses, and visitors to continue to check in for any updates and new developments on our town COVID webpage. Thank you for your continued cooperation and stay safe everyone!

Matthew J. Armendo, Director