



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
September 10, 2020

Case Update:

Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents as of Sept.9th is **128**, which is only up 3 from last week. **However, Westport remains in the 'yellow' or moderate risk category.** This is because the risk rating is based on a rolling 14 day incidence rate of 5.6/100,000. Hopefully we can keep the number of new cases down in the next weeks (and months) and drop back down to lower risk.

Meanwhile New Bedford has jumped into the 'red' category, which is a reminder that that COVID-19 is not going away. I know I am sounding like broken record, but please keep up with social distancing, wearing face coverings, frequent handwashing and use of disinfectant.

The state is now publishing [an interactive map](#) with enhanced community-level data on key COVID-19 metrics. This map will be updated based on the [state's weekly community COVID report](#), which is published very Wednesday afternoon.

Statewide there have been **121,396 confirmed cases** and **8,937 confirmed deaths** as of September 9th. Massachusetts is reporting about 2000 new COVID-19 cases statewide each week.

Testing Data:

4537 COVID tests have been performed on Westport residents up through September 9th. There were **15 positive tests** out of 726 done in the last 14 days for a rate of **2.07%, a slight decrease from last week.** However, the statewide 14-day average is down to 0.97% positive, which is encouraging news.

The state's **Stop the Spread** free testing initiative for certain higher risk communities has been extended through September 30th. The sites in these communities are open to all. Hours of operation, site details, and contact information can be found online. To find a site visit www.mass.gov/stophespread.

Other COVID-related news:

Quick links to key COVID information can be found on the Town's main COVID-19 webpage at: <https://www.westport-ma.com/covid-19-corona-virus-information>

Travel Order: Washington, Oregon and Wyoming have been added to the lower risk category. Rhode Island remains on the restricted list. Detailed travel order instructions and map can be found [here](#). In summary, all visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, are required to:

1. Complete the online Massachusetts Travel Form prior to arrival, unless they are visiting from a lower-risk state.

2. Quarantine for 14 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72-hours prior to arrival in Massachusetts.

Revised gatherings order applies to both public and private property:

- Outdoor gatherings limited to 50 people
- Indoor gatherings limit is 25 people

Restaurant rules have been updated:

- Alcoholic beverages may only be served for on-site consumption if accompanied by orders for food prepared on-site.

Town COVID Updates:

- **The temporary Food Pantry has moved to the Westport Grange, 931 Main Rd.** The next food pantry pick-up is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 14th from 9 am to noon at the Grange. Donations of non-perishable food, paper goods and toiletries are still needed. Food donation days are Tuesday and Thursday mornings.
- **Schools** - The Westport Community Schools [website](#) has the latest on what is happening locally. You can also find FAQs for families with information from the state at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/backtoschool/>
- **Beaches** - Signage at Cherry & Web beach reminds visitors that masks along the path to the beach are required. Beachgoers should also wear a mask unless able to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet or more at all times.
- **Town Hall and Annex** – Open to the public, however service by phone, mail, outdoor dropbox, or online is still highly recommended. Face masks are required for in person visits.

Other BOH announcements:

- **Transfer Station** - Due to contamination issues we can no longer accept paint cans of any kind. Small pressurized cans, such as hairspray, are also no longer accepted. Large pressurized tanks (20 lbs. or more) must have the tops removed. All Household Hazardous Waste can be brought to New England Disposal Technologies (NEDT) in Sutton, MA.
- **NEW influenza vaccine requirement for students** – Reminder that there is a new state requirement for all children in childcare/preschool, students in K through 12, and college students to get a flu vaccine. Check with your child's doctor.
- **Flu season coming** – Stay tuned for details about flu vaccine availability through the Town Nurse. With COVID around, it will be especially important to get your annual flu vaccine this year.
- **Mosquito and tick season** – I want to remind everyone to protect against mosquito and tick bites. Visit the [Massachusetts Aerial Mosquito Spray Map webpage](#) for the latest updates on spraying and the [EEE in Massachusetts web page](#) for tips on prevention.
- **Census reminder:** The deadline to [complete the U.S. Census](#) is now **Wednesday, September 30**

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Matthew J. Armendo, Director