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Westport Board of Health
COVID-19 Update
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Case Status:

Total number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents on the state's weekly city & town report of January 21, 2021 was **1106 - up 85 cases since last week**. Westport remains in the RED zone of higher risk. The Contact Tracing Collaborative (CTC) is tracking several cluster event in town, but we still see mostly household transmission. Four residents are hospitalized and no new deaths to report. The rolling 14 day incidence rate of cases has stabilized, dipping slightly to **95.9/100,000**. Please visit the state's [interactive data dashboard](#) for more details.

Testing Data:

18,216 COVID tests have been performed on Westport residents to date, based on the state's January 21st weekly report. There were **254** positive tests out of 2164 done in the last 14 days for a positivity rate of **11.74%** (down from 12.86% last week). We hope that this is the beginning of continued downward trend. The statewide positivity rate declined to 6.85%.

Vaccine Update:

- All of **Phase 1 priority** categories, including home-based health care workers and non-COVID facing health care workers are now eligible able to get vaccinated.
- COVID-19 vaccine locations only for individuals currently eligible to be vaccinated can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-locations-for-individuals-currently-eligible-to-be-vaccinated>
- Gillette Stadium is a mass vaccination site open to all currently eligible categories. Local pharmacies that are also operating public clinics for currently eligible individuals include: Walgreens and CVS in Fall River. Appointments are required.
- **Phase 2** of vaccine distribution is expected to begin in early February. The first priority of Phase 2 now includes residents and staff of low-income and affordable **senior housing**, along with individuals age 75+ and persons of all ages with 2+ comorbidities.

Latest State Guidance issued 1/21/21:

STAY AT HOME ADVISORY: The DPH Stay at Home Advisory for the hours of 10:00 PM – 5:00 AM will be rescinded effective Monday, January 25th at 5:00 AM.

MANDATORY EARLY CLOSING ORDER: The Mandatory Early Closing Order which required certain businesses to close by 9:30 PM each night, will be rescinded effective Monday, January 25th. Businesses that may begin operating past 9:30 PM include: Restaurants, Indoor and Outdoor Events, Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Activities, Golf Facilities, Close Contact Personal Services (e.g. hair and nail salons) Liquor stores and adult use cannabis retailers, among others.

Gatherings and events will also be permitted to continue past 9:30 PM. All gatherings and events will remain subject to current capacity limits of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.

Phase 3, Step 2 businesses must remain fully closed.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC CAPACITY RESTRICTIONS & GATHERING LIMITS

Capacity Limits: Under the current restrictions that are being extended, most customer-facing businesses operating in Massachusetts **remain subject to a 25% capacity limit**. For a list of sectors subject to the extended capacity restrictions, click [here](#).

Gatherings Limit: The current gathering limits in place since December 26 are also being **extended to Monday, February 8th**. Indoor gatherings and events will remain limited to 10 people. Outdoor gatherings and events will remain limited to 25 people outside. The gatherings limit applies to private homes, event venues and public spaces.

Updated Travel Order Guidance:

Vaccinated individuals must continue to comply with the Governor's Travel Order and related testing and quarantine requirements. However, individuals who are COVID-19-recovered, (i.e., tested positive more than 10 days but less than 90 days ago and who do not have symptoms) do not need to obtain a negative PCR test before traveling to, or quarantine upon arrival to, Massachusetts. Hawaii remains the only lower risk state. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order>

New Variant of COVID-19:

Has now been detected in Massachusetts. Since it is more contagious, the importance of following CDC's recommendations for slowing the spread—wearing masks, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, avoiding crowds, ventilating indoor spaces, and washing hands often—is even more vital. Learn more: [New COVID-19 Variants | CDC](#).

COVID Testing:

Stop the Spread: Has been extended to March 15th. Free testing of asymptomatic individuals. Local sites are in Fall River and New Bedford. The Whale's Tooth parking lot rapid test site in New Bedford, capable of handling 1000 tests a day, is operational. Register at app.beacontesting.com/.

All Test sites: Check the individual test sites for appointment, referral and insurance requirements.

Town COVID Updates:

- **Westport First Responder Vaccine Clinic:** Westport & Dartmouth are scheduling the next round of clinics for public safety employees, school nurses and first responders to get their second vaccination. 318 personnel received the first dose of Moderna vaccine during the clinics held last week.
- **Phase 2 of the vaccine rollout will begin in February to April**, and will start with individuals age 75+, residents and staff of low income and senior housing, and those with a high risk of COVID complications. The next groups to be eligible include teachers (early education, K-12), grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation,

public works and public health workers and then adults 65+. We will provide information about locally available vaccination clinics as we learn more.

- **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 Monday, January 25th from 9 am to noon. Monetary donations can be sent to the Friends of the Westport Council on Aging (FWCOA) Attn. Food Pantry, PO Box 4228, Westport, MA 02790. Food and grocery gift card donations are accepted on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.
- **NEW! 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 gladly 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:

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Matthew J. Armendo, Director