



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update
November 28, 2020

Case Update:

Total cumulative number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents on November 26th was **417**, up 54 cases from last week. **Westport remains in the RED, higher risk category.** The rolling 14 day incidence rate rose again slightly, going up from 46.0 to **49.0/100,000**. Statewide the incidence rate is up to 34.9. Westport's number of cases for its population size (incidence rate) and the percentage of positive test results remain well above the state average and matches the Bristol County incidence rate. The complete data are available from the [state's weekly community COVID report](#).

Testing Data:

10,813 COVID tests have been performed on Westport residents up through November 26th. There were **139 positive tests** out of 1634 done in the last 14 days for a positivity rate of **8.51%**. This is almost a percentage point lower than last week.

Extended through January 15th: The state's **Stop the Spread** free testing initiative in certain communities has been extended. The sites in these communities are open to all. To find a site visit www.mass.gov/stophespread.

Westport has remained in the "red" category for six consecutive weeks. The community reverted back to Step 1 of Phase 3 on November 9th. We will need three consecutive weeks of an incidence rate below 10/100,000 or positivity rate below 5% to be able to return to a lower risk status and return to Step 2. In the meantime, indoor performance venues must remain closed, outdoor gatherings in public are limited to 50, and capacity at various facilities is reduced to 40%.

All initial contact tracing in Westport is being done by the state Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC). When the CTC is unable to reach a person (case or contact), the Board of Health will be notified to make one last attempt to reach them. If we are unsuccessful in reaching that person a wellness check will be conducted. Contact tracing is a key element to breaking chains of transmission, so I urge Westport residents to cooperate with the CTC or Linda Pierce, our town nurse, if you should get a call – it will help the entire community?

How do you know if you are a "close contact" and must quarantine?

If you were within 6 feet for at least 10-15 minutes of someone:

- While they were symptomatic or in the 48 hours before their symptom onset
- OR
- Who tested positive for COVID-19 anytime during the 48 hours before their test was taken or in the 10 days after the test.

If you meet any of those criteria, you must quarantine for 14 days after your last close contact exposure to the person with COVID-19, even if they are asymptomatic. You

may test out of quarantine after 10 days - with a negative PCR test and certain other requirements.

Information about [quarantine](#) and [isolation](#) protocols is available on the town's COVID website: <https://www.westport-ma.com/covid-19-corona-virus-information>

For someone who tests positive, you will be asked by the CTC team or the Board of Health to identify anyone you had close contact with anytime from 2 days before the date of your test until the end of your isolation period, regardless of when you got the test results.

RECENT ORDERS: These took effect on Friday, Nov. 6th and are summarized below. More details are available on <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>

GATHERINGS: Governor's COVID-19 Order #54

Reduced gathering size limit at private residences: **indoors limited to 10 people and outdoors limited to 25 people.** Requires that all gatherings (regardless of size or location) disperse by 9:30 PM.

Organizers of gatherings must report known positive COVID-19 cases to the Board of Health and must cooperate with contact tracing. The gatherings order authorizes continued enforcement by local health and police departments and specifies that fines for violating the gathering order will be \$500 for each person above the limit at a particular gathering.

FACE COVERINGS: Governor's COVID-19 Order #55

All persons must wear face-coverings in all public places, **even where they are able to maintain 6 feet of distance from others.**

BUSINESS EARLY CLOSING: Governor's COVID-19 Oder #53

Requires the early closure of certain businesses and activities each night at 9:30 PM.

STAY AT HOME ADVISORY (<https://www.mass.gov/news/stay-at-home-advisory>)

Between the hours of 10pm and 5am, you must:

- **Only leave home to go to work or school, or for essential needs**
- **Not have gatherings in your home with anybody outside of your household.**
- Comply with all Governor's Orders, including orders requiring face coverings, limiting gatherings, and mandating early closure of businesses.

Updated Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Guidance: Latest guidance can be found [HERE](#). Also, the New England states plus New Jersey will suspend interstate youth hockey competitions for public and private schools effective Saturday, November 14, 2020 through at minimum December 31, 2020.

Travel Order: As of November 28, only Hawaii is a low risk state for travel.

Detailed travel order instructions can be found [here](#). In summary, all visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, must:

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.

COVID-19 Eviction Diversion: The state has launched a new website with information on resources available to help residents impacted by COVID-19 to cover rent and mortgage payments at <http://www.mass.gov/CovidHousingHelp>. Residents can also call 2-1-1, which features a language line and trained staff.

Town COVID Updates:

- **Town Hall and Annex** – Open to the public **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY as of NOV. 16th**. 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 and is now partnering with the nonprofit Friends of the Westport Council on Aging (FWCOA).** The next food pantry pick-up will be Monday, November 30th from 9 am to noon at the Grange. 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 (except Thanksgiving) at the Grange.
- **Schools** - The Westport Community Schools now reports weekly updates on COVID cases at <https://westportschools.org/covid-19/>.

Other BOH announcements:

- **Flu season:** Flu vaccines are available from the Town Nurse by appointment only. We no longer have any high dose (for over 65) vaccine in our supply. Please call 508-636-1030 to make an appointment.

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Matthew J. Armendo, Director