



**TOWN OF WESTPORT**  
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**Matthew J. Armendo**  
Director

**Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update**  
**December 11, 2020**

**Case Update:**

Total cumulative number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents on December 9<sup>th</sup> was **534, a jump of 74 cases from last week – the highest single week increase yet.** Two residents are currently hospitalized. Westport remains in the RED, higher risk category. The rolling 14 day incidence rate inched up – from 44.8 to **45.6/100,000**. The complete data are available from the [state's weekly community COVID report](#).

**Testing Data:**

**12,461 COVID tests have been performed** on Westport residents up through December 9<sup>th</sup>. There were **126 positive tests** out of 1561 done in the last 14 days for a positivity rate of **8.07%**. This rate is higher than last week.

**You all know the public health messaging by now, but if we don't double down and wrestle these trends to the ground we will truly have a dark winter.** Just like you, we in the public health community are getting tired and worn down too – but we owe it to our frontline health care workers to step it up so the health care system doesn't get overwhelmed.

**Other COVID News**

Please review the [BOH Special Update from December 8<sup>th</sup>](#) for the latest details on the rollback announced by Governor Baker earlier this week.

**Vaccine news:**

For the latest visit: <http://www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine>

- The initial allocation of the Pfizer vaccine from CDC to Massachusetts is limited, but we anticipate the amount of vaccine to ramp up by the end of December
- Moderna is expected to receive Emergency Use Authorization in the coming weeks, which will add to the amount of vaccine that will be available for distribution
- Initial allocation in response to the first phase of the distribution plan focuses on capacity to administer the Pfizer vaccine and geographic equity and will only go to hospitals
- Initial vaccines will be administered to health care workers who are taking care of COVID patients as well as first responders and those who live and work in long term care and other congregate settings

**COVID Testing:**

[Stop the Spread](#): 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 will be capable of handling 1000 tests a day by December 14<sup>th</sup> (to be operated by Beacon

going forward – Registration for testing in New Bedford will begin this weekend at [app.beacontesting.com/](http://app.beacontesting.com/)).

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

### **Quick Links:**

[Check your symptoms](#)

### What to do if you are sick

- If you are sick STAY HOME and avoid close contact with others.

### Resources for maintaining emotional health

### Quarantine Protocols (updated 12/7/20)

- You must quarantine if you were in “close contact” with someone with COVID-19 but you haven't shown symptoms or had a positive COVID-19 test

### Isolation Protocols

- You must isolate if you are symptomatic or have tested positive for COVID-19.

Mass Care: Three state contracted isolation/recovery hotels in the cities of Everett, Taunton, and Pittsfield continue to receive client placements: 105 currently housed.

MassSupport is the Massachusetts Crisis Counseling Program: Contact MassSupport by phone at 888-215-4920 or by email at [MassSupport@riversidecc.org](mailto:MassSupport@riversidecc.org)

### Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center

The American Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center (VFAC) is staffed by a team of specially trained mental health, spiritual care, and health services volunteers who connect with families over the phone to offer condolences, provide support for virtual memorial services for families, host online classes to foster resilience and facilitate coping skills and more. People without internet access can call toll-free 833-492-0094 for help. All Family Assistance Center support will be provided virtually and is completely confidential and free

### **Executive Orders + Stay at Home Advisory one-pagers/flyers**

Available in multiple languages at the links below:

- [Public gathering guidance](#)
- [Private gathering guidance](#)
- [Face Mask order](#)
- [Stay-at-home Advisory](#)

### **Town COVID Updates:**

- **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, December 14th 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** – The Westport Animal Control Department is proud to join the efforts of the Westport Food Pantry by providing dog and cat supplies. 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/>.
- **Flu season:** Regular dose flu vaccines are available from the Town Nurse by appointment only. Please call 508-636-1030 to make an appointment.

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

*Matthew J. Armendo, Director*