



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update
December 18, 2020

Case Update:

Total cumulative number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents on December 16th was **611, an increase of 77 cases from last week. On top of that the BOH has received notification of 38 new cases in the last 36 hours.** Two residents are currently hospitalized. Westport remains in the **RED**, higher risk category. The rolling 14 day incidence rate was significantly higher – from 45.6 to **57.6/100,000**. The complete data are available from the [state's weekly community COVID report](#).

Testing Data:

13,412 COVID tests have been performed on Westport residents up through December 16th. There were **155 positive tests** out of 1744 done in the last 14 days for a positivity rate of **8.89%**. This rate is higher than last week.

The post-Thanksgiving surge is showing up in these numbers, so as we celebrate the holiday season I plead with everyone to limit in-person celebrations to household members only, postpone or cancel travel this holiday season and avoid crowds.

Other COVID News

Vaccine news:

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

- The FDA issued Emergency Use Authorization for the first COVID-19 vaccine on 12/11, and the first delivery to Massachusetts arrived on 12/14
- Frontline health care workers and other high risk individuals have begun to receive the first of two doses of the Pfizer vaccine. The second dose needs to be administered within 2 to 3 weeks of the first one.
- This vaccine is reported to be safe and so far there have been very few reports of serious side effects.
- 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 as soon as this weekend and will ship shortly.
- Planning for mass vaccination of first responders (Phase 2) is ramping up.
- Once we get to Phase 3 of vaccine distribution and the vaccine is widely available you can check with your primary care provider, local pharmacy or the Board of Health. We are planning for public clinics at that time.

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.

Quick Links:

[Check your symptoms](#)

[What to do if you are sick](#)

[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.

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

[Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center](#). 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

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 21st 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. **Best wishes for a safe holiday season. NOTE – Our regular weekly COVID updates will resume in January.**

Matthew J. Armendo, Director