



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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Westport Board of Health
COVID-19 Update
February 12, 2021

Case Status:

Total number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents on the state's weekly city & town report of February 11, 2021 was **1281 - up another 56 cases in a week**. Westport remains in the **RED** zone of higher risk, but the data show a continued downward trend. The Town remains above the statewide average on case and positivity metrics. The rolling 14-day incidence rate of cases has decreased to **46.5/100,000 (vs. 38.5 statewide)**. Please visit the state's [interactive data dashboard](#) for more details.

Testing Data:

21,110 COVID tests have been performed on Westport residents to date, based on the state's February 11th weekly report. There were **140** positive tests out of 1864 done in the last 14 days for a positivity rate of **7.51%**. The statewide positivity rate declined to 3.40%.

Vaccine Update:

- The **Westport Board of Health** received its first allocation of Moderna vaccine this past Tuesday and held a vaccination clinic on Thursday in partnership with the **Council on Aging and the Fire Department**. The COA was able to quickly schedule 170 appointments for residents age 75+ who had previously put their name on a waiting list. A second dose clinic for these individuals will be held in 4 weeks. In addition, the Fire Department EMTs were able to vaccinate 30 homebound individuals in town.
- **You may call the COA at 508-636-1026 if you would like to be added to the vaccine wait list for the next Westport clinic** or for when the Apothecary starts vaccinations. There is a separate wait-list for persons age 65 to 74 or two or more co-morbidities, who will be eligible in the next grouping. Please be patient, as the Board of Health will only know a couple days in advance if it will get a new allocation for the next week. First dose clinics will be scheduled on short notice. However, the COA will do everything they can to assist you to get the vaccine either through the Board of Health or at another local site.
- **Dartmouth High School Clinics:** Westport has also partnered with Dartmouth to offer large public vaccine clinics for eligible residents. The first clinic was last Saturday and almost 1000 people received the first dose of Pfizer vaccine. Another clinic is scheduled for this Saturday at Dartmouth High School and all appointments are filled. Second dose clinics will be offered 3 weeks after the first ones. We will post any future Dartmouth High School clinics with online sign-up instructions on the BOH website and through e-alert as soon as we can. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL** the Board of Health or Dartmouth Public Schools if you do not see slots available.

- **Be sure you are signed up for e-alerts in order to get timely notice of the Dartmouth High School vaccine clinics:** <https://www.westport-ma.com/subscribe>
- The Westport BOH together with Dartmouth, is also completing the second dose vaccinations for first responders this weekend.
- **Persons age 75+ and all of Phase 1 priority** categories, including home-based health care workers and non-COVID facing health care workers are now eligible.
- **NEW eligibility** – The Governor recently announced that a person who is accompanying a person age 75 or older to get their vaccine at a mass vaccination site may also be vaccinated on the same day. To schedule two appointments (for a 75+ resident & a caregiver) go to mass.gov/covidvaccine and schedule two separate appointments at either the same time or adjacent. For the companion appointment, select the option 'I am accompanying someone who is age 75+ to their vaccination appointment and my appointment is the same day. Other clinics may also allow caregiver appointments.
- **NEW Southcoast Mass Vaccination Site:** An additional mass vaccination site is scheduled to open on Wednesday, February 24, at Circuit City with Curative as the provider. Any eligible resident can begin booking appointments for the Dartmouth Circuit City site on February 18th. For appointments, visit mass.gov/covidvaccine.
- **Telephone support for persons 75+ without internet access** who wish to make vaccine appointments at public clinics is now available by **calling 211**.
- **Southcoast Health** began offering vaccinations at local three sites this week. For details visit: <https://www.southcoast.org/covid-vaccine/>
- Local pharmacies and mass vaccination sites are also providing vaccine to eligible residents. The closest sites are CVS and Walgreens in Fall River. Bristol Community College is another site. For all of the above clinics, go here to find available slots: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>

UPDATED SECTOR-SPECIFIC CAPACITY RESTRICTIONS & GATHERING LIMITS

Capacity Limits Increased to 40%: Many businesses were able to increase from 25% to 40% capacity, as of February 8th. However, the sector-specific industry standards dated in December 2020 will still apply,

NO CHANGE in Gatherings Limit: The current gathering limits (10 indoors and 25 outdoors) **will stay in place**. The gatherings limit applies to private homes, event venues & public spaces.

The Commonwealth remains in Phase 3 Step 1 of Reopening (Order No. 58)

* So indoor performance venues and indoor recreation businesses remain closed.

Travel Order Guidance:

Vaccinated individuals must continue to comply with the Governor's Travel Order and related testing and quarantine requirements. However, those who are COVID-19-recovered, (i.e., tested positive more than 10 days but less than 90 days ago without current symptoms) do not need to quarantine or obtain a negative PCR when traveling back to Massachusetts. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order>

COVID Testing: Testing for COVID-19 is widely available in Massachusetts. You should get tested if you have any symptoms or have been a close contact of someone who tested positive. Find a test site [here](#). Free testing is also available in Fall River and New Bedford through the [Stop the Spread](#) initiative.

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, February 15th 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.
- **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 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/>.

How to Help Out

The Need for Blood Donations Continues, and Recovered COVID-19 Donors Can Help Save Lives

In coordination with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Red Cross is seeking people who are fully recovered from the new coronavirus to sign up to donate plasma to help current COVID-19 patients. People who have fully recovered from COVID-19 have antibodies in their plasma that can attack the virus. This convalescent plasma is being evaluated as treatment for patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections, or those judged by a healthcare provider to be at high risk of progression to severe or life-threatening condition. Interested individuals can visit RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid to learn more. The Red Cross follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and volunteer donors are the only source of blood for those in need. To make an appointment to donate, please visit www.RedCrossBlood.org.

In closing:

Stay safe everyone. We are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but it remains vital to keep up with wearing masks, social distancing and washing hands - even if you have received one or two doses of the vaccine. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Matthew J. Armendo, Director