



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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Westport Board of Health
COVID-19 Update
February 5, 2021

Case Status:

Total number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents on the state's weekly city & town report of February 4, 2021 was **1225 - up 56 cases since last week**. Westport remains in the **RED** zone of higher risk, but the data continue to improve. The rolling 14-day incidence rate of cases has decreased further to **50.3/100,000**. This is still above the statewide average, but below the countywide rate. Please visit the state's [interactive data dashboard](#) for more details.

Testing Data:

20,147 COVID tests have been performed on Westport residents to date, based on the state's February 4th weekly report. There were **152** positive tests out of 1909 done in the last 14 days for a positivity rate of **7.96%** (down almost another percent from last week). These are encouraging trends. The statewide positivity rate declined to 4.32%.

Vaccine Update:

- Westport is partnering with Dartmouth to offer public vaccine clinics for eligible residents. These will be held in Dartmouth. The first clinic will be Saturday, Feb 6th and all 1000 appointments are filled. Future clinic dates & times cannot be posted until we have confirmation of how much vaccine the state will actually allocate each week. We will post the clinic schedule on the BOH website and through e-alert as soon as we can.
- **Be sure you are signed up for e-alerts in order to get timely notice of the Dartmouth vaccine clinics:** <https://www.westport-ma.com/subscribe>
- When a clinic is scheduled in Dartmouth, you can make an appointment at <https://www.maimmunizations.org/>. Bring proof of ID and the self-attestation of eligibility form (or fill it out onsite) to the clinic. Wear loose-sleeved clothing. PLEASE DO NOT CALL the Board of Health or Dartmouth Public Schools if you do not see slots available. DO NOT GO TO THIS SITE IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN APPOINTMENT.
- The **Council on Aging** has started a wait list for the COVID vaccine clinic with the Apothecary and/or Rite Aid for when they receive the vaccine. Please call the COA at 508-636-1026 to place your name on the list. We have no way of knowing when that will be. It could be 2 weeks or 2 months. So please be patient and the COA will do everything they can to assist you to get the vaccine.
- **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.
- **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** will begin vaccinations at local three sites beginning February 8th: <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. Gillette Stadium is currently the closest mass vaccination site. For all of the above clinics, go here to find available slots:
<https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>
- The Board of Health will not be able to receive a supply the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine until late February and even then, it is expected to be limited.
- Common questions about the vaccine are answered here:
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions>

UPDATED SECTOR-SPECIFIC CAPACITY RESTRICTIONS & GATHERING LIMITS

Capacity Limits Increased to 40%: All businesses in the list below will be able to increase from 25% to 40% capacity, beginning Monday February 8th. (The sector-specific industry standards dated in December 2020 will still apply)

- Driving Schools
 - Gyms/Health Clubs
 - Libraries
 - Museums
 - Retail
 - Offices
 - Places of Worship
 - Lodging (common areas)
 - Golf (indoor areas)
 - Restaurants - 40% of seated capacity (employees do not count toward the limit)
 - Close Contact Personal Services (employees do not count toward the limit)
- * A limit of 5 people per 1000 sq. feet applies for smaller businesses without an available fire occupancy capacity.



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.

Updated 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:

- **NEW! Veterans Food Pantry – Saturday, Feb. 6th from 10 am to 2 pm** at VFW Post 8502, 843 State Rd. Pre-registration is required. Call Carol Freitas, Westport VSO, at 508-636-1028. DO NOT arrive earlier than 9:50 AM due to space limitations.
- **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 8th from 9 am to noon. This past week the pick-up had to be rescheduled to Wednesday due to the snowstorm. 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](https://www.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. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Matthew J. Armendo, Director