



TOWN OF WESTPORT
WESTPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 02790

OFFICE OF BOARD OF HEALTH
856 MAIN ROAD

Tel: (508) 636-1015
Fax: (508) 636-1016
Health@Westport-MA.gov
westport-ma.com

Matthew J. Armendo
Director

Westport Board of Health
COVID-19 Update
March 12, 2021

Case Status:

Total number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents on the state's weekly city & town report of March 11, 2021 was **1374** - up 20 cases since last week. Westport has now stayed at the **YELLOW** risk level for three weeks in a row. The rolling 14-day incidence rate of cases has decreased slightly to **17.9/100,000**. Visit the state's [interactive data dashboard](#) for more details.

As we mark the one-year anniversary of the declared public health emergency, please take a moment to remember the loss of 7 residents locally due to COVID-19 during this past year.

Testing Data:

23,961 COVID tests have been performed on Westport residents to date, based on the state's March 11th weekly report. There were **47** positive tests out of 1419 done in the last 14 days for a positivity rate of **3.31%**. The statewide positivity rate went down to 1.83%.

NEW - Westport Vaccination Data

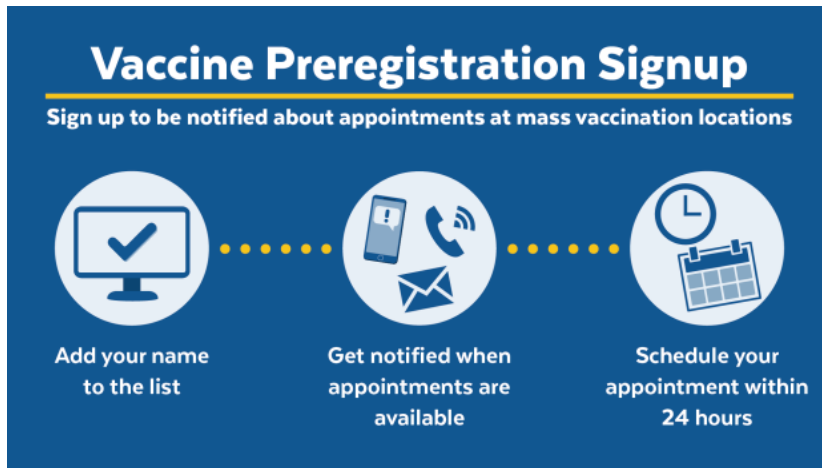
As of March 9, 2021, at least **4364** or **26%** of Westport residents are fully or partially vaccinated against COVID-19, either through a Westport sponsored clinic or through any one of the other vaccine sites. The BOH is especially pleased to note that 76% of our seniors 75+ have received at least one dose of vaccine and are proud of our role in providing vaccine access to our most vulnerable residents.

Age Group	Population	Group share of town pop.	Combined fully & partially	Fully vaccinated individuals	Partially vaccinated individuals
0-19 Years	3,214	19%	*	*	*
20-29 Year	1,596	10%	180	102	78
30-49 Year	3,695	22%	596	393	203
50-64 Year	3,982	24%	890	491	399
65-74 Year	2,435	15%	1,303	381	922
75+ Years	1,830	11%	1,395	752	643
Total	16,752	100%	*	*	*

Second Dose Vaccine Clinic Held at COA: On March 11th, the BOH again collaborated with the COA and the Westport Fire Dept. to administer second doses of the Moderna vaccine to over 170 residents who had received their initial vaccine on Feb. 11th. The EMTs also completed second dose visits to 30 homebound residents. Assuming the BOH gets additional vaccine allocated for next week, we plan to coordinate clinics for the remaining senior/affordable housing locations in town.

COVID Vaccine Update:

- **NEW! Vaccine Pre-Registration Option:** Beginning today, the state will have a preregistration system to make it easier to request and schedule an appointment at one of the 7 mass vaccination sites. These locations include: Gillette Stadium,



Fenway Park (moving to Hynes Convention Center March 27), Reggie Lewis Center, Danvers DoubleTree Hotel, Natick Mall, Eastfield Mall, Springfield and former Circuit City, Dartmouth.

More locations will be added to the system in April.

Once you sign up for preregistration, you'll receive weekly status updates. You can opt out at any time if you find an appointment elsewhere. This tool will be available at mass.gov/COVIDvaccine. Details [HERE](#).

- **NEW! Designated Vaccine Days for K-12 Educators:** The Administration has designated 4 days where the state's 7 mass vaccination sites will only offer 1st dose appointments for K-12 educators, child care workers and K-12 school staff. These dates are: **Saturday, March 27, Saturday, April 3, Saturday, April 10, and Sunday, April 11.** Workers in this group must use the pre-registration system described above to request an appointment at one of the seven mass vaccination sites and attest they are a K-12 educator, childcare worker or K-12 school staff. Educators may also book appointments at any of the 170 sites currently open to eligible residents by visiting www.mass.gov/covidvaccinemap.
- [After Vaccination FAQs](#)
- **Dartmouth Circuit City Mass Vaccination Site:** This site is open at the former Circuit City location in Dartmouth and is operated by Curative. Effective March 12th you must use the new pre-registration process to get in line for a vaccine appointment here or any of the other mass vaccination sites. You should also continue to try other sites such as CVS, Walgreens, Southcoast Health, Stop & Shop and Bristol Community College by going to vaxfinder.mass.gov to schedule an appointment.
- **Telephone support for persons without internet access** who wish to make vaccine appointments at public clinics is now available by **calling 211**.

Other COVID-19 News:

- **Travel Order:** The current list of low-risk states is: Hawaii, Missouri, Oregon, Puerto Rico, and Washington. Detailed travel order instructions and the travel risk map can be found [here](#).

NOTE: If you have gotten two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines or one dose of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine more than 14 days ago and do not have symptoms, you do not need to have a negative test before traveling to Massachusetts or quarantine when you arrive. If asked, you must show documentation of your vaccination, including the date(s) given. However, if you are vaccinated and have symptoms of COVID-19, you must continue to follow the Governor's Travel Order and related testing and quarantine requirements.

Vaccine Attitude Survey: The state has developed a survey to assess vaccination attitudes and the degree of vaccine hesitancy among people in Massachusetts. We encourage you to take the survey by March 12.

- Requirements: must be 18 years or older and living in or a resident of Massachusetts.
- Time to complete: 10-15 minutes
- Data collection: completely anonymous
- Link to the Survey: <https://redcap.link/MAvaccinesurvey>

Importance of Second Dose for Pfizer and Moderna Vaccines: The CDC has stated that two doses of coronavirus vaccine protect people better against coronavirus variants than just one dose. To maximize your protection and reduce the chance of variants taking hold in the US, the Health Department strongly encourages all residents who get the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine to make sure to keep their second dose appointment. If you are unable to do so, please cancel ahead of time so someone else can take your slot. If you are unable to make your scheduled second dose appointment, try to get another one as soon as possible within 6 weeks of the first dose.

The mass vax sites do have a limited number of second dose appointments. You may schedule your second dose at a mass vaccination site (with the same vaccine) online through the same process as scheduling a first dose. If you are unable to access an appointment online, you may also call the mass vaccination site vendor. Contact information is listed for each site on their [Vaxfinder](#) page. This option is only available for individuals who cannot schedule their second dose at the same site as their first dose and is limited in supply. It is only available for people who just require a second dose.

Move to Step 2 of Phase III was effective March 1, for all cities and towns and featured expanded business capacity and reopening of indoor performance venues. Residents must continue to wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and are encouraged to avoid contact outside of their immediate households. The Travel Advisory and other public health orders remain in effect.

Gathering Changes and Phase IV Start Proposed for March 22: If public health metrics continue to improve, Massachusetts will move into Step 1 of Phase IV of the state's reopening plan on March 22nd. Also effective on March 22, gathering limits for event venues and in public settings will increase to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. Outdoor gatherings at private residences and in private backyards will remain at a maximum of 25 people, with indoor house gatherings remaining at 10 people.

Updated mask guidance: The CDC has updated its guidance around mask wearing, by emphasizing the importance of a tight fit and improved filtration. One way to achieve

that is to 'double mask' by wearing a cloth mask over a surgical mask. [CDC Mask guidance](#).

MassHealth Expands Vaccine-Related Transportation for its Members:

MassHealth is providing free transportation to vaccine appointments to anyone that has any type of MassHealth coverage or the Health Safety Net. If you have MassHealth or the Health Safety Net, you (or a caregiver) can call your health plan or MassHealth directly to schedule free transportation at 800-841-2900 (TTY: 800-497-4648).

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, which has been extended through June.

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 on Monday 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. You may also recycle any Westport Heart fundraisers signs at the Grange
- **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/>.

In closing:

The signs are encouraging, but we must not let down our guard. Remain vigilant by 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 and stay safe everyone!

Matthew J. Armendo, Director