



**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**  
**April 1, 2021**

**Case Status:**

Total number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents on the state's weekly city & town report of April 1, 2021 was **1468** – an increase of 33 cases since last week. Westport just squeaked by to stay at the **YELLOW** risk level this week. **Both our incidence and test positivity rates trended higher. Please remain vigilant.** The rolling 14-day incidence rate of cases climbed from **19.6** to **23.9/100,000**. Visit the state's [interactive data dashboard](#).

**Testing Data:**

25,872 COVID tests have been performed on Westport residents to date, based on the state's April 1st weekly report. There were **62** positive tests out of 1248 done in the last 14 days for a positivity rate of **4.97% (just under 5% RED risk threshold)**. The statewide positivity rate increased somewhat to 2.36%.

**Westport Vaccination Data**

As of April 1, 2021, at least **6136 or 37%** 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. That means another **763** individuals received a vaccine shot in the last week. This is well above the Bristol County vaccination rate of 27%. Happily, we can report that 82% of our 75+ population (1497 individuals) have received at least one vaccine dose and 70% are fully vaccinated. Vaccine reports, including one with the town level data, can be found [here](#).

**Westport Vaccine Clinics this week:** The Westport Apothecary received an allotment of J&J vaccine and the BOH collaborated with them to vaccinate 280 eligible residents, including those on a waitlist at the Apothecary, the COA and town employees at a clinic at the High School on Monday. Thank You to Lynne Barker, General Manager of the Westport Apothecary, for allowing us to partner with them, to the BOH Staff, to Superintendent Aubin for making the High School and staff available for the clinic, and to Chief Legendre/WFD staff for being right there with us throughout this pandemic. Without these partnerships vaccine distribution in Westport would not be possible.

**COVID Vaccine Update:**

- **NEW! Homebound Vaccination Program** - In-home vaccinations are available for homebound people who are not able to leave their home to get to a vaccination site, even with assistance. The Westport BOH has been partnering with the Westport Fire Dept. to conduct homebound vaccinations all along. Now Massachusetts has set up a [statewide homebound program](#), using the J&J vaccine. The BOH expects to be able to access this vaccine supply for eligible Westport homebound residents. ***If you or someone you know who is a Westport resident, is homebound and still***

***needs a vaccine, please call the Council on Aging at 508-636-1026 to be screened for eligibility.***

- **Veteran Vaccine Eligibility:** President Biden recently signed a law that allows ALL veterans, their spouses and caregivers, and CHAMPVA recipients to receive a COVID vaccine at the VA, regardless of eligibility for VA health care.  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5649>
- **Vaccine Eligibility Timeline:**
  - **March 22nd:** Residents 60+ and certain workers
  - **April 5th:** Residents 55+ and residents with one certain medical condition
  - **April 19th:** General public ages 16 years of age and olderThe full timeline is available [HERE](#).
- **Reserve your spot in line for vaccines:** All residents can pre-register to book an appointment at a mass vaccination site at [mass.gov/COVIDVaccine](https://mass.gov/COVIDVaccine). Appointments will be offered based on eligibility and available appointments nearby. 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.
- **Second Dose Appointments:** Individuals who cannot schedule their second dose at the same site as their first dose, may schedule a second dose at a mass vaccination site (with the same type of 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 and is limited in supply. It is only available for people who just require a second dose.
- **Guidelines for Fully Vaccinated Individuals:**  
<https://www.mass.gov/guidance/guidance-for-people-who-are-fully-vaccinated-against-covid-19>
- **Call 211 - telephone support for persons without internet access** who need help making vaccine appointments at public clinics.

#### **Other COVID-19 News:**

**COVID-19 Variants in Massachusetts:** Surveillance data indicates that B.1.1.7 (UK variant) is widespread in Massachusetts and is circulating within communities. Data has also identified B.1.351 (South Africa) and P.1 (Brazil) cases without any recent travel. It is critical to do everything possible to keep variants of concern from becoming more widespread.

The best defense against variants of concern is to prevent the spread of COVID. This includes wearing a mask, social distancing, avoiding groups, staying home when you are sick, getting tested if you have symptoms or are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID, and getting vaccinated when it is your turn.

**COVID Testing:** Testing for COVID-19 is widely available. 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.

**Travel Advisory** - On March 22 the Massachusetts Travel Order was replaced with a [Travel Advisory](#). The Travel Order form and map of lower risk states are no longer in effect. All visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, are advised to quarantine for 10 days upon their arrival.

Exemptions: Travelers with a negative COVID test, residents returning within 24 hours of leaving the state, critical infrastructure workers, and fully vaccinated travelers who have no COVID symptoms.

#### **Phase IV, Step 1 and Gathering Changes:**

All communities in Massachusetts moved into Step 1 of Phase IV of the state's reopening plan this past Monday. For details, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-when-can-my-business-reopen>

Also effective on March 22, gathering limits for event venues and in public settings increased to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. Outdoor gatherings at private residences remain at a max of 25 people, with the indoor max at 10 people.

The following must continue to remain closed until Phase IV, Step 2:

- ✓ Amusement parks, theme parks, indoor and outdoor waterparks and ball pits
- ✓ Street festivals and parades and agricultural festivals
- ✓ Road races and other large, outdoor organized amateur or professional group athletic events
- ✓ Bars, dance clubs and nightclubs
- ✓ Beer gardens, breweries, wineries and distillates not providing seated food service

**Updated mask guidance:** The CDC has updated its guidance around mask wearing, by emphasizing the importance of a tight fit and improved filtration. You can 'double mask' by wearing a cloth mask over a surgical mask. [CDC Mask guidance](#).

**COVID related funeral expenses:** FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

#### **Town COVID Updates:**

- **Town Election** – Tuesday, April 13, 2021. Polls open 10 am to 8 pm. Be sure to wear a mask and keep 6 ft. distance from others. Currently, no-excuse voting by mail has been extended by the state law until June 30, 2021. If you are applying to vote by mail in this town election, use the [Vote by Mail Application](#) (PDF).
- **Annual Town Meeting** – Will be held outdoors starting at 9 am on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> behind the Westport High School.
- **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 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:**

With rising level of cases and test positivity in town, I remind everyone not to let our guard down. Continue 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*

P.S. One non-COVID update –

All town offices, including the Transfer Station will be closed on Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Westport Transfer Station will also be closed on Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.