



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 16, 2021

Case Status:

Total number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents on the state's weekly city & town report of April 15, 2021 was **1519** – an increase of **27** cases since last week. Unfortunately, **Westport has stayed in the RED** – highest risk level. Although cases & positivity rates have stabilized, we want to see a downward trend. Please get vaccinated as soon as you can and keep up with the mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing. The rolling 14-day incidence rate of cases remained stable at **28.4/100,000**. Visit the state's [interactive data dashboard](#) and navigate to the City and Town data tab.

Testing Data:

There were **59** positive tests out of 1328 done in the last 14 days for a positivity rate of **5.27% - a half percent decline from last week**.

Westport Vaccination Data

As of April 15, 2021, at least **7798 or 47%** of Westport residents are at least partially vaccinated against COVID-19, either through a Westport sponsored clinic or through any one of the other vaccine sites. That means another **930** individuals received a vaccine shot in the last week. This remains above the Bristol County vaccination rate of 36%. Vaccine reports, including one with the town level data, can be found [here](#).

Age Group	Population	Proportion of town population	Individuals with at least one dose	Individuals with at least one dose per capita	Fully vaccinated individuals	Fully vaccinated individuals per capita
0-19 Years	3,214	19%	133	4%	46	1%
20-29 Years	1,596	10%	459	29%	257	16%
30-49 Years	3,695	22%	1,453	39%	894	24%
50-64 Years	3,982	24%	2,249	56%	1,351	34%
65-74 Years	2,435	15%	1,934	79%	1,594	65%
75+ Years	1,830	11%	1,570	86%	1,412	77%
Total	16,752	100%	7,798	47%	5,554	33%

NEW! J&J COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a statement on April 13th regarding the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine, recommending a pause in its use out of an abundance of caution. The Department of Public Health has notified all Massachusetts providers to also temporarily stop administration of this vaccine.

According to DPH, out of 6.8 million doses of the J&J vaccine delivered to date, there have been 6 cases in the US of a rare type of blood clot together with low platelets that occurred and may be associated with the vaccine. None of these cases has been in Massachusetts, where 181,000 doses of the J&J vaccine have been administered to

date. All cases to date occurred in women between the ages of 18 and 48 and symptoms arose 6 to 13 days post-vaccination. During the pause there will be further investigation to determine if there is a link to the vaccine. This is a very rare situation (one in a million - literally).

- If you already received the J&J vaccine and have concerns or questions, you should contact your health care provider.
- Anyone with a pending appointment to get the J&J vaccine should contact the clinic site for rescheduling information.

Westport Vaccine Clinics this week: The BOH provided second doses for another 20 residents this week. We will run one small clinic with first doses of Moderna next week. This clinic is full. After that the BOH expects to be able to serve only homebound individuals. All other residents should seek an appointment at other vaccination sites.

COVID Vaccine Update:

- **BEGINNING ON MONDAY APRIL 19th: All residents 16 years and older will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.**

Youth ages 16 to 18 are only eligible for the Pfizer vaccine currently and must go to a site using that type of vaccine for their appointment. A parental consent form is required if under 18 – check with the clinic for their form. The [Dartmouth Circuit City](#) site uses Pfizer. Some [Southcoast Health vaccine clinics](#) also offer Pfizer.

- **Homebound Vaccination Program on Hold:** The [statewide homebound program](#) is on hold because of the pause in use of J&J vaccine. The BOH will notify eligible Westport homebound residents who have signed up with us as soon as we receive more vaccine to administer. You can still call the BOH at 508-636-1015 to be screened for this program.
- **Veterans:** The VA Providence Healthcare System continues to vaccinate Veterans, their spouses and caregivers, Monday to Friday from 8am to 2pm at the main campus in Providence.
- **Reserve your spot in line for vaccines:** All residents can pre-register at <https://vaccinesignup.mass.gov/#/> to book an appointment at a mass vaccination site. 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.
- **Finding general vaccination sites:** Use [VaxFinder.mass.gov](#) to search for appointments at mass vax and other public sites. This includes health care locations, pharmacies and grocery stores, with availability updated daily.
- **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:

Statewide Guidelines, Advisories & Orders: Find all the latest guidance [here](#)

Guidance for Business, including Return to Work, Employee Screening Questionnaire and more: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-covid-19-business-flyers>

UPDATED: COVID-19 Variants in Massachusetts: The most recent surveillance data shows that as of the end of March about 30% of cases in the state are the B.1.1.7 (UK variant), with about 3.9% being the California variant and 3.1% the Brazilian variant. It is critical to do everything possible to keep variants of concern from becoming more widespread.

The best defense 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 as soon as you can.

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.

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

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 are in Step 1 of Phase IV of the state's reopening plan. For details, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-when-can-my-business-reopen>. Gathering limits for event venues and in public settings is 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](#).

Town COVID Updates:

- **Annual Town Meeting** – Will be held outdoors starting at 9 am on Saturday, June 5th 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 the rising level of variants in the state, I would ask everyone to not let your guard down. Continue wearing masks, social distancing and washing hands - even if you have received one or two doses of the vaccine. These efforts will help meet and defeat this challenge before us. I want to encourage all of our residents, businesses, and visitors to continue to check in for any updates and new developments on our town COVID webpage. Thank you for your continued cooperation and stay safe everyone!

Matthew J. Armendo, Director