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Westport Board of Health
COVID-19 Update
April 30, 2021

Case Status:

Total number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents on the state's weekly city & town report of April 29, 2021 was **1569** – an increase of **21** cases since last week. **Westport has moved down to YELLOW – moderate risk** – after several weeks in the RED zone. This is good news and the trend is continuing downward. It is still important to 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 decreased to **22.6/100,000**. Visit the state's [interactive data dashboard](#) and navigate to the City and Town data tab for more details.

- ✓ ***Everyone is eligible for COVID-19 services*** (testing, treatment & vaccinations), no matter their immigration status. You do not need a Social Security Number or government ID to receive free COVID-19 services. [FACT SHEET](#)

Testing Data:

There were **53** positive tests out of 1253 done in the last 14 days for a positivity rate of **4.95% - showing a continued decrease**.

Westport Vaccination Data

As of April 29, 2021, at least **8788 or 52%** of Westport residents are at least partially vaccinated against COVID-19. **40%** of residents are fully vaccinated. Another **565** individuals received a vaccine shot in the last week. Vaccine reports, including one with the town level data, can be found [here](#).

Age Group	Population	At least one dose	Fully vaccinated
0-19 Years	3,214	233	74
20-29 Years	1,596	615	349
30-49 Years	3,695	1,738	1,175
50-64 Years	3,982	2,619	1,828
65-74 Years	2,435	1,996	1,775
75+ Years	1,830	1,587	1,455
Total	16,752	8,788	6,656

UPCOMING COVID VACCINE CLINIC

May 6, 2021 - Westport Apothecary Clinic at Town Hall Annex Gym, 856 Main Rd. from 9 am to 3 pm. The Apothecary has a supply of both the J&J and the Moderna vaccine available for those 18 and older. Call the pharmacy at 508-636-5957 for an appointment.

LATEST REOPENING NEWS:

Effective on April 30: [Face Coverings Order](#) has been relaxed for some outdoor settings. Masks are no longer generally required outdoors unless you are unable to maintain 6 feet from other people or unless required by sector specific guidance. Face coverings must still be worn at all times in indoor public places and at indoor and outdoor public events, except for when eating or drinking.

Effective on May 10, Massachusetts will reopen some outdoor **Phase 4, Step 2** industries:

- Large venues such as indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas and ballparks will be permitted to increase capacity to 25%.
- Some outdoor Phase 4, Step 2 industries including amusement parks, theme parks and outdoor water parks that will be permitted to operate at a 50% capacity after submitting safety plans to the Department of Public Health.
- Road races and other large, outdoor organized amateur or professional group athletic events will be permitted to take place with staggered starts after submitting safety plans to a local board of health or the DPH.
- Youth and adult amateur sports tournaments will be allowed for moderate and high-risk sports.
- Singing will also be permitted indoors with strict distancing requirements at performance venues, restaurants, event venues and other businesses.

Effective on May 29, Subject to public health and vaccination data:

- **Gathering limits will increase** to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors for event venues, public settings and private settings.
- **Additional Phase 4, Step 2 industries will be permitted to open** including
 - Street festivals, parades and agricultural festivals, at 50% of their previous capacity and after submitting safety plans to the local board of health.
 - Bars, beer gardens, breweries, wineries and distilleries, will be subject to restaurant rules with seated service only, a 90-minute limit and no dance floors.
- The restaurant guidance will be updated to eliminate the requirement that food be served with alcohol and to increase the maximum table size to 10.

Effective on August 1: Subject to public health and vaccination data, remaining industries will be permitted to open including dance clubs, and nightclubs, saunas, hot-tubs, steam rooms at fitness centers, health clubs and other facilities, indoor water parks and ball pits. All industry restrictions will be lifted at that time, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries, with businesses encouraged to continue following best practices. The gathering limit will be rescinded. *Depending on vaccine distribution and public health data, the state may consider re-evaluating the August 1 date.*

COVID Vaccine Information:

- **All residents 16 years and older are 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:** The BOH will notify eligible Westport homebound residents who have signed up with us as we receive 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.
- **Finding general vaccination sites:** Use [VaxFinder.mass.gov](https://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](https://vaxfinder.mass.gov) 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>
- [Myths & Facts about the COVID-19 Vaccines](#) from the CDC
- **Call 211 - telephone support for persons without internet access** who need help making vaccine appointments at public clinics.

Other COVID-19 News:

UPDATED business sector guidance: Construction, Drive-In Movie Theaters, Golf Facilities, Lab Space, Libraries, and Manufacturing specific standards have been rescinded and should now follow the [Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplaces](#) and/or the protocols for [Sectors Not Otherwise Addressed](#).

All current guidance can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/covid-19-workplace-safety-measures-for-reopening>

UPDATED Outdoor Recreation standards: Certain recreation guidance documents are no longer in effect (e.g., mountain biking, recreational boating, parks etc.) and should follow [Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplaces](#). More details at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-energy-and-environmental-affairs-eea-covid-19-guidance-documents>

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

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

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@riversidecc.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.

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:

Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available. Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines work with your immune system, so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. The combination of getting vaccinated and following the State and CDC recommendations to protect ourselves and others and provides the best protection from COVID-19. Ending the COVID-19 pandemic will halt the growing negative impact the virus is having on education, the economy, health care, and countless other activities of a functioning society. I would ask everyone to not let your guard down and if eligible, GET VACCINATED! Please 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