



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update

May 28, 2020

Case Update: Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases in the Town of Westport as of May 27, 2020 is **75**, an increase of **7** from last week. **Weekly increases have stabilized but there is no downward trend yet in Westport.**

The state is now also reporting on testing – in Westport 949 people have been tested to date, with a 7.9% positive rate. The state's weekly reporting of the number of COVID-19 cases, case rates and testing by community is issued every Wednesday afternoon and our [COVID-19 Case reporting page](#) will provide a link to the complete state report each week.

Unfortunately the Health Department has another death to report, for a total of **4** current Westport residents lost to COVID. Three residents are still hospitalized. On the positive side, **56** persons have recovered to date.

Statewide there have been **94,220** cases and **6,547** deaths as of May 27th. The country also passed the tragic milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID in just four months since the beginning of the pandemic. The state continues in Phase 1 of re-opening and is beginning to allow lower-risk business sectors to open under strict guidelines. More detail is provided on the town's COVID webpage.

As I continue to remind everyone each week, COVID-19 may flare up again so we need to remain vigilant with social distancing, wearing masks and good handwashing practices for the health of ourselves, our friends, neighbors and fellow residents.

The Health Department will update the public weekly or as needed with any new developments or changes in Town operations on the [COVID-19 INFORMATION PAGE](#).

Please subscribe to E-alerts (<https://www.westport-ma.com/subscribe>) to receive important email updates on COVID-19.

Other COVID-related news:

Phase 1 Reopening – This first phase allows construction, manufacturing, offices, labs, retail, barbershops and hair salons, pet groomers, and car washes to reopen only under very specific conditions. Phase 1 also gives the go-ahead for religious services, certain health care treatments and limited outdoor recreational activities. Phase 1 will last for a minimum of three weeks (at least until June 8th). Phase 2 will include restaurants, lodging and expanded retail and outdoor activities.

- All businesses in Phase 1 **must** meet mandatory COVID-19 safety standards & sector specific protocols before re-opening. This includes social distancing, employees wearing masks, handwashing & sanitizing, cleaning & disinfecting and training requirements. Signs describing what protective actions the business has taken must be publicly posted for both customers and employees: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts#sector-specific-protocols-and-best-practices->
- The Board of Health is doing spot checks of local businesses to verify they have documented their compliance with these mandatory and sector specific safety protocols. The BOH's goal is to educate and promote compliance. However, the Governor's plan also establishes a graduated enforcement matrix that starts with warnings, but can lead to a \$300 penalty and even closure after repeated violations.
- Employees, customers and members of the general public who have complaints about business non-compliance with state mandated requirements related to COVID-19 can contact the Board of Health or the Department of Labor Standards (508-616-0461)
- **Governor Baker's Face Mask Order remains in place.** A new "[stay safer at home](#)" advisory requests that individuals stay at home when they can. Gatherings of 10 or more persons are still not allowed, except in unconfined outdoor spaces. All individuals are still required to wear a face covering in most places when outside of the home. [ORDER](#) | [GUIDANCE](#)
- **Town Updates**
 - **Annual Town Meeting.** The Board of Selectmen has not yet rescheduled, but is considering date in July, with location still to be determined.
 - **Local election on June 23rd.** The BOH continues to urge mail in voting to reduce risk of potential exposure to coronavirus. Click [HERE](#) for mail in ballot information. All precincts will be open on June 23rd with safety & hygiene protocols in place for those who vote in person.
 - **Town Buildings phasing in a re-opening.** Entry into Town Hall and the Annex by appointment only will be the first step, beginning on June 1st. When making an appointment, you will be asked screening questions to minimize risk. And bring your own pen! The town has issued detailed guidelines for office space disinfecting and cleaning, and best practices for work spaces and public access. We ask that everyone cooperate with the new protocols to help reduce any risk of exposure and transmission of the virus.
 - The Library is planning to start with curbside service sometime in the near future. The COA will remain closed until further notice. Town beaches and landings are now open.
 - **The town's temporary Food Pantry at the Town Hall Annex Gym, 856 Main Road.** Groceries are distributed to residents in need on Mondays from 9 am to noon. Donation days are Tuesday and Thursday mornings also from 9 am to noon. The next food pantry pick-up is scheduled for Monday, June 1st. [WESTPORT FOOD PANTRY](#)

The town's COVID-19 page also publishes links to the [daily MEMA situation reports](#), which provide an excellent summary of the most recent news and links to resources. You can also visit the state's COVID-19 page at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>

Stay safe everyone.

Matthew J. Armendo, Director
Westport Health Department