



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update

June 18, 2020

Case Update:

Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases in the Town of Westport as of June 17, 2020 is **96, up 1 from last week. That is very good news.** (Note – the Town Nurse has verified 98 cases in town.)

1373 Westport residents have been tested to date. Results from these tests show a positive rate of **6.99%** - which is a fairly big decline from last week's rate of 7.69%. All these signs are encouraging and show the value of the public health measures put in place to slow the rate of transmission. Let's keep that up so we don't bounce back higher. The state's weekly reporting town specific data is issued every Wednesday afternoon and our [COVID-19 Case reporting page](#) will provide a link to the complete state reports each week.

We have had no new deaths in town to report for several weeks now. I hope that trend also continues. We have had 85 recoveries to date and several people returning home from extended stays in the hospital. Statewide there have been 106,151 cases and 7,734 deaths as of June 17th. While a large proportion of those deaths occurred in persons over 80 years old, 398 deaths in people under 60 have been recorded statewide.

Until we have a treatment or vaccine for COVID-19, life will not return to the old normal. Our continued success at maintaining positive trends for COVID-19 health indicators will depend on everyone's long-term cooperation with social distancing, wearing masks, regular handwashing and limiting time in confined spaces and crowds. Contact tracing has also been a big part of the state's success in driving down the spread of the disease. If you have been exposed to someone who tests positive, it is very important to follow the self-isolation or quarantine guidelines. Your doctor or the town nurse will provide specific instructions, based on the protocols issued by the Department of Public Health.

This week the Baker administration announced a new initiative for anyone who has attended a large gathering in the past two weeks to get tested for COVID-19. Test results will be provided to each participant confidentially, and participants are encouraged to share these results with their doctors. A full list of all testing sites is available at www.mass.gov/gettested.

Locally, the CVS at 599 State Road site will administer tests by appointment only, open 9 am - 6 pm. To make an appointment, go to www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19

[testing](#). Where the form asks “Have you been prioritized by your state or local health department for testing? (e.g., for public health monitoring)?” select “Yes.”

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

Other COVID-related news:

Phase 2 Opening – Step 1 began June 8th. Many of the business allowed to open at this stage are in full swing. We ask businesses and patrons to comply with all the recommended practices as well. For example, restaurants need to be collecting contact information for at least one member of each party seated, for follow up if needed. The industry specific mandatory COVID-19 safety standards & protocols can be located at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>, or a copy can be provided through the BOH Office.

Gatherings of more than 10 in an indoor or outdoor confined space is still prohibited.

Gatherings of more than 10 in an outdoor unconfined space is allowed with the proper social distancing, but only if the type of gathering is not otherwise prohibited.

Street festivals, agricultural festivals, walk-a-thons, road races and bike races, and other outdoor organized athletic or recreational events that gather large numbers of people will not be allowed until Phase 3 or 4.

For a complete list of all that is allowed in Phase 2 step 1, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-when-can-my-business-reopen>

Phase 2 Step 2 will come at a later date, yet to be determined.

- Indoor seating at restaurants- with restrictions
- Close personal contact services- with restrictions

As a reminder

- The Board of Health has been doing spot checks of local businesses to verify they have documented their compliance with all the COVID safety protocols, which will continue with Phase 2 businesses. The BOH’s goal is to educate and promote compliance.
- 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. All individuals are still required to wear a face covering in most places when outside of the home. [ORDER](#) | [GUIDANCE](#)

Town Updates:

- **Local election on June 23rd.** The Town has posted FAQs for early balloting at: <https://www.westport-ma.com/home/news/town-elections-june-23-2020-read-q-added-61620>. All precincts will be open on June 23rd with safety & hygiene protocols in place for those who vote in person. Unless exempt for medical reasons, face masks are required.
- **Town Building re-opening updates:**
 - **Town playgrounds** – open as of June 17th.
 - **Town Hall and Annex** – entry by advance appointment only. Screening questionnaire and temperature checks will be required before proceeding.
 - **The Library & COA** - still closed
 - **Town beaches and landings** – open.
- **The town's temporary Food Pantry is at the Town Hall Annex Gym, 856 Main Road.** The next food pantry pick-up is scheduled for Monday, June 22nd. On Tuesday, June 23rd the annex will be a voting location, so a volunteer will out in front the of the Annex to accept any donated items for the food pantry from 9 am to noon. Normal food donation days will resume Thursday, June 25th.
[WESTPORT FOOD PANTRY](#)
- **Needle/syringe disposal** – Residents who wish to dispose of medical sharps through the secure kiosk in the Town Hall Annex can schedule a pre-arranged drop-off by contacting the Town Nurse or the Board of Health. Only needles in the proper container (hard plastic detergent or bleach bottles with screw-on tops or red biohazard sharps containers) can be accepted. Do NOT leave sharps in the drop off box outside – that is not safe!

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Matthew J. Armendo, Director
Westport Health Department