



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update

July 23, 2020

Case update:

Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases in the Town of Westport as of July 22, 2020 is **100, so no change in the last two weeks. However, our Town nurse reported 106 cases on her roster as of this morning (2 new cases today), so we've had an uptick.** All it takes is one party or event without safety protocols for there to be a cluster of new cases. We can't let down our guard now and it is especially important to keep vigilant as we engage in more social interactions and activity outside the home.

Statewide there have been **107,413 confirmed** cases and **8,249 confirmed** deaths as of July 22. The trends in Massachusetts are relatively stable, with a recent slight trend upward. 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.

Testing data:

2340 COVID tests have been performed on Westport residents to July 22nd. (Note: Previous reports documented the number of persons tested. This report represents to the total number of tests performed.) There were 0 positive tests out of 239 done in the last 14 days. However, the new cases reported by the town nurse today will bump up the rate. Currently, the statewide 14-day average is a 1.67% positive rate. Ideally we want to be under 1% statewide to break the chain of transmission.

Other COVID-related news:

Phase 3, Step 1 of re-opening: We are into the third week of Phase 3, step 1 and expect to remain at this status for a while. The Board of Health is continuing to actively monitor businesses and venues for compliance with all safety protocols.

Governor Baker has extended the pause on evictions and foreclosures for 60 days, until October 17, 2020: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/foreclosures-and-evictions-moratorium-extension-july-21-2020>.

COVID Testing:

Free COVID-19 testing sites are open in eight communities as part of the administration's "Stop the Spread" initiative. These sites will remain open until August 14 to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in communities that are above the state average in total cases and positive test rate, and have experienced a decline in testing levels since April. This includes Fall River and New Bedford. While these sites were launched in these communities, they are open to all residents of the Commonwealth, even if you are asymptomatic. Visit mass.gov/stopthespread to find out more.

Gathering size: Indoor gatherings are limited to 8 people per 1,000 square feet, but should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space. Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in a single enclosed outdoor space for gatherings like community events, sports games, concerts, and conventions. This order does not apply to outdoor, unenclosed gatherings **if** proper social distancing measures are maintained.

Face Covering: As reopening continues, the statewide face covering order ([COVID-19 Order No. 31](#)) remains in effect for public indoor spaces and in outdoor spaces where social distancing is not possible. Detailed guidance can also be found online: <https://www.mass.gov/news/wear-a-mask-in-public>

Beaches: Visitors are required to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet or more at all times and visitors should maintain at least 12 feet minimum distance between towel/beach blanket areas.

Town Updates:

- **Annual Town Meeting: Saturday July 25th at 9 AM at the field behind the High School.** The BOH's health guidance for Town meeting is available [here](#). Face coverings and social distancing at all times will be required. Before checking in residents will also be asked to undergo a voluntary temperature scan and COVID screening:
 1. Do you have symptoms of COVID?
 2. Have you been exposed to someone with confirmed or suspected COVID in the last two weeks?
 3. Have you traveled outside New England, NY & NJ in the last two weeks?
- **Blood Drive at the Town Hall Annex Gymnasium on Thursday, August 6th from 10 am to 3 pm.** The need for blood remains high and the supply is low, so please consider donating. Appointments are required. Schedule at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> or call 1-800-RED CROSS.
- **Town Buildings (except Library and COA) are 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, July 27th. While local farmers continue to generously provide fresh produce, donations of non-perishable food, paper goods and toiletries have dropped off. The need continues, so please consider helping out. Food donations days are Tuesday and Thursday mornings. [WESTPORT FOOD PANTRY](#)

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Matthew J. Armendo, Director
Westport Health Department