



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update

July 9, 2020

Case update:

Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases in the Town of Westport as of July 8, 2020 is **100, up 2 from last week**. 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.

Statewide there have been **104,961 confirmed** cases and **8,028 confirmed** deaths as of July 8. Unfortunately there is an alarming rise nationwide so that we are at over 3 million cases and 130,000+ deaths. These numbers are warning bells that all of us really need to keep on doing what has worked for Massachusetts – the social distancing, wearing masks, handwashing and disinfecting.

Testing data:

1680 Westport residents have been tested for COVID to date. Results from these tests show a positive rate over the last 14 days of **2.29%**. This is slightly above the statewide 14-day average of 2.25%. While this is generally very encouraging, there are still a few hotspots of higher positive rates, including Fall River and New Bedford. The state has announced a "Stop the Spread" Initiative to provide testing to all individuals, even those without symptoms, in areas where COVID-19 rates are higher than the state average, including in our neighboring cities.

For general COVID-19 testing info and guidance for testing eligibility, visit [Mass.gov/GetTested](https://www.mass.gov/GetTested). Currently, asymptomatic individuals with no close-contact exposure to COVID-19 are not prioritized statewide for testing, but testing guidance may be updated as capacity expands.

Other COVID-related news:

Phase 3, Step 1 of re-opening: Additional industries that conduct business indoors have been allowed to open in this phase, which began July 6th. These include movie theaters, outdoor performance venues, museums, cultural and historical sites, fitness centers and health clubs, and professional sports teams (without spectators). The safety standards can be located on the Mass.Gov webpage under the COVID-19 tab – labeled Reopening Massachusetts, or a copy can be provided through the BoH Office.

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 possible.

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. Toweling/Beach blanket groups are limited to groups no larger than 10. No-contact ball games such as catch, kadima, Kan Jam and bocce can be allowed.

Town Updates:

- **Annual Town Meeting: Saturday July 25th at 9 AM at the field behind the High School.** More details on health and safety protocols will be posted in the coming weeks. The warrant is available [HERE](#).
- **Town Building re-opening updates:**
 - **Town Hall and Annex** – Open to the public, however service by phone, mail, outdoor dropbox, or online is still highly recommended. Face masks are required for in person visits.
 - **Transfer Station** – Open regular hours (Thursday through Monday 8:30 am to 3 pm). Face mask required.
 - **Recreation** – Some outdoor programs are being offered this summer, check out: <https://www.westport-ma.com/recreation-department>
 - **Town playgrounds** – Open. Please observe the hygiene & safety protocols.
 - **The Library & COA building** - Still closed, however you can check their websites for programming details.
- **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 13th. Food donation days are Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Dana Stewart is working on a long-term plan for the food pantry. More details to come. [WESTPORT FOOD PANTRY](#)

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Matthew J. Armendo, Director
Westport Health Department