



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update
August 20, 2020

Case Update:

Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents as of August 19th is **109**. However, our Town nurse reported **112** verified cases on her roster, not including visitors or seasonal residents. On the good news front, no new deaths to report and no residents are currently in the hospital. The state is now publishing [an interactive map](#) with enhanced community-level data on key COVID-19 metrics. This map will be updated based on the [state's weekly community COVID report](#), which is published very Wednesday afternoon.

Statewide there have been **115,048 confirmed cases** and **8,645 confirmed deaths** as of August 19th.

PLEASE do not let your guard down now! COVID-19 is not going away. Keep up with social distancing, wearing face coverings, frequent handwashing and use of disinfectant.

Testing Data:

3474 COVID tests have been performed on Westport residents up through August 19th. There were **5 positive tests** out of 567 done in the last 14 days, for a rate of 0.88%, which is lower than last week. Currently, the statewide 14-day average was also lower, down to 1.50% positive rate. Ideally we want to be under 1% statewide.

The state's **Stop the Spread** free testing initiative for higher risk communities has been extended through September 12th and includes sites in Fall River and New Bedford. The sites in these communities are open to all. Hours of operation, site details, and contact information can be found online. To find a site visit www.mass.gov/stopthespread.

Other COVID-related news:

Quick links to key COVID information can be found on the Town's main COVID-19 webpage at: <https://www.westport-ma.com/covid-19-corona-virus-information>

Increased Enforcement

The Governor issued a new Order #48 to clarify that local and state authorities may issue fines for COVID-19 related offenses (face coverings, travel order, gathering size, various workplace reopening requirements) using the non-criminal disposition process outlined in MGL c.40 s. 21D.

UPDATED Travel Order – **Hawaii and Rhode Island have been removed from the list of lower risk states.** Only CT, VT, NH, ME, NY and NJ residents or Mass. residents returning from those states do not need to quarantine. All other visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, are required to:

1. Complete the online Massachusetts Travel Form prior to arrival (unless they are visiting from a [lower-risk state](#) designated by the Department of Public Health)
2. Quarantine for 14 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72-hours prior to arrival in Massachusetts.

[Travel Scenario FAQs](#)

Updated gatherings order - effective Tuesday, August 11:

- Reduces the limit on outdoor gatherings from 100 to 50 people (indoor gatherings limit will remain at 25 people)
- Applies these limits to all types of gatherings, on both public and private property
- Requires face coverings where more than 10 people from different households will be mixing.

Restaurant rules have been updated

- Alcoholic beverages may only be served for on-site consumption if accompanied by orders for food prepared on-site.

Town COVID Updates:

- **Beaches** - Signage at Cherry & Web beach reminds visitors that masks along the path to the beach are required. Beachgoers should also wear a mask unless able to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet or more at all times and should keep at least 12 feet distance between towel/beach blanket areas.
- **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.
- **The temporary Food Pantry is at the Town Hall Annex Gym, 856 Main Road.** The next food pantry pick-up is scheduled for Monday, August 24th. Donations of non-perishable food, paper goods and toiletries are still needed. Food donations days are Tuesday and Thursday mornings. [WESTPORT FOOD PANTRY](#)

Other BOH announcements:

- **NEW influenza vaccine requirement for students:** Due to COVID-19, the Department of Public Health has just instituted a new requirement for all children 6 months of age and older attending childcare/preschool, students in all grades of school from Kindergarten through Grade 12, and students of post-secondary institutions to get a flu vaccine: <https://www.mass.gov/news/flu-vaccine-now-required-for-all-massachusetts-school-students-enrolled-in-child-care-pre>.
- **Flu season is coming up** – Stay tuned for details about flu vaccine availability through the Town Nurse. With COVID around, it will be especially important to get your annual flu vaccine early this year.
- **Mosquito and tick season** – I want to remind everyone to protect against mosquito and tick bites. Visit the [Massachusetts Aerial Mosquito Spray Map webpage](#) for the latest updates on spraying and the [EEE in Massachusetts web page](#) for tips on prevention.
- **Water advisory** - <https://www.westport-ma.com/home/news/water-advisory>

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

*Matthew J. Armendo, Director
Westport Health Department*