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Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update
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Case Update:

Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents as of August 26th is **113**, up 4 from last week. **However, in the last 24 hours the Town nurse added 5 more cases to her roster, which now totals 118. Three of the new COVID-19 positive cases in Westport are in children under age 11.**

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 every Wednesday afternoon.

Statewide there have been **117,085 confirmed cases** and **8,755 confirmed deaths** as of August 26th.

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:

3784 COVID tests have been performed on Westport residents up through August 26th. There were **7 positive tests** out of 572 done in the last 14 days, for a rate of 1.22%, which is higher than last week (.88%). However, the statewide 14-day average continued to trend down, now at 1.30% positive. Ideally we want to be under 1% statewide.

The state's **Stop the Spread** free testing initiative for certain higher risk communities has been extended through September 30th. 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>

NEW school testing option: Governor Baker has announced that school officials, after consultation with public health authorities, will be able to request a state-sponsored mobile testing unit come to their school to test a group of students and/or staff if a potential cluster of COVID-19 has been identified and transmission appears to have occurred within the school.

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.

Revised gatherings order remains in place:

- Outdoor gatherings limited to 50 people
- Indoor gatherings limit is 25 people
- These limits apply to all types of gatherings

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:

- **The temporary Food Pantry is moving in September.** The next food pantry pick-up is scheduled for Monday, August 31st at the Town Hall Annex Gym, 856 Main Road. Starting in September, the Westport Food Pantry location is changing to the Westport Grange, 931 Main Rd, Westport. This will still be a Town of Westport run food pantry, just located at the Grange. The days/times will remain the same. If you have any questions, please email stewartd@westport-ma.gov. Donations of non-perishable food, paper goods and toiletries are still needed. Food donations days are Tuesday and Thursday mornings (at the Grange starting Sept. 1st).
- **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.

Other BOH announcements:

- **NEW influenza vaccine requirement for students:** There is a new state 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. Check with your child's doctor.
- **Flu season coming** – 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*