



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update
September 3, 2020

Case Update:

Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents as of Sept.2nd is **125**, up **12** from last week (compared to an increase of 4 in the previous week). **This has moved Westport into the 'yellow' or moderate risk category. Of those 12 new cases in the past week, a total of four occurred in children under 18.** Fortunately no one is currently hospitalized.

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 **119,426 confirmed cases** and **8,853 confirmed deaths** as of September 2nd.

With Labor Day weekend coming up, I urge everyone to enjoy but be responsible. COVID-19 is not going away. PLEASE keep up with social distancing, wearing face coverings, frequent handwashing and use of disinfectant.

Testing Data:

4190 COVID tests have been performed on Westport residents up through September 2nd. There were **14 positive tests** out of 660 done in the last 14 days for a rate of **2.12%**, **a jump of nearly a percent from last week** (1.22%). However, the statewide 14-day average continued to trend down, now at 1.07% positive.

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/stophespread.

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>

Travel Order: Colorado, Delaware, Pennsylvania and W. Virginia have been added to the lower risk category. Rhode Island remains on the restricted list.

School and Child Care Information: Governor Baker signed a new Executive Order that allows the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) to authorize currently licensed after-school and out-of-school programs to operate during the school day while children are learning remotely. The Order also has a temporary license exemption for remote learning enrichment programs to provide supervision and care for school children up to age 14 while they participate in remote learning.

Revised gatherings order remains in place:

- Outdoor gatherings limited to 50 people
- Indoor gatherings limit is 25 people

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 has moved to the Westport Grange, 931 Main Rd.**
The next food pantry pick-up is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 7th from 9 am to noon at the Grange. Donations of non-perishable food, paper goods and toiletries are still needed. Food donations days are Tuesday and Thursday mornings.
- **Schools** - The Westport Community Schools [website](#) has the latest on what is happening locally. You can also find FAQs for families with information from the state at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/backtoschool/>
- **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.
- **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:

- **Transfer Station** - Due to contamination issues we can no longer accept paint cans of any kind. Small pressurized cans, such as hairspray, are also no longer accepted. Large pressurized tanks (20 lbs. or more) must have the tops removed. All Household Hazardous Waste can be brought to New England Disposal Technologies (NEDT) in Sutton, MA.
- **NEW influenza vaccine requirement for students** – Reminder that there is a new state requirement for all children in childcare/preschool, students in K through 12, and college students 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 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.

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

*Matthew J. Armendo, Director
Westport Health Department*