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Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update
September 24, 2020

Case Update:

Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents as of Sept. 23rd is **133, which is an increase of 5 cases since last week**. Westport remains in the green or low risk category. The rolling 14 day incidence rate is now 2.6/100,000. We have had 121 recoveries to date, and no new deaths or hospitalizations.

But as can be seen on [the statewide interactive map](#), the number of high risk towns has climbed due to a spike in cases – which are often associated with large gatherings. So if we want Westport to stay green we have to keep at it and maintain social distancing, wear face coverings, and wash or sanitize hands frequently. The state map is updated based on the [state's weekly community COVID report](#), which is published very Wednesday evening.

Statewide there have been **126,408 confirmed cases** and **9,135 confirmed deaths** as of September 23rd. Massachusetts is still reporting about 2000 new COVID-19 cases statewide each week. The state is also reporting 629 cases associated with higher education to date, with 130 added in the last week.

Testing Data:

5359 COVID tests have been performed on Westport residents up through September 23rd. There were **7 positive tests** out of 699 done in the last 14 days for a rate of **1.00%, holding steady**. The statewide 14-day average is down to 0.85% positive.

The state's **Stop the Spread** free testing initiative in certain communities has been extended through October. The sites in these communities are open to all. 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: The list of higher and lower risk states changes often so make sure to check the status before any travel. The current list of lower risk states is: WA, OR, CO, NM, NY, NJ, VT, NH, ME & CT. Rhode Island remains on the restricted list. Detailed travel order instructions and the travel risk map can be found [here](#). In summary, all visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, must:

1. Complete the online Massachusetts Travel Form prior to arrival, unless they are visiting from a lower-risk state.
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.

Revised gatherings order applies to both public and private property:

- Outdoor gatherings limited to 50 people
- Indoor gatherings limit is 25 people
- Masks required for any group of 10 people from different households.

Outdoor Dining: If you use a tent for outdoor dining, you may now enclose all four sides of the tent, but you must follow the indoor dining protocol. If you are going to use patio heaters fueled by propane/natural gas etc. Please contact the Fire Department before using.

UPDATED STANDARDS – effective September 28th

- **Restaurants** – parties of up to 10, limited bar seating. Details at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-restaurants>
- **Retail:** Self-serve beverage stations will be allowed. Details at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-retail-businesses>
- **Indoor & Outdoor Events:** Guidance on valet parking added. Details at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-indoor-and-outdoor-events?m>

COVID-19 Community Impact Survey (CCIS) is an online survey to collect data on the social, economic, and health needs and inequities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Open to anyone over age 14: <http://www.mass.gov/COVIDsurvey>

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. 28th from 9 am to noon at the Grange. Food donation 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/>
- **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:

- **Septic system information session** – NOTE THE NEW DATE. The Board of Health will host a virtual webinar on Wednesday, October 7th, 2020 at 5:30 pm with several speakers discussing the science and technology related to denitrifying septic systems and a proposed septic regulation. Details are posted on the BOH website.
- **Flu season** – Flu vaccines will be available beginning Friday (9/25) through the Town Nurse by appointment only. Please call 508-636-1030. 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.
- **Census reminder:** The deadline to [complete the U.S. Census](#) is now **Wednesday, September 30**

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Matthew J. Armendo, Director