



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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Westport Board of Health
COVID-19 Update
May 14, 2021

Case Status:

Total number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents on the state's weekly city & town report of May 13, 2021, was **1597** – up only **8** cases since last week. **Westport has stayed in YELLOW – moderate risk – for three weeks now and the trends are very encouraging.** However, it is still important to get vaccinated as soon as you can and keep up with the mask-wearing in public settings, social distancing, and hand washing. The rolling 14-day incidence rate of cases **went from 19.2 down to 11.1 /100,000.** Visit the state's [interactive data dashboard](#) and navigate to the City and Town data tab for more details.

Testing Data:

The positivity rate declined to **2.99%**.

Westport Vaccination Data

As of May 13, 2021, at least 9408 or **56%** of Westport residents are at least partially vaccinated against COVID-19. **47%** of residents are fully vaccinated. Another **299** individuals received a vaccine shot in the last week. The positive impact of these increasing vaccination rates can be seen in the sharp decline of COVID cases here and around the country. Vaccine reports, including one with the town level data, can be found [here](#).

Age Group	Population	At least one dose	Fully vaccinated	% fully vaccinated
0-19 Years	3,214	297	149	5%
20-29 Years	1,596	730	494	31%
30-49 Years	3,695	1,928	1,487	40%
50-64 Years	3,982	2,786	2,320	58%
65-74 Years	2,435	2,051	1,872	77%
75+ Years	1,830	1,616	1,491	81%
Total	16,752	9,408	7,813	47%

NEW! Vaccine Clinic Open to Anyone Age 12 and older

Now that the FDA & CDC have authorized the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 12-15, the Westport Apothecary will be receiving a supply of this vaccine and will partner with the Westport Board of Health and Westport Fire Department to hold an open vaccination clinic on **Thursday, May 20th at the Town Hall Annex from Noon to 6 pm.** For anyone who is 18 years of age or older there is also a supply of the J&J and Moderna vaccine available. Those needing their second Moderna or Pfizer shot are welcome as well. No appointment needed.

RE-OPENING UPDATES:

In effect now: [Face Coverings Order](#) has been relaxed for some outdoor settings. Masks are no longer generally required outdoors unless you are unable to maintain 6 feet from other people or unless required by sector specific guidance. Face coverings must still be worn at all times in indoor public places and at indoor and outdoor public events, except for when eating or drinking.

As of May 10th, Massachusetts has reopened some outdoor **Phase 4, Step 2** industries.

- Updated guidance for youth/adult amateur sports and swimming pool changes: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-energy-and-environmental-affairs-eea-covid-19-guidance-documents>
- Updated guidance for road races, parades and festivals, retail, restaurants, indoor and outdoor events, catering events, and places of worship: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/covid-19-workplace-safety-measures-for-reopening>

Effective on May 29, subject to public health and vaccination data:

- **Gathering limits will increase** to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors for event venues, public settings and private settings.
- **Additional Phase 4, Step 2 industries will be permitted to open** including
 - Street festivals, parades and agricultural festivals will be permitted after submitting safety plans to the local board of health.
 - Bars, beer gardens, breweries, wineries and distilleries, will be subject to restaurant rules with seated service only, a 90-minute limit and no dance floors.
- The restaurant guidance will be updated again for this step to eliminate the requirement that food be served with alcohol and to increase the maximum table size to 10.

Effective on August 1: Subject to public health and vaccination data, remaining industries will be permitted to open including dance clubs, and nightclubs, saunas, hot-tubs, steam rooms at fitness centers, health clubs and other facilities, indoor water parks and ball pits. All industry restrictions will be lifted at that time, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries, with businesses encouraged to continue following best practices. The gathering limit will be rescinded.

COVID Vaccine Information:

- **UPDATED! All residents 12 years and older are currently eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.** Youth ages 12 to 18 are only eligible for the Pfizer vaccine and must go to a site using that type of vaccine. A parental consent form is required if under 18 – check with the clinic for their form. The [Dartmouth Circuit City](#) site uses Pfizer. Some [Southcoast Health vaccine clinics](#) also offer Pfizer.
- **UPDATED Homebound Vaccination Program:** As of June 1st, the state will be responding to all homebound vaccination requests. The phone number for the

statewide program is 833-983-0485. This program is also expanding to homebound youth ages 12 and above.

- **Veterans:** The VA Providence Healthcare System continues to vaccinate Veterans, their spouses and caregivers, M-F from 8am to 2pm in Providence.
- **Finding general vaccination sites:** Use [VaxFinder.mass.gov](https://vaxfinder.mass.gov) to find a location near you. Residents will be able to use each site's VaxFinder listing to either book appointments or view more details about walk-up appointments. Over 500 locations have open availability on VaxFinder.
- **Guidelines for Fully Vaccinated Individuals:**
<https://www.mass.gov/guidance/guidance-for-people-who-are-fully-vaccinated-against-covid-19>
- [Myths & Facts about the COVID-19 Vaccines](#) from the CDC
- **Call 211 - telephone support for persons without internet access** who need help making vaccine appointments at public clinics.

Other COVID-19 Information:

Statewide Guidelines, Advisories & Orders: Find all the latest guidance [here](#)

COVID Testing: Testing for COVID-19 is widely available. You should get tested if you have any symptoms or have been a close contact of someone who tested positive. Find a test site [here](#).

The "Stop the Spread" COVID-19 initiative, which provides free COVID-19 testing in 35 locations across the Commonwealth (including Fall River and New Bedford) and was set to close on June 30th, has been extended through September 30, 2021.

Building on Massachusetts' nation-leading COVID-19 testing program, state-sponsored testing will continue to be available to all Massachusetts residents at no cost to them through September 30, 2021. Testing is one of the important public health tools, in addition to contact tracing, complying with public health mitigation measures and getting vaccinated, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

MassSupport: MassSupport is the Massachusetts Crisis Counseling Program funded by FEMA. Contact MassSupport by phone at 888-215-4920 or by email at MassSupport@riversideecc.org

Travel Advisory - On March 22 the Massachusetts Travel Order was replaced with a [Travel Advisory](#). All visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, are advised to quarantine for 10 days upon their arrival, unless fully vaccinated or with a negative COVID test.

Town COVID Updates:

- **NEW - Memorial Day Parade** - There will be a LIVE [Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony](#) on Monday, May 31, 2021, barring any tightening of restrictions due to a rising COVID-19 positivity rate or weather-related cancellation,
- **UPDATE - Town Hall and Annex Opening** – Re-opening to the public on Monday, May 17th however service by phone, mail, outdoor drop box, or online is still recommended. Face masks are required for in-person visits.
- **UPDATE – Library Opening**- The Library is planning to start opening to a limited number of patrons at a time, by advance appointment, beginning on May 17th. Call 508-636-1100 for details.
- **Annual Town Meeting** – Will be held outdoors starting at 9 am on Saturday, June 5th behind the Westport High School. Masks and social distancing will be required.
- **The Westport Food Pantry is at the Westport Grange, 931 Main Rd.** Next food pantry pick-up will be on Monday from 9 am to noon. Monetary donations can be sent to the FWCOA Attn. Food Pantry, PO Box 4228, Westport, MA 02790. Food and grocery gift card donations are accepted on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. You may also recycle any Westport Heart fundraisers signs at the Grange.
- **Pet Food Pantry** – Donations of dry or canned dog or cat food, (maximum weight 25#), as well as treats, toys, cat litter and puppy training pads are accepted. Please drop off your pet supply donation at the Grange, during its regular donation times.
- **Schools** - The Westport Community Schools now reports weekly updates on COVID cases at <https://westportschools.org/covid-19/>.

In closing:

Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available. The combination of getting vaccinated and following the State and CDC recommendations to protect ourselves and others and provides the best protection from COVID-19. Getting vaccinated will not only help protect yourself and others, but it also helps us reach herd immunity. Ending the COVID-19 pandemic will halt the growing negative impact the virus is having on education, the economy, health care, and countless other activities of a functioning society. So please if you have not been vaccinated, GET VACCINATED! Please continue to check in for any updates and new developments on our town COVID webpage. Thank you for your continued cooperation and stay safe everyone!

Matthew J. Armendo, Director