



**TOWN OF WESTPORT**  
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**Matthew J. Armendo**  
Director

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It is with profound regret that the Health Department is notifying the community that a Westport resident has passed away from complications related to COVID-19. This is Westport's first confirmed COVID-19 related death.

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of the deceased. We've all seen reports of outbreak-related deaths in other states and places around the world, but this Westport passing reminds us how essential it is to continue working to protect each other during this outbreak.

As Health Director, I cannot stress enough the importance of all Westporters doing their part to slow the spread of the virus. We do know that there are people who never show symptoms who may be silent spreaders of coronavirus. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 and the best way to prevent illness is to reduce the risk of being exposed to this virus.

Steps that everyone can take to slow the spread of the virus include:

- **Wear face coverings** when entering or working in public facilities such as grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, etc. This also includes restaurants when picking up take-out and common areas of residential or commercial complexes with multiple units. Employees of all Essential Businesses, as defined by Governor's Executive Order, are also directed to wear a face covering when interacting with the public or within six feet of a co-worker.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds**, especially after going to the bathroom or before eating. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- **Cover your coughs and sneezes** with your elbow or sleeve, or a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands afterwards.
- **Avoid touching your face** – especially your eyes, nose and mouth – with unwashed hands.
- **Stay home if you have cold- or flu-like symptoms** for seven days after your illness onset or three days after your fever resolves without fever reducing medicine, and avoid close contact with people who are sick.

For more information, visit the Town's COVID-19 page at: <https://www.westport-ma.com/covid-19-corona-virus-information> or contact the Board of Health at 508-636-1015.

Matthew Armendo, Director