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|  | TOWN OF WESTPORTWESTPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 02790\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_OFFICE OF BOARD OF HEALTH856 MAIN ROAD |  Tel: (508) 636-1015 Fax: (508) 636-1016Health@Westport-MA.govwestport-ma.com**Matthew J. Armendo** Director |

**Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update**

**April 30, 2020**

**Case Update:** Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases in the Town of Westport as of April 29, 2020 is **43.** Please note, the high increase in cases from last week is partly due to reporting delays from one of the labs. At the end of last week, the Department of Public Health received a backlog of almost 10,000 patient results statewide (both positive and negative) back to April 13, which have now been included in the reporting. The state’s weekly reporting of the number of COVID-19 cases and case rates by community is issued every Wednesday afternoon and our [COVID-19 Case reporting page](https://www.westport-ma.com/covid-19-corona-virus-information/pages/cases-covid-19-westport) will provide a direct link to the state report each week.

The Health Department has been notified of one additional death of a Westport resident this past week. We continue to hear of long time Westporters who lived in nearby nursing homes who have died due to COVID-19 as well. Also several residents have been hospitalized due to COVID-19 complications. **15** persons have recovered to date.

Statewide there have been **62,265** cases and **3,405** deaths as of April 29th. *While statewide the number of new cases each day is plateauing, Westport is still seeing a rise in the numbers and the case rate.* Locally, about half the cases are in adults from age 50 to 69 with the age range of those having COVID-19 from age 20 to 90+. In town, twice as many females as males have been infected. As I stated before, recent reporting also indicates that COVID-19 may flare up again in the summer or fall, so we need to remain vigilant for ourselves and our friends, neighbors and fellow residents.

The Health Department will update the public weekly or as needed with any new developments or changes in Town operations on the [COVID-19 INFORMATION PAGE](https://www.westport-ma.com/covid-19-corona-virus-information).

Please subscribe to E-alerts (<https://www.westport-ma.com/subscribe>) to receive important email updates on COVID-19.

**Other COVID-related news:**

1. **Governor Baker’s Emergency Order extended to May 18th:** The Department of Public Health’s Stay At Home Advisory remains in effect and gatherings of 10 or more people remain prohibited until May 18th. The emergency order requiring that all businesses and services that do not provide “COVID-19 Essential Services” close their physical workplaces and facilities is also extended until May 18th. [https://www.mass.gov/…/signed-second-extension-of-…/download](https://www.mass.gov/doc/signed-second-extension-of-essential-services-order/download?fbclid=IwAR3DFNMqU0VXpCDaCHNi1iqYiwik-pCCTJIqbAyJMSSgycaAH3M4_Sxyozw)
2. **Updated COVID-19 symptom list**: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has expanded the list of symptoms that may indicate possible COVID-19 infection to also include:

chills

repeated shaking with chills

muscle pain

headache

sore throat

and, new loss of taste or smell.

Previously it had listed just three symptoms: fever, cough and shortness of breath.

If you are concerned, please check with your medical provider.

[https://www.cdc.gov/…/2019-n…/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fsymptoms-testing%2Fsymptoms.html%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3iakKJr-pvB3YVKI5CqqOE09BnnRrBax5rXrUUyfOPrjT-xGx9rK4AQgU&h=AT2PfmgThfqaVx0APLIRpvBjgZ8UepX1qePAgBBbiUx-QbIl6kriE1ErGFUgYPK2GF7nEn4LdROR1kX6jZ1RCPsn35k3BmtSqRWb6mpuLAqNo7cKcSjN-U6vZyOTfMTWPULo3m79F7WTAl5Afx2pxMrmDq4sAQy1jv8d6bcChw3zN2aJaDTR2t4HLnyq_YsTyyLseGlcTQGPLPZ9zQH93tJorhLroCKk_XRWxAHEOBFN4aMlTV3U89bRR4wzVkiEo8A_Bb9eR5E_adBh_fryWL0kfb4cW-UDPAr3o0Rfa0AAwA0NadxiqaASyDh_j1KBGMXBCAbRrtARiPc2jkyiXchPEI6HC8yi-zbodCaQ6PZWwe7kYjw0EtwVzf4OAGmVvnhxSVFe_3AB8KKLHyJDVb30niE-D_JpCzwp5V4v687XAlNIlQn-GWClp7VtXKBjQcZ8cQZnPRQCwK0HGjgMGBBLjqBh1aGslNa5adeDGnUHtRN0pnR3ASIZt4wNGnl_g4LCtJtmk9RJ51K9CI48sehwX3LQwgFM6x9GhnU-vMaYp0Kil5c4fVdZykyq0jnKzgAZIs_CNh_Vv113Kov1Rm_QbrLe0Sh7bf86)

1. **Reminder – Westport Face Mask Order remains in effect**: The BOH issued an EMERGENCY ORDER requiring the use of simple cloth face coverings to reduce risk of the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) when entering or working in public facilities such as grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, etc. Employees of all Essential Businesses are also directed to wear a face covering when interacting with the public or within six feet of a co-worker. [EMERGENCY ORDER](https://www.westport-ma.com/sites/westportma/files/uploads/boh_emergency_order_4-17-20.pdf)
2. **The town’s temporary Food Pantry at the Town Hall Annex Gym, 856 Main Road** continues to serve residents in need. Pickup days are Mondays 9 am to noon. More donations of non-perishable grocery items, paper goods and toiletries are welcome. Gift cards and cash are also accepted. Donation days are Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 am to noon. The next food pantry pick-up is scheduled for Monday, May 4th. [WESTPORT FOOD PANTRY](https://www.westport-ma.com/sites/westportma/files/uploads/westport_food_pantry.pdf)
3. **Enhanced Cleaning of Town Buildings:** The Town has undertaken more extensive efforts to keep Town Hall and the Annex clean and sanitized. The crew is using BNF-15 a one-step disinfectant product for cleanings 4 times a week. Linda Pierce, Public Health Nurse, has also briefed employees about sanitizing work areas, social distancing and the wearing of personal protective equipment such as face masks and gloves, and other COVID-19 safety protocols. Hand sanitizer dispensers are at each entrance.

The town’s COVID-19 page also publishes links to the [daily MEMA situation reports](https://www.westport-ma.com/covid-19-corona-virus-information/news/mema-situation-reports), which provide an excellent summary of the most recent news and links to resources. You can also visit the state’s COVID-19 page at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>

Stay safe everyone.

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Matthew J. Armendo, Director

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