



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

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

**June 25, 2020**

**Case update:**

Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases in the Town of Westport as of June 24, 2020 is **97, up 1 from last week. The slowing down of new cases is very encouraging.** (Note – the Town Nurse has verified 99 cases in town.)

**1482** Westport residents have been tested to date. Results from these tests show a positive rate of **6.55%** - which is showing a consistent downward trend. The state's weekly reporting town specific data is issued every Wednesday afternoon and our [COVID-19 Case reporting page](#) will provide a link to the complete state reports each week.

We have had no new deaths in town to report for several weeks now. I hope that trend also continues. Statewide there have been **107,611** cases and **7,938** deaths as of June 24th.

Contact tracing is critical to reducing the spread of COVID-19. The Westport Board of Health performs all case investigations and contact tracing in Town. We verify residency, provide all protocols to patients for isolation and quarantine, and monitor as required by the State. Cases are investigated as results come in throughout the day. Total cases may vary from the weekly City/Town total case count provided by Mass DPH, as we are verifying residency and updating the State system to reassign that patient to the proper City/Town they reside in. Occasionally, we need to forward a case for tracing to the state team. If you get a call from the MA COVID TEAM (caller ID will show an 833 or 857 area code), please answer it! Your name will not be released.

Social distancing, wearing face coverings, the frequent use of disinfectant and handwashing have also been key to allowing the gradual re-opening. However, COVID-19 can spread easily and quickly in large groups of people who are in close contact. Some people do not have symptoms but may have the virus and could spread the virus to others, including family members. Let's keep up the good prevention practices.

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

**Other COVID-related news:**

**FDA warns against hand sanitizer potentially containing methanol:** Consumers should not use sanitizer manufactured by Eskbiochem SA de CV in Mexico because of the potential presence of methanol, a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested. FDA recommends consumers stop using these hand sanitizers and dispose of them immediately in appropriate hazardous waste containers.

Do not flush or pour these products down the drain. Consumers who have been exposed to hand sanitizer containing methanol should seek immediate treatment, which is critical for potential reversal of toxic effects of methanol poisoning.

For a complete list go to: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-advises-consumers-not-use-hand-sanitizer-products-manufactured-eskbiochem>

**Phase 2 Opening – Step 2 began June 22nd.** The following are included in this phase:

- Indoor Table Service at Restaurants
- Nail Salons, Tanning, Massage Therapy
- Body Art Establishments
- Personal Training
- Retail Dressing Rooms
- Office Space is increased to 50% Capacity

All operations will have to meet mandatory COVID-19 safety standards & sector specific protocols before re-opening and while open. The safety standards can be located on the Mass.Gov webpage under the COVID-19 tab – labeled Reopening Massachusetts, or a copy can be provided through the BoH Office.

For a complete list of all that is allowed in Phase 2 step 2, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-when-can-my-business-reopen>

Gatherings of more than 10 in an indoor or outdoor confined space is still prohibited.

Gatherings of more than 10 in an outdoor unconfined space is allowed with the proper social distancing, but only if the type of gathering is not otherwise prohibited.

Street festivals, agricultural festivals, walk-a-thons, road races and bike races, and other outdoor organized athletic or recreational events that gather large numbers of people will not be allowed until Phase 3 or 4.

#### **As a reminder**

- The Board of Health has been doing spot checks of local businesses to verify they have documented their compliance with all the COVID safety protocols, which will continue with Phase 2 businesses.
- Anyone who has a complaint about business non-compliance with state mandated requirements related to COVID-19 can contact the Board of Health or the Department of Labor Standards (508-616-0461)
- **Governor Baker's Face Mask Order remains in place.** A new "[stay safer at home](#)" advisory requests that individuals stay at home when they can. All individuals are still required to wear a face covering in most places when outside of the home. [ORDER](#) | [GUIDANCE](#)

#### **Town Updates:**

- **Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for July 21 at White's of Westport.** More details to follow in the coming weeks.

- **Town Building re-opening updates:**
  - **Transfer Station** – Open regular hours (Thursday through Monday 8:30 am to 3 pm) except CLOSED on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Recyclable bottles and cans are not being collected by the Boy Scouts yet, so you can put them in the regular recycle bins.
  - **Town playgrounds** – Open. Please observe the hygiene and safety protocols that have been posted at each location.
  - **Town Hall and Annex** – Entry by advance appointment only. Screening questionnaire and temperature checks will be required before proceeding.
  - **The Library & COA building** - Still closed, however you can check their websites for programming details.
  - **Recreation** – Restarting programming, beginning with tennis and outdoor yoga offerings.
- **The town's temporary Food Pantry is at the Town Hall Annex Gym, 856 Main Road.** The next food pantry pick-up is scheduled for Monday, June 29<sup>nd</sup>. Food donation days are Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Dana Stewart is working on a long-term plan for the food pantry. More details to come.  
[WESTPORT FOOD PANTRY](#)

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Matthew J. Armendo, Director  
Westport Health Department