



**TOWN OF WESTPORT**  
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**Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update**  
**October 8, 2020**

**Case Update:**

Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents as of October 7th is **144. We had a spike of 6 new cases in just one day this week, which contributed to a one week increase of 8 cases.** So far there is no evidence of a cluster or association with a large gathering. The rolling 14 day incidence rate is now 3.0/100,000. We have had 127 recoveries to date, and no new deaths or hospitalizations. Because of lagging data, Westport is still in the 'green' on the risk map. However, the latest increase may put us into the 'yellow' or moderate risk category by next week. A number of neighboring towns have been elevated into the 'red' or high risk category. We are not out of the woods yet.

So we need to double down on the good habits of maintaining social distancing, wearing face coverings, and washing or sanitizing hands frequently. COVID-19 has been far more deadly than the annual flu and we are going into a double whammy season, so please get your flu shot to reduce risk to your health. The state risk map is updated based on the [state's weekly community COVID report](#), which is published every Wednesday evening.

Statewide there have been **133,868 confirmed cases** and **9,342 confirmed deaths** as of October 7th. The number of new cases statewide has been accelerating; fortunately the death rate is staying relatively low.

**Testing Data:**

**6089 COVID tests have been performed** on Westport residents up through October 7th. There were **9 positive tests** out of 709 done in the last 14 days for a rate of **1.27%; holding steady.** The statewide 14-day average is trending up to 1.04% 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](http://www.mass.gov/stophespread).

**Other COVID-related news:**

**"Phase 3, Step II" started Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> for lower-risk communities – including Westport.** *Lower risk communities are cities and towns that have not been a designated in the "red" category in any of the last three weekly DPH weekly reports.*

Effective October 5, a **limited number of additional sectors** were able to reopen with restrictions:

- Indoor performance venues for live performances: 50% capacity, max. of 250
- Fitting rooms are allowed to open in all types of retail stores.
- Gyms, museums, libraries & driving schools can also increase capacity to 50%.

**Statewide gatherings order** is modified, effective October 5:

- The limit for indoor gatherings remains at a maximum of 25 people.
- Outdoor gatherings in private backyards will remain at a maximum of 50 people.
- Outdoor gatherings at event venues and in public settings will have a limit of 100
  - Also requires 1 week advance notice to the Board of Health if attendance is expected to exceed 50.

**Travel Order: The list of higher and lower risk states changes often so make sure to check the status before any travel.** The list is shrinking – only DC, NY and the New England states - except RI - are on the lower risk map, as of October 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

**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>.

**Halloween Guidance:** The state has issued Halloween safety tips, while reminding residents that gathering limits and all other COVID-19 rules apply:  
<https://www.mass.gov/news/state-public-health-officials-offer-tips-for-a-safe-and-healthy-halloween>

#### **Town COVID Updates:**

- **Special Town Meeting** – Thanks to everyone who cooperated with the COVID-19 screenings last Saturday.
- **The temporary Food Pantry is at the Westport Grange, 931 Main Rd.** The next food pantry pick-up is scheduled for Monday, October 12th 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, but service by phone, mail, outdoor dropbox, or online is recommended. Face masks are required for in person visits.

#### **Other BOH announcements:**

- **Flu season:** Flu vaccines are available from the Town Nurse by appointment only. We no longer have any high dose (for over 65) vaccine in our supply. Please call 508-636-1030 if you would like to make an appointment.
- **Extreme Drought:** We are now in extreme drought conditions in southeastern Mass, with higher risk of fire and negative impact on groundwater supply. To reduce risk of your well running dry, eliminate lawn watering and other optional uses.

- **Public Hearing on proposed Septic System Water Resource Protection Regulation:** Scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Slides and FAQs from the October 7th information session about nitrogen pollution and the proposed regulation will be posted on the BOH website shortly, as will the hearing information.

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

*Matthew J. Armendo, Director*