



**TOWN OF WESTPORT**  
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**Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update**  
**November 7, 2020**

**Case Update:**

Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents on November 4th was **252, up 60 from last week's report**. (The state data are pulled every Wednesday morning and typically reported Thursday evening although it was delayed to Friday this week). However, the town nurse reported 18 new cases on Thursday alone and 9 more on Friday morning. The rolling 14 day incidence rate has jumped from 14.2 to 35.0/100,000. **These numbers are rising rapidly and we are now getting new cases over the 10 times the daily rate seen in the springtime.**

**Westport has remained in the "red" or higher risk category for three consecutive weeks so the community must revert back to Step 1 of Phase 3 as of Monday, November 9th.** Indoor performance venues must now be closed, outdoor gatherings in public are limited to 50 (vs. 100), and capacity at various facilities is reduced to 40%. Please see the attached chart for a full summary of changes due to the rollback.

On Friday the Governor announced revisions to the metrics that determine a community's risk level and recommended school learning model. The updated metrics adjust for the reporting of cases by a municipality's population size. These metrics incorporate cases per 100,000 residents and the test positivity rate when determining a municipality color designation. Under the new methodology, **Westport was one of 16 red communities statewide**, with 91 yellow, 79 green and 165 grey communities based on this week's data. The state risk map is updated based on the [state's weekly community COVID report](#).

Because of the high volume of cases, the town nurse has had to turn most contract tracing over to the state team and we no longer have the ability to provide updates on total recoveries. Again, I urge Westport residents to cooperate with Linda Pierce, our town nurse, and the state contact tracing staff if you should get a call – it will help the entire community.

Please hang in there! Case rates are climbing rapidly as we move indoors. A higher proportion of cases is occurring in younger adults, who are at less risk of serious disease. However, the more cases in the community the greater the chance of transmission to more vulnerable populations, especially within households and through small social gatherings. So it remains critical for our community to follow the Governor's new orders and advisories (summarized below) to protect everyone. If you know of a household in quarantine, please offer to help with groceries and other essentials so they don't have to risk exposure of others.

**Testing Data:**

**8461 COVID tests have been performed** on Westport residents up through November 4th. There were **89 positive tests** out of 1324 done in the last 14 days for a rate of

**6.72%, fourth highest in the state among communities with more than 10,000 residents.** The statewide 14-day average is trending up again to 1.84% positive.

**Extended through January 15th:** The state's **Stop the Spread** free testing initiative in certain communities has been extended. 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:**

**NEW ORDERS:** On Monday the Governor announced a number of new orders to address the rapidly increasing number of COVID-19 infections on a daily basis (up over 300% since Labor Day). These took effect on Friday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and are summarized below. More details are available on <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>

These statewide orders include:

1. Updated "Stay at Home Advisory" to refrain from going out except for essential activities from 10 pm to 5 am.
  2. Indoor recreation, theatres, casinos etc. must close at 9:30 pm
  3. Restaurant table service must stop at 9:30 pm, though takeout is still allowed later.
  4. No alcohol/cannabis sales in any venue after 9:30 pm
  5. Gatherings will be more restricted: private home no more than 10, indoor gatherings at event or public venues will be limited to 25, outdoor gatherings are also restricted, and in all cases gatherings must end at 9:30 pm
  6. Updated face coverings order – Everyone older than 5 must wear a face covering at all times when in a public location, whether indoors or outdoors.
- **GATHERINGS: Governor's COVID-19 Order #54** (effective November 6). Reduced gathering size limit for gatherings at private residences: **indoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 10 people and outdoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 25 people.** Requires that all gatherings (regardless of size or location) must end and disperse by 9:30 PM. Note that the limit on gatherings held in public spaces and at event venues has been further reduced in Westport due to our 'red' risk level status.

Also requires that organizers of gatherings report known positive COVID-19 cases to the local health department in that community and requires organizers to cooperate with contact tracing. The gatherings order authorizes continued enforcement by local health and police departments and specifies that fines for violating the gathering order will be \$500 for each person above the limit at a particular gathering.

- **FACE COVERINGS: Governor's COVID-19 Order #55** (effective November 6). **Revised order requiring all persons to wear face-coverings in all public places, even where they are able to maintain 6 feet of distance from others.** Allows for an exception for residents who cannot wear a face-covering due to a medical or disabling condition, but allows employers to require employees to provide proof of such a condition. Allows schools to require that students participating in in-person learning provide proof of such a medical or disabling condition.

- **BUSINESS EARLY CLOSING: Governor's COVID-19 Order #53** (effective November 6). **Requires the early closure of certain businesses and activities each night at 9:30 PM.** The 9:30 PM closure requirement is aligned with the [Stay At Home Advisory](#) and together the two new initiatives are designed to further limit activities that could lead to COVID-19 transmission.
- **STAY AT HOME ADVISORY** (<https://www.mass.gov/news/stay-at-home-advisory>)

In order to comply with this advisory, **between the hours of 10pm and 5am, you must:**

- **Only leave home to go to work or school, or for essential needs** such as seeking emergency medical care, going to the grocery store or pharmacy, picking up take-out food, or receiving deliveries. If you do leave home, practice social distancing by staying 6 feet away from others and wearing a face covering.
- **Not have gatherings in your home with anybody outside of your household.**
- Comply with all Governor's Orders, including orders requiring face coverings, limiting gatherings, and mandating early closure of businesses.
- Practice social distancing and avoid touching surfaces frequently touched by others if you go outside to get fresh air.
- Use remote modes of communication like phone or video chat instead of visiting friends or family.

**Travel Order:** The state has updated the criteria for risk level and as of 11/7 the following states are considered low risk: **WA, HI, DC, NY, and the New England states, except RI & CT. CA has been removed as 11/7/20.** 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 Eviction Diversion:** The state has launched a new website with information on resources available to help residents impacted by COVID-19 to cover rent and mortgage payments at <http://www.mass.gov/CovidHousingHelp>. Residents can also call 2-1-1, which features a language line and trained staff.

### **Town COVID Updates:**

- **Thanksgiving:** As Westport residents plan for the Thanksgiving holiday, we offer the following considerations to help keep our friends, families, and communities safe during COVID-19:
  - ✓ Wear a mask when not eating or drinking
  - ✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water
  - ✓ Stay at least six feet apart from others
  - ✓ Consider if those around you may be at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, such as older adults or those with certain medical conditions, and take extra precautions
  - ✓ If gathering indoors, improve ventilation by opening windows and doors

To view the full Thanksgiving guidance, please visit the Board of Health [website](#).

- **The Westport Food Pantry is at the Westport Grange, 931 Main Rd and is now partnering with the nonprofit Friends of the Westport Council on Aging (FWCOA).** The next food pantry pick-up is scheduled for Monday, November 9th from 9 am to noon at the Grange. 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 at the Grange.
- **Schools** - The Westport Community Schools [website](#) has the latest on what is happening locally. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has begun issuing weekly updates on positive COVID-19 cases in schools every Thursday: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/positive-cases/#weekly-report> 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 drop box, 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. Thursday evening appointments are also available.
- **Sharps Kiosk:** The sharps kiosk for safe disposal of used medical sharps/needles is outside the nurse's office. Instructions on proper packaging for safety are posted there or you may purchase sharps disposal containers from the nurse. DO NOT place sharps in the outside drop box.

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

*Matthew J. Armendo, Director*

*See 'Phase 3 Step 1' attachment on the next page*



# Business sector guidance for Phase 3, Steps 1 & 2

A community that has been classified as Lower Risk must revert back to Phase 3, Step 1 if it becomes classified and remains a High Risk/Red community for 3 consecutive weeks.

	Phase 3, Step 1	Phase 3, Step 2
<b>Indoor Theaters and Performance Venues</b>	Closed	Open - 50% capacity but no more than 250 people
<b>Outdoor gatherings at event venues and in public settings</b>	50 person limit	100 person limit
<b>Outdoor Theater and Performance Venues</b>	Open - 25% capacity but no more than 50 people	Open - 50% capacity but no more than 250 people
<b>Roller Skating Rinks, Trampolines, Obstacle Courses, Laser Tag, and Escape Rooms</b>	Closed	Open, 50% capacity
<b>Arcades, Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Businesses - lower contact activities</b>	Open, 40% capacity	Open, 50% capacity
<b>Driving/Flight Schools</b>	Open, 40% capacity	Open, 50% capacity
<b>Gyms</b>	Open, 40% capacity	Open, 50% capacity
<b>Libraries</b>	Open, 40% capacity	Open, 50% capacity
<b>Museums</b>	Open, 40% capacity	Open, 50% capacity
<b>Restaurants</b>	Music performances allowed indoors but no wind or brass instruments or singing	Music performances allowed indoors but no singing
<b>Retail - fitting rooms</b>	Open for businesses where operation is necessary	Open for all retail stores

For additional details and information visit [mass.gov/reopening-protocols](https://mass.gov/reopening-protocols)

