



TOWN OF WESTPORT
WESTPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 02790

OFFICE OF BOARD OF HEALTH
856 MAIN ROAD

Tel: (508) 636-1015
Fax: (508) 636-1016
Health@Westport-MA.gov
westport-ma.com

Matthew J. Armendo
Director

Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update

June 4, 2020

Case Update: Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases in the Town of Westport as of June 3, 2020 is **87**, an increase of **12** from last week.

The state is also reporting on testing – in Westport 1091 people have been tested to date, an increase of 142 since last week. 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 report each week.

Westport has now lost **6** current Westport residents to COVID; one death in a person aged 60-69, three in their 70's and two in their 90's. Three residents are hospitalized. On the positive side, **66** persons have recovered to date. Statewide there have been **101,592** cases and **7,152** deaths as of June 3rd.

As our Town Nurse, Linda Pierce, reported at the June 1st Board of Health meeting, evidence is mounting that the COVID-19 virus is passed to others via aerosol transmission, coughing, sneezing, and even singing. These findings underline the continued importance of wearing face masks. Another research team that evaluated post-discharge findings among people who recovered from COVID-19 noted the presence of myocardial tissues abnormalities. Others have reported venous thromboembolism, stroke and renal failure as potential post-COVID complications. These findings suggest that even among recovered patients, there may be long-lasting consequences. COVID has affected many facets of our lives: medically, socially, economically, emotionally and spiritually. We must continue to act according to the guidance established for us to continue to reduce the risks from this infection.

The state is preparing to move into Phase 2 of re-opening, which will include restaurants, lodging and expanded retail and outdoor activities. The Phase 2 start date is to be announced on June 6th. More information can be found below and on the Town's [COVID Information Page](#).

As I continue to remind everyone each week, COVID-19 may flare up again so we need to remain vigilant with social distancing, wearing masks and good handwashing practices for the health of ourselves, our friends, neighbors and fellow residents.

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

Other COVID-related news:

Phase 2 Opening. The timelines for transition to Phase 2 will be announced on Saturday, June 6th. Check the www.mass.gov website for the latest details. All businesses in Phase 1 and 2 will have to meet mandatory COVID-19 safety standards & sector specific protocols before re-opening. This includes social distancing, employees wearing masks, handwashing & sanitizing, cleaning & disinfecting and training requirements.

- For more specific information on all the industries opening in phase 2, [click here](#).
- For safety standards and guidance specifically related to child care and youth programs (including summer camps), [click here](#).
- For standards for outdoor adult sports, supervised youth sports leagues, summer sports camps, [click here](#)
- For guidance related to the sector-specific best practices and safety standards for other industries, [click here](#).

The Board of Health will do its best to answer any COVID- related questions for local businesses and programs. However, the guidance from the state changes almost daily and it is difficult to keep up. You can also call Rep. Paul Schmid's office at 508-567-5675 for assistance. The town's COVID-19 page also publishes links to the [daily MEMA situation reports](#), which provide an excellent summary of the most recent news and links to resources.

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. The BOH's goal is to educate and promote compliance. However, the Governor's plan also establishes a graduated enforcement matrix that starts with warnings, but can lead to a \$300 penalty and even closure after repeated violations. So far we have had very good cooperation.
- Employees, customers and members of the general public who have complaints 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 – There is not much new detail from last week on any of these topics. But since there was a technical problem posting last week's report, I am repeating the information.

- **Annual Town Meeting.** The Board of Selectmen has not yet rescheduled, but is considering date in July, with location still to be finalized.
- **Local election on June 23rd.** The BOH continues to urge mail in voting to reduce risk of potential exposure to coronavirus. Click [HERE](#) for mail in

ballot information. All precincts will be open on June 23rd with safety & hygiene protocols in place for those who vote in person.

- **Town Buildings phasing in a re-opening.** Entry into Town Hall and the Annex is appointment only. When making an appointment, you will be asked screening questions to minimize risk. And bring your own pen! The town has issued detailed guidelines for office space disinfecting and cleaning, and best practices for work spaces and public access. We ask that everyone cooperate with the new protocols to help reduce any risk of exposure and transmission of the virus.
- **The Library** is planning to start with curbside service sometime in the near future. **The COA** will remain closed until further notice. Town beaches and landings are open.
- **The town's temporary Food Pantry at the Town Hall Annex Gym, 856 Main Road.** Groceries are distributed to residents in need on Mondays from 9 am to noon. Fresh produce has also been generously donated and is being distributed as available. Donation days are Tuesday and Thursday mornings also from 9 am to noon. The next food pantry pick-up is scheduled for Monday, June 8th. [WESTPORT FOOD PANTRY](#)

Stay safe everyone.

Matthew J. Armendo, Director
Westport Health Department