



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update

July 16, 2020

Case update:

Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases in the Town of Westport as of July 15, 2020 is **100, no change from last week. However, our Town nurse has reported 103 cases on her roster.** 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.

Statewide there have been **106,128 confirmed** cases and **8,152 confirmed** deaths as of July 15. The trends in Massachusetts are generally positive, unlike many other parts of the country. As I said last week, all of us really need to keep on doing what has worked for us – the social distancing, wearing masks, handwashing and disinfecting.

Testing data:

2174 Westport residents have been tested for COVID to date, with 2 positive tests out of 194 performed in the last 14 days. Overall these tests show a positive rate in the last 14 days of **1.03%**. This is below the statewide 14-day average of 1.91%. Ideally we want to be under 1%, to break the chain of transmission.

For general COVID-19 testing info and guidance for testing eligibility, visit [Mass.gov/GetTested](https://www.mass.gov/GetTested). Currently, asymptomatic individuals with no close-contact exposure to COVID-19 are not prioritized statewide for testing, but testing guidance may be updated as capacity expands.

Other COVID-related news:

Phase 3, Step 1 of re-opening: We are into the second week of Phase 3. At this time, the Board has begun issuing warning notices to businesses that are not in compliance with required COVID safety protocols mandated by the state. We encourage all businesses to meet their obligations to help keep employees and patrons safe. Phase 3 will operate on a two-step basis. However, compared to the first two phases (which lasted three and four weeks, respectively), Baker said Phase 3 “will last significantly longer” so that officials can monitor public health data on the virus.

Gathering size: Indoor gatherings are limited to 8 people per 1,000 square feet, but should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space. Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in a single enclosed outdoor space for gatherings like community events, sports games, concerts, and conventions. This order does not apply to outdoor, unenclosed gatherings if proper social distancing measures are possible.

Face Covering: As reopening continues, the statewide face covering order ([COVID-19 Order No. 31](#)) remains in effect for public indoor spaces and in outdoor spaces where social distancing is not possible. Detailed guidance can also be found online: <https://www.mass.gov/news/wear-a-mask-in-public>

Beaches: Visitors are required to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet or more at all times and visitors should maintain at least 12 feet minimum distance between towel/beach blanket areas.

Town Updates:

- **Annual Town Meeting: Saturday July 25th at 9 AM at the field behind the High School.** The BOH will be posting health guidance for residents on its website by early next week. Face covering and social distancing at all times will be required. Before checking in residents will also be asked to undergo a voluntary temperature scan and COVID screening:
 1. Do you have symptoms of COVID?
 2. Have you been exposed to someone with confirmed or suspected COVID in the last two weeks?
 3. Have you traveled outside New England, NY & NJ in the last two weeks?
- **Town Buildings (except Library and COA) are open.**
- **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, July 20th. Food donation days are Tuesday and Thursday mornings. [WESTPORT FOOD PANTRY](#)

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Matthew J. Armendo, Director
Westport Health Department