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Westport Board of Health COVID-19 Update

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Case Update:

Total number of state confirmed COVID-19 positive cases of Westport residents as of August 5th is **106**. However, our Town nurse reported **110** verified cases on her roster as of this morning (not including visitors or seasonal residents). After several weeks of keeping steady in early July, we have seen a sustained pattern of several new cases each week recently. Because there has been an uptick in some of the statewide data, Governor Baker has warned of the possibility of reverting to an earlier phase of re-opening. Especially as we get closer to the start of school year, we must all do our part to remain vigilant.

Statewide there have been **111,371 confirmed** cases and **8,438 confirmed** deaths as of August 5th. 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.

PLEASE do not let your guard down now! COVID-19 is not going away. Consistent mask wearing, social distancing and hand hygiene will help keep us from going backwards in the re-opening.

Testing data:

2853 COVID tests have been performed on Westport residents up through August 5th. There were 7 positive tests out of 399 done in the last 14 days, for a rate of 1.75%. Currently, the statewide 14-day average has ticked up a little more to a 1.82% positive rate. Ideally we want to be under 1% statewide to break the chain of transmission.

The state's **Stop the Spread** testing initiative has expanded to 17 communities now, including Fall River and New Bedford. The sites in these communities are open to all. Some sites require appointments, others offer walk-up or drive-thru service. Hours of operation, site details, and contact information can be found online. To find a site or learn more, visit www.mass.gov/stophespread.

Other COVID-related news:

REVISION to New Travel Order: As of August 7th Rhode Island is no longer considered a lower risk state for the travel order.

As a reminder, all visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, are required to:

1. Complete the online [Massachusetts Travel Form](#) prior to arrival, unless they are visiting from a lower-risk state designated by the Department of Public Health (currently CT, VT, NH, ME, NY, NJ and Hawaii).

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.

There are some exemptions for transitory travel etc. Guidance can be found here:

<https://www.mass.gov/guidance/guidance-for-travelers-arriving-in-the-commonwealth-of-massachusetts>

Phase 3, Step 1 of re-opening: We are currently into the fifth week of Phase 3, step 1 (which began July 6th). However, based on recent trends in case rate and test positivity, the state is at risk of having to move back to an earlier phase.

You may report business non-compliance to the Department of Labor Standards (DLS) through their hotline (508) 616-0461 x 9488, or by sending an email to safepublicworkplacemailbox@mass.gov.

The Department of Public Health also has a [COVID Safe Practices Concern Form](#) for anyone who would like to report concerns about non-compliance with the travel advisory quarantine, face covering, gathering, or other public health rules.

Gathering size: Limits on gatherings remain the same.

- Indoor gatherings = 8 people/1,000 square feet; no more than 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space.
- Outdoor gatherings (community events, sports games, concerts) in enclosed spaces = 25% of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in a single enclosed outdoor space
- Outdoor, unenclosed gatherings = Not restricted if proper social distancing measures are maintained.
- 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 are still prohibited.

Beaches: Visitors should wear a mask unless able 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.

Local Updates:

- **CONGRATULATIONS to Westport High School 2020 graduates!** Their graduation will be held outdoors at the High School on August 8th.
- **The temporary Food Pantry is at the Town Hall Annex Gym, 856 Main Road.** The next food pantry pick-up is scheduled for Monday, August 10th. Donations of non-perishable food, paper goods and toiletries are still needed. Food donations days are Tuesday and Thursday mornings. [WESTPORT FOOD PANTRY](#)
- **Water Advisory** – <https://www.westport-ma.com/home/news/water-advisory>
- **Mosquito and tick season** – EEE and WNV have been found in the area and tick-borne Lyme disease is on the upswing. Protect against mosquito and tick bites

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Matthew J. Armendo, Director
Westport Health Department