



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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Matthew J. Armendo
Director

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Today the Westport Board of Health voted to implement an Emergency Public Health Order requiring the use of simple cloth face coverings to reduce risk of the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) when entering or working in public facilities such as grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, etc. This also includes restaurants when picking up take-out and common areas of residential or commercial complexes with multiple units. Employees of all Essential Businesses, as defined by Governor's Executive Order are also directed to wear a face covering when interacting with the public or within six feet of a co-worker.

The purpose is to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and protect your own health and the health of others. It has been documented that transmission of the virus can easily occur before someone is symptomatic and also many people unknowingly carry the virus without ever becoming ill. The virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. Thus, face coverings in public settings will help reduce the risk of spreading the virus to other people.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 and the best way to prevent illness is to reduce the risk of being exposed to this virus.

Guidance on proper use of face coverings and how to make your own is available from the Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-fac...>

The Town of Westport has a dedicated COVID-19 webpage with additional links, resources and guidance: <https://www.westport-ma.com/covid-19-corona-virus-information>

The Order takes effect Monday, April 20th and will remain in place until further notice. For more information, contact the Board of Health at 508-636-1015.