



TOWN OF WESTWOOD
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Weekly Update as of 4.22.21

Visit Westwood's Coronavirus [website](#) for daily updates

Health Department COVID-19 Case Update

Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts: 641,211
Total cases in Norfolk County: 53,312
Total documented cases in Westwood: 1,013 (+44)
New Cases in MA today: 812
Test Positivity Rate: 3.84%

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is now reporting COVID-19 cases by city and town. This information is updated each week on Thursday and is available for your viewing [here](#). In addition, daily updates and information about COVID-19 and necessary precautions continue to be available on the [MDPH COVID-19 website](#).

A message from the Health Director:

Last Thursday's weekly COVID-19 report confirmed 63 new cases of COVID-19 in the previous 14 days. In the report issued the week prior, Westwood had 44 confirmed cases. Our percent positive test rate has also increased to over 3.0% from 2.3 % the week prior.

Contact tracers for the BOH and Westwood Public Schools are seeing a significant increase in positive cases among school aged children and their parents. Of the 44 cases in the COVID-19 report published on April 15, 2021 20 of those cases were among residents 19 and under. We are hearing from individuals who have recently contracted COVID-19 that they have attended gatherings and sporting events with multiple families present, carpooled with others with whom they don't live. We want to remind you there are risks of transmission associated with these types of activities and all safety protocols must be adhered to.

Now that spring recess is over, many residents who have traveled to areas with high rates of COVID-19 infection may cause our numbers to spike yet again. We are actively monitoring the community for any evidence of clusters and outbreaks of infection. We will use our authority to restrict public events and activities if we must, in order to reduce community transmission. Please do your part by staying home if you feel sick, getting tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms or have been around someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, avoiding gatherings, wearing your face covering where required, and getting vaccinated when you are eligible.

The outdoor face covering requirement has been revised to allow for individuals to go without a mask outdoors as long as they can maintain a distance of six feet from others. We must still remember to keep our masks with us when we go to outdoor public places such as hiking trails and sports fields and that we are still responsible to mask up when we are in an outdoor environment when we are within six feet from others. Please note as of now, if you are fully vaccinated, you are still responsible to wear a mask where required.



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Most importantly, everyone needs to cooperate with the contact tracers and follow the instructions you are given if you are identified as a close contact. Our team is extremely knowledgeable, professional and thorough. We have a difficult task and we have been going about it 7 days a week for over a year now. It is a tremendously difficult job under optimal circumstances. It is nearly impossible when the resident does not cooperate. The lack of cooperation puts others at risk and does not help us to move forward as a community.

Stay Well,

Jared Orsini REHS/RS
Health Director
Westwood Board of Health