



Michael J. Driscoll
Town Manager

TOWN OF WATERTOWN

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Town Manager’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update June 11, 2021

Watertown has a total of 2,410 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 and 2,369 community members have recovered from the virus. Thirty-seven Town employees have had confirmed cases. Watertown has recorded forty COVID-19 fatalities. Our thoughts go out to the families as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Watertown COVID-19 Case age Distribution¹

19 and Under	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and over	Unknown/no age recorded	Total
312	446	472	329	307	259	284	1	2,410

Watertown Positivity Rates

Continued vigilance urged to keep out numbers low.

According to the Mass Department of Public Health (DPH) Dashboard, Watertown’s weekly COVID-19 positivity rate is 0.23%. [View the DPH dashboard.](#)

MEMA COVID-19 Command Center Situation Report

Yesterday, the Command Center released the comprehensive [COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report](#), including community-specific COVID-19 case and testing data. The report also includes risk categories for each city and town based on the average daily incident rate over the past 14 days.

Town Hall Will Reopen to the Public on June 21st

Consistent with Governor Baker's ending of the State of Emergency, Town Hall administrative offices will reopen to the public on Monday, June 21, 2021. Summer hours at Town Hall are in effect through Friday, September 3rd. Hours will be as follows:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Tuesdays 8:30 AM – 7:00 PM

Fridays 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

The Building Inspectors’ Offices are open at 7:30 AM until 5:00 PM or 7:00 PM, when offices in the Administration Building are open.

¹ There is a difference between the Commonwealth’s reported numbers and what the Watertown Board of Health can confirm through the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN).

Non-vaccinated individuals are advised to continue wearing face masks and to continue to practice social distancing within Town buildings.

The Town encourages continued use of drop boxes (located outside of Town Hall on Thaxter Street), online and phone transactions to safely and efficiently conduct municipal business whenever possible.

Juneteenth Holiday

On July 24, 2020, Governor Baker signed a bill recognizing Juneteenth, June 19th, as an annual state holiday in Massachusetts. Juneteenth is a celebration which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.

At the June 8th Town Council Meeting, the Honorable Town Council [proclaimed](#) Saturday, June 19, 2021, as “Juneteenth Day” and urged all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in the African American History and in the heritage of our nation and our community.

In observance of the Juneteenth holiday, Town Hall will be closed on Friday, June 18th. Additionally, as a result of modified summer hours, Town Hall will close at 2pm on Thursday June 17th.

Watertown Free Public Library

The library is back to full capacity and services with some precautions still in place in the Children’s and Teen rooms. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 9 am to 9 pm, Friday 9 am to 7 pm, and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. Sunday hours from 1 pm to 5 pm will resume on July 11th. Hatch Makerspace will resume walk-in operations in July with evening and weekend hours. For more information visit www.watertownlib.org.

Watertown Council on Aging/Senior Center/Food Pantry

The Watertown Senior Center continues to offer many programs via Zoom including exercise classes and informative presentations, and staff members are available to provide information and referral for supportive services. Senior Parking Permits, which provide up to two hours of free parking in Watertown municipal parking lots, can be renewed over the phone, and new permits can be purchased by calling the Senior Center and making an appointment. Applications are available for the FY 2022 Property Tax Work-Off Program, where retired adults aged 60 and over, or Veterans, volunteer in a Town department in exchange for a reduction on their property taxes. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements and have skills that match departments’ needs. The Watertown Food Pantry is open Tuesdays, 10 AM until 2 PM at 80 Mt. Auburn Street, rear. Shelf-stable food donations are accepted at the Food Pantry on Tuesdays starting at 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM at the Food Pantry. For more information about the Food Pantry or any senior issues, call the Senior Center at (617) 972-6490 or send an e-mail to SeniorCenter@watertown-ma.gov.

Thank you!

All of our Town employees are incredibly committed to ensuring the Town can safely meet the needs of our community while we are also protecting our employees’ safety. All departments have implemented vigorous social distancing and hygiene protocols. I am so grateful for all of our employees’ efforts under difficult circumstances.

The members of the Honorable Town Council continue to be available to help all residents and to provide updates/information to protect the health and safety of all the residents of Watertown.

I want to thank all of the members of our community for your cooperation and efforts to date; and for your continued actions to limit the spread of COVID-19.