



TOWN OF WESTON

BOARD OF HEALTH
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MEMO TO THE RESIDENTS OF WESTON

The Weston Board of Health wants you to know about all the sacrifices and hard work going on “behind the scenes” during the Covid-19 pandemic, and we want to extend our gratitude to all those contributing to our safety.

March 5th, members of the Biogen community had been notified of their exposure to Covid-19 and quickly self-identified to the Board of Health. We advised them to isolate from their families and quarantine family members from the community. We tracked them daily until they could safely be released from Isolation and Quarantine. Every one of them cooperated before there was any community spread and before we were all asked to practice social distancing.

These initial sacrifices were critical—schools were still in session! Without these quick actions, the schools would have lost precious time needed to plan a response, and many more children and families would have become ill.

On March 11th, the School Administration along with their Health Services Director went into action, researching the situation in collaboration with the Board of Health, and made the decision to close the schools. They did so before widespread support from the State Government and despite tremendous pressure to keep schools open, showing great courage and leadership in the process.

By March 14th there were 7 new positive cases and it was evident that many more nurses would be needed to adequately provide sufficient epidemiologic coverage to do the contact tracing and follow up. With the support of the School Committee and school administration, all the school nurses and substitute nurses immediately joined the forces.

On March 17th and 18th the nurses were all trained on the State’s MAVEN system (Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network) and joined our Epidemiological Team learning the new role of Public Health Nurse. By March 18th they all went into action. Many of them also serve on the Weston Emergency Reserve Corps (WERC).

Their presence was critical and timely—the next wave of cases struck when Universities and Colleges closed down, businesses recalled employees back to Massachusetts, and vacationers returned home. Many self-reported to the Board of Health, others came to our attention when they tested positive and were reported through the MAVEN system. Because of the addition of the nurses to our own staff, the Board of Health was able to fully and effectively monitor and advise every person affected in Weston.

During all of this, the Emergency Management Team (the Local Emergency Planning Committee, or LEPC) has met regularly to address the health and safety of all First Responders and town employees while on the job, and how to keep the community as safe as possible. To date the Team has addressed needs such as remote access to computers, limited Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), limited sanitizing supplies, social distancing in the workplace to protect at risk individuals and families, and a host of other community concerns around the use of community assets including school, recreation and conservation recreation areas. The team meets three times per week but the information that is brought to the team for consideration is the culmination of many departments and individuals carefully gathering input from the community through all mediums available to the group.

At this time, the Board of Health Epidemiological Team is focused on the next groups most at risk—our nursing home residents and our medical personnel. The Weston Emergency Reserve Corps stands ready to offer service to the community. At the present time the WERC has teamed up with Weston IT borrowing 13 3D printers to increase the

production capacity of a Wellesley man printing masks for our local hospitals and first responders. For information on how you can help with this project please contact [Marilyn Savage](#) of the Weston Emergency Reserve Corps or visit [his 3D-Printed Hospital PPE GoFundMe campaign](#)

Finally, we want to recognize all the sacrifices that you and your fellow citizens have made to keep each other safe. Without you, the situation would be much worse. To understand how much you have done to help each other:

- More than 90 of you self-quarantined for at least 14 days, not leaving your homes even if you did not have COVID symptoms.
- More than 130 citizens infected with COVID have self-isolated with their families for at least 14 days, some as long as a month.
- Many of you regularly reach out to comfort and support others by safely using remote tools.
- The vast majority of our citizens have adhered to the social distance directive of maintaining 6' between yourself and others.

Please note these numbers change every day so they have been rounded down for purposes of illustrating the efficacy of your actions.

What does this all mean?

It means to date we have not seen community spread in Weston!

Without the selfless actions of our first responders, town and school personnel and the residents that have been impacted by Covid-19 many more of our citizens would have become ill. Our sincere condolences go out to all who have lost loved ones.

Your cooperation with social distancing and self-quarantining has kept the community at large healthy and safe. We urge you to remain vigilant. We are still at the height of this pandemic, and your actions will continue to be critical.

We look forward to the day when we can celebrate the healing of every member of our community.

Stay Healthy and Safe,

Weston Board of Health

Laura Azzam, Chair

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