



Town of Harwich Board of Health

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Weekly COVID-19 Update

The current total cases of COVID-19 for the Town of Harwich is 188. This is an increase of 6 cases over the last 7 days. We are currently following 7 active cases. A total of 6961 tests have been performed for Harwich residents, 737 within the last 14 days. Our percent positivity rate has slightly decreased to 1.49 % and our average daily incidence rate is higher than last week at 5.7.

Active COVID Clusters by Exposure Setting Type

Exposure Setting	New Clusters (Identified 10/18 – 11/14)			Ongoing Clusters (Cluster Identified Prior to 10/18 But Not Meeting Criteria for Closing)			Total		
	Clusters	Confirmed Cases	Contacts	Clusters	Confirmed Cases	Contacts	Clusters	Confirmed Cases	Contacts
24/7 Congregate Settings	35	136	66	18	54	18	53	190	84
Child Care	66	159	315	49	23	156	115	182	471
Colleges & Universities	24	116	45	13	15	78	37	131	123
Corrections	6	379	7	6	22	3	12	401	10
Hospitals	9	81	77	16	29	131	25	110	208
Household	6,334	15,980		1,993	1,050		8,327	17,030	
Industrial Settings	28	129	71	35	66	40	63	195	111
K-12 Schools	30	99	192	26	17	66	56	116	258
Long Term Care Facilities	96	639		110	836		206	1,475	
Offices	8	32	9	6	2	0	14	34	9
Organized Athletics/Camps	12	33	158	30	7	75	42	40	233
Other	5	15	11	5	3	16	10	18	27
Other Food Establishments	4	14	3	5	11	16	9	25	19
Other Healthcare	15	76	12	8	4	0	23	80	12
Other Workplaces	8	30	0	8	40	6	16	70	6
Places of Worship	7	104	30	8	0	29	15	104	59
Recreation/Cultural	3	19	32	6	1	4	9	20	36
Restaurants & Food Courts	27	116	64	25	35	21	52	151	85
Retail & Services	10	33	9	13	11	2	23	44	11
Senior Living	16	128	28	23	16	6	39	144	34
Shelters	2	13	25	1	0	0	3	13	25
Social Gatherings	26	134	65	35	28	40	61	162	105
Travel & Lodging	3	15	4	1	0	0	4	15	4
Total	6,774	18,480	1,223	2,440	2,270	707	9,214	20,750	1,930

Household transmission remains the highest source of illness. People most likely pick up the virus at gathering or at a healthcare facility and bring it home where it spreads to other members of the household. Over the last weeks 2 food establishments, 1 dental office and 1 Physical Therapist office have reported positive cases, as well as two schools with positive students.

The guidelines for quarantine have been amended for those who are close contacts of a known positive case and have been asymptomatic themselves. Instead of 14 days of quarantine, these individuals have the option to be tested at day 8 and if negative, can be released from quarantine at day 10. This change is based on scientific evidence that the infectious and incubation periods for COVID-19 are in a narrower window than previously thought.

New Hampshire and Maine have been added to the high risk states and travel to or from these areas are subject to the Travel Order: PCR test within 72 hours of return or quarantine for 14 days.

New testing initiatives have been announced by the Governor's office for colleges and universities. The initiative urges institutions to provide PCR testing before returning home and upon arrival back at school.

Barnstable County Health has announced that they have received funding to support community testing sites. They anticipate once site to be on the Fairgrounds property in Falmouth to be ready in early December. Two other sites are planned in other locations to be determined. These testing sites will be free and no doctor referral will be needed.

We have posted Thanksgiving tips for a COVID-Safe Holiday on our website and social media. Health officials are urging everyone to abide by the travel order and the gatherings order for this coming holiday. We have seen evidence of community spread here in Harwich and across the nation, please keep each other safe by wearing a mask and limiting your festivities to those in your "bubble".

Have a safe Thanksgiving,
Meggan Eldredge
Health Director