

Town Board

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COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update for Westport (Update #11 - May 19, 2020)

The Town of Westport is continuing to monitor the status of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak. At this point, we are encouraging the community to take the following measures regarding Westport business to reduce exposure. This updates our report from April 22, 2020.

GENERAL INQUIRY: THE TOWN HALL AND OFFICES ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. If you have a general service inquiry or need assistance from the Town staff, please call or email. We can be reached at (608) 849-4372, or by email at reception@townofwestport.org. Please do not come to the Town Offices without contacting us first. We likely can complete your request or transaction without face-to-face interaction. Some Town staff have been partially furloughed or are working from home for the time being as recommended by the State and County Emergency Management agencies. Staff asks that you please be patient during this time period. Town Offices will be in operation by staff, but the doors are locked and the lobby is closed. This may all change on May 26, 2020 as we consider some revisions to how the offices and lobby are operated based on the Dane Forward orders.

TOWN OFFICES: The Westport Administration Offices are CLOSED to the public. We will likely open Tuesday, May 26, 2020 but in-office and lobby contacts will be by appointment only.

PARKS: Parks are open, however please remember to use appropriate social distancing in the parks. By the Governor's emergency order until May 26 at 8:00 a.m., individuals may not engage in team or contact sports such as by way of example and without limitation, basketball, ultimate frisbee, soccer, or football, as these activities do not comply with Social Distancing Requirements. Some of these activities are allowed for small related groups, but with proper social distancing. Playgrounds including sandboxes are closed. Bathrooms continue to be closed until we are able to keep clean according to the Dane County/City of Madison Public Health Guidelines.

TENNIS COURTS: Tennis courts are open with the following restrictions: Each individual must carry and only use their own equipment, unless they reside in the same household or living unit. Only two individuals are allowed on each tennis court at any one time. Play is limited to every other court. Physical Distancing Requirements must be observed at all times, unless the players reside in the same household or living unit.

PAYMENTS: If you are looking to make a payment to a Westport Utility or the NECC for a utility/water bill or court citation please use our online programs to complete the payment. Links are available here: www.townofwestport.org. If you cannot use our online systems, please use the dropbox located just outside and to the right of the office entrance available 24/7. If you are looking to obtain a dog license, please utilize mail service or drop box and items will be returned via mail. Building permits and other licenses/permit information are also available online.

TOWN MEETINGS AND FACILITY USE: All face-to-face Town meetings will be limited during the emergency. Staff has eliminated contact at meetings and conferences. Westport facilities are closed for meetings and events. Town Board meetings will continue as necessary, but they will be held by teleconference or video conference. Town committee/commission meetings if needed for pressing business will be held by teleconference or video conference. The agendas will notice how the meetings will be held. Details are posted on the Town web site. If you have a question regarding any Town service, please call (608) 849-4372 or email reception@townofwestport.org.

COURT INFORMATION (NECC): The Northeast Community Court meets at the Westport Community Meeting Room. Since all nonessential meetings or gatherings are prohibited in the facilities, Court sessions for the time being are postponed until June. We have instructed our officer to write citations for the June session (June 18).

BUILDING PERMITS/INSPECTIONS: In accordance with the Governor's "Safe at Home Orders," the Town of Westport Building Inspection Department will continue to perform building inspections and issue building permits as staffing permits. However, our inspectors will avoid entering occupied homes for interior projects where doing so may compromise their safety. The inspector will accept sufficient photos or video evidence in order to approve the project when the health-safety of our inspectors may be at risk. Building permits and information are also available online. Please call the Building Inspector desk phone at (608) 849-5613 to schedule inspections. You may also leave messages with building permit or zoning questions at the same number. For electrical permits and inspections please call Jeff Hoag at (608) 513-0510. There are emergency orders in place regarding construction, including Town Emergency Order #1 regarding construction in existing multi-family structures. You can see the complete order here at <http://townofwestport.org/Emergency%20Order%2020-01.pdf>.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation in these uncertain times.

REFUSE & RECYCLING COLLECTION: Regular weekly pick up for garbage and recycling will continue. Large items and special/extra pickups are indefinitely postponed.

BRUSH PICKUP: Will proceed as scheduled for May. Please have your brush out by 6 am on May 25, 2020.

GENERAL COUNTY HEALTH INFO: Madison & Dane County Public Health have issued recommendations for individuals, families, and businesses to consider regarding COVID-19. That information is available here: <https://www.publichealthmdc.com/.../resources-by-.../coronavirus>

Thank you for your patience during this time period. Also, thank you to all of the Town staff, contractors, consultants, and elected officials for their dedication to the Town during this critical time. The Town employees are outstanding!

Stay safe and well!