

Old Saybrook

COVID 19 Community UPDATE # 8 - March 23, 2020

The following Community Update is being provided to you from the
Town of Old Saybrook Emergency Operations Center.

The intent of this document is to provide a daily summary of preparedness,
response and other government activities.

Public Safety & Community Information

- The Nation, State, and Town remain under Declared States of Emergency.
- Old Saybrook now has two confirmed positive cases of COVID-19.
- We are not alarmed, we are prepared.
- The Regional Public Health District and the Police Department determined the exposure possibilities from the second COVID-19 case. This fostered others to be tested and to practice self-quarantining procedures. If we did not contact you, you are not involved.
- We are expecting and are prepared for further confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Old Saybrook.
- If you do not need to be out in public – don't be!
- Here is the theory we want YOU to understand.....and the reason for these drastic measures:
LESS CONTACT = LESS VIRAL INFECTIONS = LESS DEATH
- Go to the grocery store, get take out, get gas for your car, visit the park, go for a walk,
Just Use Common Sense – Social Distancing Really Works – It SAVES LIVES!!
- There is NOT a travel ban! You are still able to drive on the public roadways!
- The Town's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is operational. An updated list of all restaurants that are open for take-out and/or delivery are attached.
- Today, the State requested communities begin to hold meetings with public safety leaders. We have been doing that for quite some time. The Public Safety Leadership Team continues to meet every day to brief the First Selectman and to coordinate preparedness and response activities for the Town of Old Saybrook.
- The Governor has ordered that all non-essential businesses close by 8PM on tonight.
- This has some asking questions. We want to try and help explain.
- There are now a few different categories that a "business" must fit in.
- Restaurants – Any place where you can buy prepared food/ready to eat items and is licensed by the Regional Health Department is a Restaurant. Restaurants are permitted to be open for take-out only. There are no hour restrictions on restaurants.
- Liquor Stores – Stores may be open in accordance with current State law.
- Grocery Stores – Grocery and convenience stores are allowed to be open. There are no hour restrictions. Wal-Mart in Old Saybrook sells groceries – therefore they are a grocery store.
- Essential Business - There are sixteen (16) categories of "essential businesses". To name a few, Public Safety, healthcare, essential government services, gas stations, pharmacies, banks, specific manufacturing facilities, attorney's offices and bio tech companies. If your company or business supports the government or the healthcare industry – in any way - it is essential.

If you have questions on whether your business is essential or not please refer to the Governor's clarification press release found here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-for-Businesses/Coronavirus-for-Businesses>

■ Businesses can click the link below for a COVID 19 Business toolkit.

<https://www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/coronavirus-business-toolkit>

■ A local company is sewing straps on N95 masks for us to use! For security reasons, we will publically thank them once the work is completed.

■ The Department of Motor Vehicles has:

- *Extended the expiration dates of all vehicle registrations that expire between March 10 and June 8 by 90 days.*

- *Extended the emissions test or retest dates with due dates between March 10 and June 8 by 90 days.*

- *Extended the temporary (paper) licenses issued after March 10, 2020 by 90 days.*

■ Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services stand at the ready to respond. Please check out our video reaffirming our commitment to **YOU!** <https://youtu.be/9FJmP6F4AWY>

■ There is NO curfew. No Curfew has been imposed.

■ There is NO food or supply shortage in Old Saybrook.

■ The Democratic Primary will now be held on June 2, 2020.

■ Federal and State Income Taxes are now due July 15.

■ The Emergency Operations Center is using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat to connect with residents. Search COVID19OS to find us on your favorite social media platform.

■ Please make sure your family & friends are signed up to receive these daily notices. As this public health emergency progresses, this information will be of vital importance.

■ Currently over 2,200 people are signed up to receive this newsletter!

■ Please visit the Emergency Management Website as your sole local online source of all information related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

<https://www.oldsaybrookct.gov/emergency-management>

Public Health

■ The Regional Public Health District is supplying commercial facilities with infection prevention and control handouts and guidance as requested.

■ DO NOT go out into the public if you have a fever or flu like symptoms.

■ All Fitness Centers are CLOSED. Restaurants and Bars (that serve food) - TAKE OUT ONLY.

■ **Practice social distancing. Maintain six (6) feet from other people.**

Be smart when outdoors enjoying a park/beach – **Practice Social Distancing.**

Standing in a line is fine – just **Practice Social Distancing.**

Go for a walk - just **Practice Social Distancing.**

■ It is extremely important that EVERYONE takes this Public Health Emergency seriously!

■ COVID-19 is HIGHLY Contagious

Municipal Government Operations

- The Town hall WILL open on Monday. Please call the Department that you wish to do business with.
- If a municipal employee is working virtually, they will return your call within 24 hours (M-F).
- The doors of Town Hall are locked. They will let you in the building to conduct business.
- If you cannot reach anyone and need something please call the First Selectman's Office at 860-395-3123 – M-F.
- Outdoor recreation facilities are OPEN! **Please follow "Social Distancing" recommendations**, stay in groups of less than ten (10) people – but GO OUTSIDE!

Social Services / Youth and Family Services

- Access Health CT is offering a special enrollment period from March 19 - April 2, 2020. If you are uninsured please use this opportunity to enroll. Go to www.AccessHealthCT.com
- Social Services Appointments will be conducted by phone, Contact Sue Consoli 860-395-3188
- The Shore Line Soup Kitchen and Pantry, located at the First Church of Christ, will be open tomorrow from 3-5. They will be practicing social distancing by placing food in vehicles as those in need arrive.
- The United Way has established the COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Fund. The fund is designed to assist people impacted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.unitedway.org/#>
- Behavioral Health Support and Resources are available via phone by contacting Director Heather McNeil 860-510-5042.
- Other services are available by contacting 211

Public School District

- Distance learning for students began today!! Everything went well!
- Please work with your children to get "back into the school routine" this will enable them to make the most of the District's online learning program.
- Food distribution for children enrolled in the Old Saybrook Public School District continues. Pick up is available from 9-10 AM, each weekday at the Goodwin School and the High School. Meals are free!
- The OSPS website is being updated for parents and students daily.
<https://www.oldsaybrookschoools.org/>

Good News!!

- We tried to make everyone smile and laugh this morning! We think everyone needs that. Please enjoy a video dedicated to Old Saybrook's Students as they went:

"Back to School Again – Online"

<https://youtu.be/PQmOX3aZkYY>

- Along with our video starring K-9 Chase and K-9 Sonny, the Emergency Operation Center held a "Back to School Again – Online" photo contest. Many of the entries can be seen on our social

media platforms. Today's winners will receive a Pizza and an Ice Cream Cake for dinner tomorrow night! Thank you to all who participated. Winning Photos are attached!

■ The GREAT Take Out Give A Way is On!! With the support of the Saybrook Wealth Group and the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber is giving away ten (10) \$100 Restaurant Gift Certificates (one a day). Click the link for more information.

<https://www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/giveaway>

- Got Good News? Send it to us! We'd love to share.
- We will have more FUN contests coming soon!
- Be safe. Keep Smiling. We will get through this!



**ONE COMMUNITY.
ONE TEAM.**