

# Old Saybrook

## **COVID 19 Community UPDATE # 9 - March 24, 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 three (3) 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 third COVID-19 case. There was no exposure to members of the public or public places.
- The Town nor the Health Department will release the names of those who have sadly contracted the virus. Personal Health information is private. When appropriate, we contact those they may have been exposed and provide direction.
- We are expecting and are prepared for further confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Old Saybrook.
- The State Website that is displaying information of confirmed COVID-19 cases by community is inaccurate. They are reporting test results from the State Laboratory. The three (3) cases in Old Saybrook were tested in private laboratories authorized to test for COVID-19.
- 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.
- We continue to keep an updated list of Old Saybrook eateries open for take-out.
- There have been changes to hours of operation for many restaurants. Please click on the attached link for information. Support our local restaurants!
- Restaurants may use one (1) A-Frame Sign to advertise to the public without penalty.
- The Town is very supportive of our local businesses!
- 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.
- Arrangements are in place for Public Safety Leadership Team Members to work remotely in case of illness. In case of extreme illness, secondary leadership has also been identified.
- All non-essential businesses are closed to the public as ordered by The Governor.

- This has some asking questions. We want to try and help explain.
- There are 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.
- The Quality Inn has temporarily closed.
- 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>
- The professionals at Gilead Community Services were provided personal protective equipment for their healthcare providers that must conduct home visits.
- 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.*
- 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 2,370 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
- Playscapes will be sanitized daily during good weather.
- Wash your hands with soap and water frequently for twenty (20) seconds or use at least 60% alcohol based sanitizer.

## Municipal Government Operations

- The Town hall WILL be open on Wednesday. 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.
- The Town will be assisting the Democratic and Republican Town Committees host "online meetings" in order to select convention delegates.
- 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](http://www.AccessHealthCT.com)
- Social Services Appointments will be conducted by phone, Contact Sue Consoli 860-395-3188
- Youth and Family Services Counselors will soon be able to provide tele-counseling services.
- 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 have received some inquisitive calls about “all those sirens near Main Street Yesterday!”
  - Sean, the Police Department’s Little Hero & the Star of “Shorts for Sean” Campaign turned 6.
  - His Birthday Party was cancelled because he is immunocompromised. That bummed us out.
  - Turns out we authorize parades.....so we gave him one for his Birthday! Just that simple!
  - Thank you to all the volunteers, the Fire Department and Police Officers who helped bring a smile to the faces of Sean, Owen, and his parents. We are fortunate to live in Old Saybrook!
- 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>

- The winners of our photo contest from yesterday received their large pizza and DQ Cake this evening delivered by a Police Officer (*who maintained social distancing!*) Smiles all around!
- 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.**