

Old Saybrook

COVID 19 Community UPDATE #76 – October 22, 2020

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency – TOWN STATUS – ORANGE

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 summary of preparedness, response and
other government activities.

Opening Remarks

Hello Old Saybrook!

It's been awhile since we have published a COVID-19 Community UPDATE.

We appreciate everything that everyone did over the summer to limit the
community spread of COVID-19 in Old Saybrook. Thank You!

We are communicating with you now as circumstances are changing and we are
receiving new information from the State Department of Public Health.

We will do our best to communicate information to you.

Public Safety & Community Information

- The Nation, State, and Town remain under Declared States of Emergency.
- The Town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remains operational.
- Over the past week there have been 17 new CONFIRMED residential cases of COVID-19 in OS
- Old Saybrook belongs to the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD).
- This includes the Towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Haddam, and Old Saybrook.
- There were also new CONFIRMED cases of COVID-19 in our District over the past week.
- These are the total reported Positive Residential Cases, since March, according to CRAHD:

-	Chester	-	19 Confirmed Cases
-	Clinton	-	107 Confirmed Cases
-	Deep River	-	31 Confirmed Cases
-	Haddam	-	65 Confirmed Cases
-	Old Saybrook	-	42 Confirmed Cases

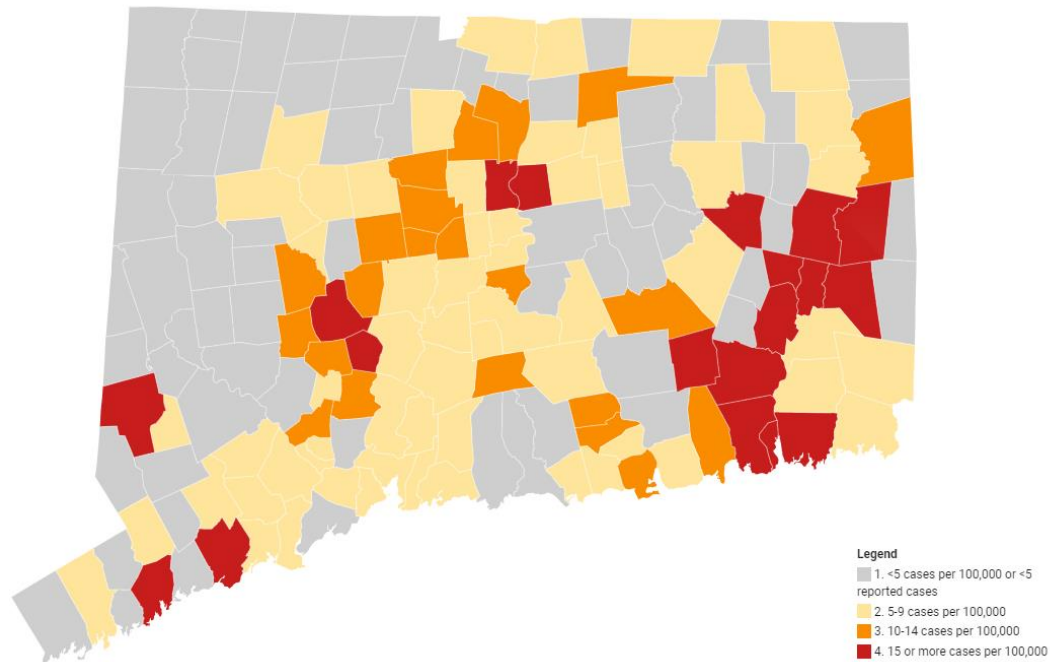
These numbers DO NOT include any Positive Cases at Convalescent Facilities.

- Old Saybrook is currently experiencing its highest COVID-19 positivity rate since March.

NEW State of Connecticut Community Rating System

- The State Department of Public Health has created a new Community Rating System.
- The system classifies towns and cities based on 1) population and 2) how many residents have tested positive for COVID-19 on a two week rolling average.
- Towns and cities that have increased positive COVID-19 cases are designated as YELLOW, ORANGE, or RED.
- The State will make these designations each Thursday at 5 PM.
- When a town or city is classified specific actions are taken.
- This new State rating system **does not** impact the status of our public schools.
- No matter what “color” a town or city is, a different rating scale is used by the ALL Superintendents of Schools to make decisions concerning in person learning activities.
- When a community is classified as YELLOW, ORANGE, or RED there are six (6) categories of activities that are reviewed. They are:
 - Department of Public Health Response
 - Individual Response (That’s YOU!)
 - Community Response
 - Organized Group Activities
 - Pre K-12 Schools
 - Business & Sector Rules
- Here is the map of the State with the Yellow, Orange, and Red designations as of 5PM today







Average Daily Rate of COVID-19 Cases Among Persons Living in Community Settings per 100,000 Population By Town



- Today at 5 PM, Old Saybrook was placed in the ORANGE category.

- This chart shows US what WE need to do if Old Saybrook is classified by the State Department of Public Health as YELLOW, ORANGE, or RED.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TOWN-LEVEL COVID RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

	Yellow 5-9 cases per 100k per day	Orange 10-14 cases per 100k per day	Red 15+ cases per 100k per day
 DPH Response	Outreach to Local Health Department	ENCOURAGE TESTING FOR ASYMPTOMATIC RESIDENTS	
		Weekly calls with Local Officials	Issue Public Health Alert
 Individuals	Masks, distancing, extra precautions for high risk	HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS SHOULD STAY HOME, STAY SAFE	
		Avoid larger events, limit time with non-family members	Limit trips outside home, avoid gatherings with non-family members
 Communities	Scale up public awareness, social media	Scale back public events	Cancel public events and limit community gathering points; Reverse 9-1-1
 Organized Group Activities	Move activities outdoors where possible	Limit group sizes; Postpone indoor activities where mask wearing or social distancing cannot be maintained	Postpone all indoor activities; Postpone outdoor activities where mask wearing or social distancing cannot be maintained
 Pre K-12 Schools	Re-Enforce and monitor safety measures with staff, students and families	Maximize spacing, mask wearing, ventilation and hygiene to support in-person learning	In collaboration with Local Health Department and Superintendent, consider more distance learning above 25
 Business & Sector Rules	REMIND STAFF TO ASSESS THEIR SYMPTOMS DAILY AND NOT REPORT TO WORK IF THEY ARE ILL		
	Phase 3 with enhanced enforcement	Phase 3 with enhanced enforcement	Municipal option to revert to Phase 2

Public School District

PUBLIC SCHOOL STATUS as of 10/22/2020

Old Saybrook Senior High School	-	On Campus / In Classroom Learning
Old Saybrook Middle School	-	Distance Learning
Goodwin Elementary School	-	On Campus / In Classroom Learning

- The Superintendent makes the decision concerning On Campus / In Person Learning vs Distance Learning based on facts concerning positive COVID 19 Cases, Contact Tracing Reports, and Staff Availability.
- If there is a positive case of COVID-19 in one of our schools, it does not mean the entire school must close. Being in cohorts may allow for only one class or only one grade to be impacted.
- The Superintendent continues to collaborate with Regional Public Health and Town Emergency Management when making these decisions.
- Schools have not been the source of Community Spread.
- In fact our schools are one of the only places in our community that model, mandate, and enforce mask wearing and proper hygiene. If schools are open – they are safe.

Local Fundraising Efforts - Help Old Saybrook Families!

Old Saybrook C.A.R.E.S Virtual Road Race

- The C.A.R.E.S. Working Group is raising money for Old Saybrook residents that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
- Funds, up to \$1,500, are available per household through a confidential application process.
- Your donated funds will help those struggling to afford the very basic of needs such as housing, food, utilities, childcare, and transportation.
- Over \$60,000 has been distributed to those in need so far.
- The Police Department's Shorts4Saybrook Fundraiser is complete, raising \$28,365.61!
- **Sign up for the Virtual Road Race! Registration Deadline is extended!**
- What a great way to make a donation! See the attached flyer for all the details!
- To donate and/or apply for funds please visit the CARES Working Group page being hosted by the United Way of Middlesex County by clicking here:

<https://www.middlesexunitedway.org/oldsaybrookcares>

To Apply for Assistance

- To apply for assistance please click this link to complete the confidential application.

<https://www.middlesexunitedway.org/old-saybrook-cares-application>

What we NEED YOU to do!

- Wear your mask! Make your friends and family wear their masks!
- It prevents the spread of COVID-19. If we all wear masks, the virus cannot spread.
- Wash your hands! Proper hygiene really works on preventing the spread of the virus!
- PAUSE on having social gatherings....they are causing community spread!
- Its time to take COVID-19 VERY serious again. Let's turn our ORANGE into YELLOW or less!
- WE can do this TOGETHER! Let's keep Old Saybrook Safe!

Social Services / Youth and Family Services

- Youth and Family Services will be moving to an all tele-counseling mode this week.
- For tele-counseling services, please call - 860-395-3190.
- Keep a positive mindset – We will get through this!! Smile every opportunity you can!

Municipal Government Operations

- Town Hall remains OPEN!
- You may still do municipal business by appointment or remotely. Whatever makes you comfortable – we are happy to help you out!
- When using the Transfer Station please remember to follow the posted rules
- Please respect our employee's personal space!

Halloween

- Halloween is NOT cancelled. We have attached guidance for PARENTS to review.
- Trick or Treating MAY be done safely – it is up to each parent and household to determine if they want to participate or not. Kids – listen to your parents!
- The Town will not be having any formal Halloween Activities this year.

Good News!!

- Please follow the Police Department on Instagram! @OldSaybrookPD
- Got any good news? Please share! FUN@OldSaybrookPolice.com
- Questions? Email us at eoc@oldsaybrookpolice.com
- Stay Healthy, Stay Safe, Keep Smiling. We will get through this TOGETHER!



**ONE COMMUNITY.
ONE TEAM.**

Connecticut Halloween Guidance

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic requires all of us to take steps to keep ourselves, our families, and our communities safe and healthy: wear our masks, wash our hands frequently, and maintain social distancing. As a result, we will need to celebrate many fall traditions differently this year, including Halloween. Traditional Halloween activities carry a high risk for spreading COVID-19, but we can reduce that risk significantly by organizing and participating in fun, lower or moderate risk alternatives. The holiday may look different this year, but the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) believes we can still enjoy a happy (and healthy) Halloween.

The CT DPH recommends that everyone planning to participate in Halloween activities this year review the [guidance](#) recently issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). That guidance describes “lower” “moderate” and “higher” risk activities. DPH recommends that Connecticut residents avoid higher risk Halloween traditions and focus celebrations on the lower and moderate risk activities.

The ability to maintain social distancing and follow face covering rules is especially important when participating in Halloween activities. In addition, please refrain from leaving your home for any Halloween activity and do not pass out Halloween candy if you are ill or have traveled to one of the states listed on the [Connecticut travel advisory](#) between October 16th and October 30th (i.e. 14 days before Halloween). In this case you should be following the testing and self-quarantining guidelines, per [Executive Order No. 9C](#). CDC guidance and safety tips are summarized below, along with additional considerations for restaurants and colleges and Universities.

PARTIES AND EVENTS	
Events to consider	• In lieu of in-person house parties, host virtual Halloween events, e.g. virtual costume contests.
	• Host drive-by Halloween events, e.g. neighborhood or town-based house decorating.
	• Prepare candy scavenger hunts at homes with your household members.
	• Have a Halloween movie night with the people in your household.
Events to avoid	• Large parties that exceed 25 people indoors or 150 people outdoors <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Hosting an indoor party that exceeds 25 people indoors or 150 people outdoors can result in a fine of \$500○ Attending a party that exceed attendance rules can result in a fine of \$250
	• Large Halloween-themed parades where physical distancing cannot be maintained.
	• Indoor haunted houses where people may be crowded together and screaming
	• Hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household
	• Traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door (See Trick or Treating tips below)
Other guidance	• Trunk-or-treat events where cars gather in a large parking lot and allow children to move from car to car to collect candy.
	• Restaurants that choose to host Halloween-themed events should strictly adhere to capacity and physical distancing guidance as outlined in Sector Rules .
	• Colleges and universities should consider alternatives to on-campus costume parties or trick-or-treating between dorms, as these activities will

be challenging to maintain physical distancing. Guidance for safe Halloween activities should be shared widely with on- and off-campus students.

TRICK-OR-TREATING

Recommendations for Halloween 2020

- Traditional trick-or-treating is a high risk activity. Instead, the CDC and CT DPH recommends participating in one-way trick-or-treating where goodie bags or a large bowl of candy are placed outside of your home for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance.
 - If you are preparing goodie bags, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.
- For people who choose to hand out candy:
 - Before you answer the door, make sure your face covering is in place over your nose and mouth, wash or sanitize your hands before answering door.
 - Remain six feet from the Trick-or-Treater.
 - Place the candy inside the child's bag for them instead of having them take it from the bowl themselves.
- Homes providing candy may set up hand sanitizer stations outside or parents/guardians can pack a travel bottle of their own.
- Parents/guardians should limit the number of homes their children visit.
- It is not recommended to trick-or-treat with people outside of your household.
- Remain six feet away from people outside your household at all times.
- All trick-or-treating participants should wear a mask or face covering while outside at all times.
 - A costume mask (such as for Halloween) is not a substitute for a cloth or surgical mask. A costume mask should not be used unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and does not leave gaps around the face.
 - Do not wear a costume mask over a protective cloth or surgical mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.
 - Do not wear a costume rubber mask over another face covering of any kind.



Text 'SAYBROOKCARES' to (833) 755-6550
to get a link OR visit the walkathon page
at <https://oldsaybrookcares.dojiggy.io/oldsaybrookcares>



**HELP
LOCAL
RESIDENTS
MEET
BASIC NEEDS
DURING
COVID-19.**

**VIRTUAL
Walk until 10/24**



Walkathon

**Old Saybrook is logging miles VIRTUALLY,
and we are moving forward TOGETHER.**

WHY ARE WE WALKING? The Old Saybrook CARES Walkathon is a safe, socially distanced, virtual run/walk/bike-athon to raise funds for Old Saybrook CARES. This fund was established by the Town of Old Saybrook in June of 2020 to help families struggling to meet basic needs (housing, food, transportation, and childcare) during the Pandemic. So far the Committee has distributed nearly \$60 thousand to families in need. As the Pandemic continues, new requests for help are rolling in each day. We need your help to meet the ongoing demand.



GREAT SWAG! Registration is \$24 and includes this branded performance neck gaiter/face covering and the Old Saybrook Cares car magnet so you can show everyone **YOU CARE** about your home town!

THE NEED IS GREAT AND THE TIME IS NOW.
We can all help by registering for this event or by sponsoring a participant. Register today! Share your progress and gain sponsorship by sharing on social media. **Join us and get as many sponsors as you can before October 24!**



TOWN OF
OLD SAYBROOK, CT

website: www.middlesexunitedway.org/oldsaybrookcares

Mailing: CARES Committee c/o Town Hall, 302 Main St. Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Email: oldsaybrookcares@oldsaybrookct.gov
[@facebook.com/oldsaybrookcares](https://facebook.com/oldsaybrookcares)