

Old Saybrook

COVID 19 Community UPDATE #16 - March 31, 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 was notified of another confirmed positive case of COVID-19 today.
- There are six (6) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Old Saybrook.
- There are more people in Old Saybrook that we suspect have contracted COVID-19.
- These people live with or have been in close proximity to those who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 AND have flu like symptoms.
- Please do not think that because Old Saybrook “only has six (6) confirmed cases” that Old Saybrook residents are not at risk of contracting COVID-19. You are at risk. We all are.
- COVID-19 Test results are currently taking five (5) to seven (7) days.
- We are expecting and are prepared for further confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Old Saybrook.
- The Governor has ordered the restriction of social and recreational gatherings to no more than five (5) people. *(Religious services may have fifty (50) people.)*
- The Old Saybrook Police Department will begin to strongly encourage groups of greater than five (5) in public places to disperse and practice “Social Distancing”.
- There can be more than five people at the beach or in our parks so as long as they are following social distancing recommendations and are not in violation of the Governors Order.
- If people cannot respect the Governor’s Order and Public Health’s STRONG recommendations to maintain “Social Distance” – our outdoor areas are in jeopardy of being closed to the public. Let’s work together to make sure that does not happen!
- All grocery stores in Old Saybrook are asking you to “Shop Alone”.
- Stores ask that you do not bring your family shopping with you. It is safer for everyone.

- Warning Signs were placed at the entrances to commonly visited indoor places.
- These signs ask those that have flu like symptoms or those that have been around someone with flu like symptoms not to enter the indoor space.
- Public Health Awareness Advertisements will be placed around Town tomorrow. They will feature our contest winners and remind people to “Wash Their Hands”, “Sneeze and Cough in Your Elbow” and to “Maintain Social Distance”.
- Please remember to be thankful to all who are “essential employees”, those that continue to go to work so we may get gas, buy groceries, get take out, be cared for, and ensure our safety.
- We are working on something to honor these dedicated individuals.
- The Town’s Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is operational.
- We have temporarily changed our “normal” based on this very sound Public Health Concept:

LESS CONTACT = LESS VIRAL INFECTIONS = LESS DEATH

- You can go to the grocery store, get takeout, get gas for your car, visit the park, go for a walk.

Just Use Common Sense – Social Distancing Really Works – It SAVES LIVES!!

- If you have recently moved your family to Old Saybrook from another location—any location—please consider sheltering in place (self-quarantine) for fourteen (14) days to prevent further community spread.
- With so many second homes in our community, this has become an area of major concern for our Town. Please be respectful – no one wants to get sick.
- Banning people travelling to Old Saybrook is currently against Federal and State Law.
- The Governor has ordered that restaurants, that require those picking up food to enter the restaurant facility, to limit the entrance of customers into their restaurant to the minimum extent necessary to pick up and pay for orders. Many OS restaurants were already doing this.
- The Governor’s order does not place any additional restrictions on restaurants that are “walk up” in nature or restaurants that are carrying meals to customers in their parking lots.
- Again, if you are standing in a line – remember social distancing – 6 feet - it really works!
- A list of “frequently asked questions/answers” on Connecticut’s actions concerning COVID-19 can be found at this link: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/COVID-19-FAQs.pdf?la=en>
- Old Saybrook’s First Responders have personal protective equipment, adjusted response guidelines, and open/clear communication – all of which will keep them as safe as possible.
- If you do not need to be out in public – don’t be!
- 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 incase 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.
- Businesses can click the link below for a COVID 19 Business toolkit (This is being updated).
<https://www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/coronavirus-business-toolkit>
- Information for business that are interested in filing for a State Bridge Loan may be found at:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/CT-Recovery-Bridge-Loan-Program>
- There is NO curfew. No Curfew has been imposed.
- There is NO food shortage in Old Saybrook.
- Blood Bank Supplies are LOW. Donations are needed!
- Click this link to schedule an appointment at an area Red Cross Blood Drive:
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=06475>
- 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 2,600 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

- It is extremely important that EVERYONE takes this Public Health Emergency seriously!
- DO NOT go out into the public if you have a fever or flu like systems.
- DO NOT go into a retail store or restaurant if you have a fever or flu like systems.
- COVID-19 is HIGHLY Contagious. If you have flu like symptoms STAY HOME!!
- **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.**

- Playscapes will be sanitized three times a week.

- Wash your hands with soap and water frequently for twenty (20) seconds or use at least 60% alcohol based sanitizer.
- YOUR actions can save lives! BE Responsible! SLOW THE SPREAD!

Municipal Government Operations

- Town Hall is OPEN tomorrow although the doors to Town Hall will be locked.
- Non Public Safety, Municipal Government services are available by appointment only.
- Please contact the Department you wish to do business with.
- If you need documents from Town Hall you may receive them via email, US Mail, or have them delivered to your car by calling the First Selectman's Office. 860-395-3123
- The Board of Finance approved the 2020-2021 Municipal and Board of Education Budgets this evening in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order. The FY 21 Mill Rate was set at 20.05.
- Remember to check the Town Website to participate remotely in "public meetings".
- 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 five (5) people – but GO OUTSIDE!!
- Signage reminding people visiting our beaches, parks, & playscapes to practice social distancing and handwashing have been placed at parks and beaches around town.
- Be smart when at our facilities. If there are too many people there when you arrive, choose to visit another time. Remember – groups of 5 – max! We will be enforcing this!
- Our municipal beaches and parks will remain open until the Governor orders State parks and beaches closed. Currently, all State parks and beaches are OPEN.
- YOUR actions can help prevent community spread. Please choose to help.
- Many people have called wanting to help in some way. We are so appreciative of all the offers. The best way to help right now is to heed all of our warnings, and model proper behavior for all to witness.

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.

- In case of job loss caused by COVID-19 please visit the State's Department of Labor page at:

<http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/UI-online/index.htm>

- Youth and Family Services Counselors are now able to provide tele-counseling services.
- Tele-counseling services are using a platform called Doxy.me to maintain clinical connection for existing clients.
- New clients wishing to speak with a Licensed Mental Health Provider are welcome. Contact the Director at 860-510-5042.
- A highly confidential, HIPAA-compliant platform is used for all new patients when registering.
- Behavioral Health Support and Resources are also available via phone by contacting Director Heather McNeil 860-510-5042.
- Other services are available by contacting 211.

Public School District

- Week two of Distance Learning started today!
- Please encourage your children to get into a "normal" school routine.
- 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! Today 187 students were served breakfast and lunch.
- There is no news yet from the State Department of Education or the Governor as to when/if schools will be able to resume normal operations.
- The OSPS website is being updated for parents and students daily.
<https://www.oldsaybrookschoools.org/>

Good News!!

- Check out our winners from the Public Health Awareness Contest! They are attached!
- Find out how much you might be receiving in a stimulus check – click here for the calculator:
<http://dig.abclocal.go.com/ccg/stimulus-calculator/index.html>
- 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.
- Wal-Mart is Hiring!! They want to help those that may be out of work. Please stop in to apply for one of the many temporary full and part time jobs.

- Email us at: Fun@OldSaybrookPolice.com
- Be safe. Keep Smiling. We will get through this!



**ONE COMMUNITY.
ONE TEAM.**