

Old Saybrook

COVID 19 Community UPDATE #23 – April 7, 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.
- The Town’s Emergency Operation Center (EOC) remains operational.
- There were no new CONFIRMED cases of COVID-19 today in Old Saybrook.
- Old Saybrook belongs to the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD).
- This includes the Towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Haddam, and Old Saybrook.
- These are the current reported Positive Cases according to CRAHD:
 - Chester - 9 Confirmed Cases
 - Clinton - 11 Confirmed Cases 1 Death
 - Deep River - 5 Confirmed Cases
 - Haddam - 3 Confirmed Cases
 - Old Saybrook - 9 Confirmed Cases
- We believe there are many additional presumptive positive cases in Old Saybrook.
- Presumptive cases are not always formally tested. We have received questions about this.
- If people who live in the same household as a person that has sadly received a positive COVID-19 test result begin to have COVID-19 Symptoms, they are not tested and presumed by medical professionals to have COVID-19. Unless hospitalized, they may never be tested.
- Public Health Officials advise that Connecticut is entering the peak of the COVID19 Outbreak.
- We are very concerned about EVERYONE’s Health over the next two (2) – three (3) weeks.
- It is currently predicted that Middlesex County’s “peak” may be around April 22, 2020.
- PLEASE STAY HOME – if you do not need to go out in public.
- Limiting contact with others is highly recommended by Public Health Officials.

- When choosing to “get some fresh air” try to stay home on your own property.
- If choosing to take a walk, stay local, stay in very small groups, stay distant, STAY SAFE!
- We can SAVE LIVES if EVERYONE follows Social Distancing Recommendations! PLEASE!
- Old Saybrook Residents continue to be tested for COVID-19 and we are awaiting results.
- We are finding that test results take up to (9) days.
- It is helpful for Public Safety to know if a person in your home, that is not an Old Saybrook Resident, has sadly been diagnosed with COVID-19 (after being tested).
- If you are caring for a COVID-19 Patient in your home, please contact us so we can ensure the proper resources are sent to your home in case of an emergency AND we can keep our First Responders Safe! Call the Police Department at 860-395-3142 or email the Emergency Operations Center at EOC@OldSaybrookPolice.com.
- Information is kept confidential and used ONLY to alert First Responders should we need to respond to your home to provide assistance.
- We are expecting and are prepared for further confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Old Saybrook.
- Social Distancing efforts - **ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!!**
- We are doing EVERYTHING we can think of to create a Social Distancing Campaign in OS!
- We need YOUR help and continued COMMITMENT to keep everyone as safe as possible.
- This means – Practice Social Distancing – Shop Alone – Stay home if you don’t need to go out.
- The Governor has ordered the suspension of weekend and weekly rentals of homes.
- The Governor has ordered all hotels, motels, and resorts to close for recreational travelers.
- The Governor has ordered the restriction of gatherings to no more than five (5) people.
- 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.
- All grocery stores in Old Saybrook are asking you (begging really) to PLEASE “Shop Alone”.
- Stores must limit how many shoppers can be in a store at one time by 50%. It’s now the Law.
- Follow the Warning Signs that are placed at the entrances to indoor stores/shops.
- If you have flu like symptoms or have been around someone with flu like symptoms DO NOT ENTER A PUBLIC STORE!
- Municipal Public Safety and Public Works vehicles have been sanitized.
- Public Health Awareness Advertisements are all over town to remind people to: “Wash Their Hands”, “Sneeze and Cough in Your Elbow” and to “Maintain Social Distance”.

LESS CONTACT = LESS VIRAL INFECTIONS = LESS DEATH

- 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.
- 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.
- The Town’s Public Safety Leadership Team met with the First Selectman today. (*Remotely*)
- Holy Week Church Service Schedules are attached.
- An updated list of OPEN Restaurants is attached.
- The Town is very supportive of our local businesses!
- 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 – updated each day!!
<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>
- 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.
- Over 2,700 people are signed up to receive this newsletter! Make sure your family is!
- If you know of someone that does not have a smart phone and wishes to receive this Community Update by email – just contact us!
- 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!!
- The CDC has a COVID-19 “Self Checker”.

Click the link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

- Playscapes will be sanitized three times a week.

- **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.**

- 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!
- Want to make a homemade face mask for your family members? See instructions attached!

Public School District

- At this time all scheduled “school days” refer to online / distance learning days.
- Thanks to the amazing efforts of administrators, teachers, students & parents, Old Saybrook Students will complete 179 of 180- school days by June 16, 2020 – the last day of school!
- 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. It is expected that the State will provide guidance this week.
- Food distribution for children enrolled in the Old Saybrook Public School District continued today. Pick up is available from 9-10 AM, each weekday at the Goodwin School and the High School. Meals are free! 314 students were served today. (Breakfast and lunch)
- Food distribution of Thursday will include meals for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- Meals will be provided on Monday & Tuesday of next week (even though its Spring Break.)
- The OSPS website is being updated for parents and students daily.
<https://www.oldsaybrookschoools.org/>

Municipal Government Operations

- Town Government will be OPEN for business tomorrow – by appointment!
- Please contact the Department you wish to do business with.
- For general municipal government needs, please contact the First Selectman’s Office.
860-395-3123.
- The Building Official reminds all that building permits are required for many projects.
- Please contact the Building Official’s Office at 860-395-3130 with any questions.
- Remember to check the Town Website to participate remotely in “public meetings”.

- The Acton Public Library is holding a “Virtual Knitting Group” on Zoom on Wednesdays at 2:30; email Rachel at rbulgini@actonlibrary.org to register.
- The Library also has remote access to the Ancestry Library Edition through the end of April. To “check it out” click the link! <http://lioninc.org/alion/ancestryli.php?lib=os>
- While patrons can’t come to the Kate, the Kate can come to them!
- If you liked what you saw last night.....time to binge watch Seasons 1-4 (24 episodes) of Connecticut Public’s ‘The Kate’ – filmed live at the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center. They are streaming at: <https://thekate.tv/the-artists/>
- YOUR actions can help prevent community spread. Please choose to help.

Social Services / Youth and Family Services

- Access Health CT has EXTENDED it’s special enrollment period until April 17, 2020. If you are uninsured please use this opportunity to enroll. Go to www.AccessHealthCT.com
- Social Services Appointments will be conducted by phone, Call 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 providing tele-counseling services.
- For Behavioral Health Support contact Director Heather McNeil 860-510-5042.
- If you are Veteran in need of services please call 1-800-273-8255, Press 1 and THANK YOU for your service!
- Other services are available by contacting 211.

Good News!!

FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR CONTEST!

- We are seeking pictures of your animals dressed as Essential Workers – to honor them!
- Store clerks, restaurant workers, mechanics, doctors, police officers, nurses, fire fighters, government leaders, emergency medical service personnel – all that go to work for US!
- Submit your entry to Fun@OldSaybrookPolice.com
- The Contest will run until noon on TOMORROW!!
- The pictures so far are amazing!! Keep them coming!! (It makes us smile too!)
- Yes, your favorite pet will receive a prize along with your family!

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS - A WEEK LONG EVENT!!

- AGAIN today, thanks to the generosity of many, Police Officers were able to spread some cheer around town by presenting residents with gift certificates to area businesses.
- Spreading cheer, reducing stress, & supporting businesses at the same time – WIN WIN WIN!
- If you would like to help keep this program going – contact us: EOC@oldsaybrookpolice.com
- 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 STILL On!! The Chamber is giving away ten \$100 Restaurant Gift Certificates (one a day). Click the link for more information.
<https://www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/giveaway>
- Light Up Old Saybrook! Every night at 7 PM - Turn your outside lights on to show support for the “Essential Workers”!
- Soon the Police Department will be announcing our “Shorts for Saybrook” campaign!
- This summer’s fundraiser will be to establish a local grant program for Old Saybrook residents and businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
- Got Good News? Send it to us! We’d love to share.
- Be safe. Keep Smiling. We will get through this!



**ONE COMMUNITY.
ONE TEAM.**