

Old Saybrook

COVID 19 Community UPDATE #28 – April 12, 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.
- Over 20,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the United States.
- Please take social distancing recommendations seriously. Our lives depend on it!
- The Town’s Emergency Operation Center (EOC) remains operational.
- There was one (1) new CONFIRMED case 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 - 20 Confirmed Cases 2 Deaths
 - Clinton - 21 Confirmed Cases 1 Death
 - Deep River - 7 Confirmed Cases
 - Haddam - 7 Confirmed Cases
 - Old Saybrook - 17 Confirmed Case
- Public Health Officials advise Connecticut is entering the peak of the COVID-19 Outbreak.
- We are very concerned about EVERYONE’s Health over the next two (2) – three (3) weeks.
- It is predicted that Middlesex County’s “peak” may be around April 22, 2020. It is April 12th.
- Severe weather is expected tomorrow – including hurricane force wind gusts. (75 MPH)
- The EOC is sending out an S.O.S. – **SAVE OUR SIGNS! PLEASE!**
- If you have one of our signs near your home – the ones with the adorable kids on them – can you please bring the sign inside for tomorrow’s storm and place it back on Tuesday? Thanks!

- If you do not *need* to go out - STAY HOME!!
- We are concerned that people will get restless and try to return to “normal” too soon.
- If we scale back or stop our social distancing efforts now, things will get worse.
- Our goal is to PREVENT illness which will PREVENT death.
- We will not be successful without you. Please help us save lives! Stay Safe – Stay Home!
- When choosing to “get some fresh air” try to stay home on your own property.
- 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.
- Practice Social Distancing – Not doing so is selfish! – We can keep each other SAFE!
- The Governor has ordered the suspension of weekend and weekly rentals of homes.
- If you see weekend or weekly rental activity please contact the Police Department.
- 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.
- Big Y will be closed on Monday.
- 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!
- 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”.

(These are the ones we would like you to bring indoors for the storm)

LESS CONTACT = LESS VIRAL INFECTIONS = LESS DEATH

- The Governor has extended the closure of all non-essential businesses until at least May 20th
- The Town is very supportive of our local businesses!
- Businesses can click the link below for a COVID-19 Business toolkit – updated each day!!
<https://www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/coronavirus-business-toolkit>

- 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 2,800 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! We will make that happen!
- 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!
- Public Health Inspectors ARE checking on businesses – we must all stay safe!
- DO NOT go out into the public if you have a fever or flu like symptoms.
- DO NOT go into a retail store or restaurant if you have a fever or flu like symptoms.
- COVID-19 is HIGHLY Contagious. If you have flu like symptoms STAY HOME!!
- We have NOT reached the “peak” yet. PLEASE Stay Home and Stay SAFE!
- 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.**
- 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!

Public School District

- Students, Families, and staff will be on April Break for few days. You all deserve one!
- You’re doing so great that the Superintendent has declared this a “No Homework Weekend!”
- The Superintendent communicated with parents concerning new information from the State.
- The OSPS website is being updated for parents and students daily.

<https://www.oldsaybrookschoools.org/>

Municipal Government Operations

- Town offices will be open by appointment tomorrow. Please contact the Department you wish to do business with.
- If you have a general inquiry for Town Government, contact the First Selectman's Office – 860-395-3123, First Selectman Fortuna Jr. will be happy to assist you.
- Remember to check the Town Website to participate remotely in “public meetings”.
- There is a Board of Selectmen Meeting on April 14th at 3:30 PM. Click the link for information.
<https://www.oldsaybrookct.gov/home/events/28134>
- 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.
- Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy while keeping safe.
- Connect & talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.
- Veterans in need of services please call 1-800-273-8255. THANK YOU for your service!
- Other services are available by contacting 211.

Good News!!

PARTICIPATE IN OUR DRESS UP YOUR FRONT DOOR CONTEST!

- Using what you have at home.....Dress up your front door to bring Smiles and Cheer to all!
- You may choose to dedicate your design to all of our essential workers including 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 Pictures we are receiving already are incredible! THANK YOU for bringing all of us joy!
- The Contest will run until noon on Wednesday!

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS - CONTINUES!!!

- Thanks to VERY generous donations, the Random Acts of Kindness Campaign will continue through May! Police Officers will be able to spread more 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!
- The GREAT Take Out Giveaway 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.**