

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

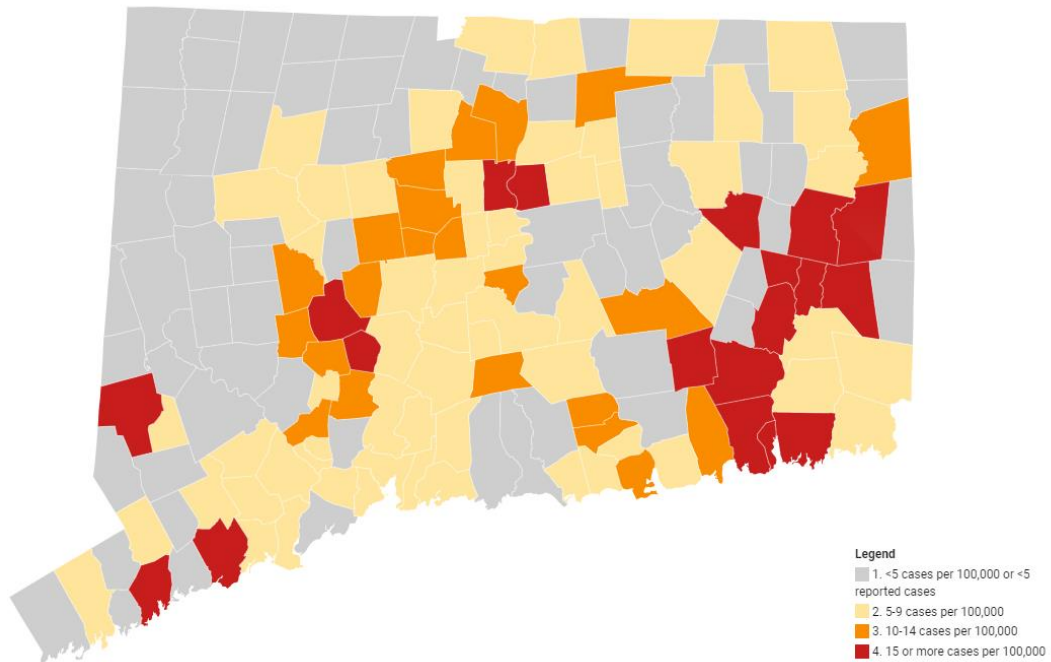
These numbers DO NOT include any Positive Cases at Convalescent Facilities.

- 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	Weekly calls with Local Officials	Issue Public Health Alert
ENCOURAGE TESTING FOR ASYMPTOMATIC RESIDENTS			
 Individuals	Masks, distancing, extra precautions for high risk	Avoid larger events, limit time with non-family members	Limit trips outside home, avoid gatherings with non-family members
HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS SHOULD STAY HOME, STAY SAFE			
 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
REMINDE STAFF TO ASSESS THEIR SYMPTOMS DAILY AND NOT REPORT TO WORK IF THEY ARE ILL			
 Business & Sector Rules	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.**