

Old Saybrook

COVID 19 Community UPDATE #77 – October 29, 2020

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency – TOWN STATUS – RED

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!

PLEASE review all of the information in this Community Update.

It is VERY important that you follow all of our guidance.

WE MUST take action to reduce the Community Spread of COVID-19.

Public Safety & Community Information

- The Nation, State, and Town remain under Declared States of Emergency.
- The Town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remains operational.
- In the past week there have been 7 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	-	20 Confirmed Cases
-	Clinton	-	118 Confirmed Cases
-	Deep River	-	29 Confirmed Cases
-	Haddam	-	65 Confirmed Cases
-	Old Saybrook	-	79 Confirmed Cases

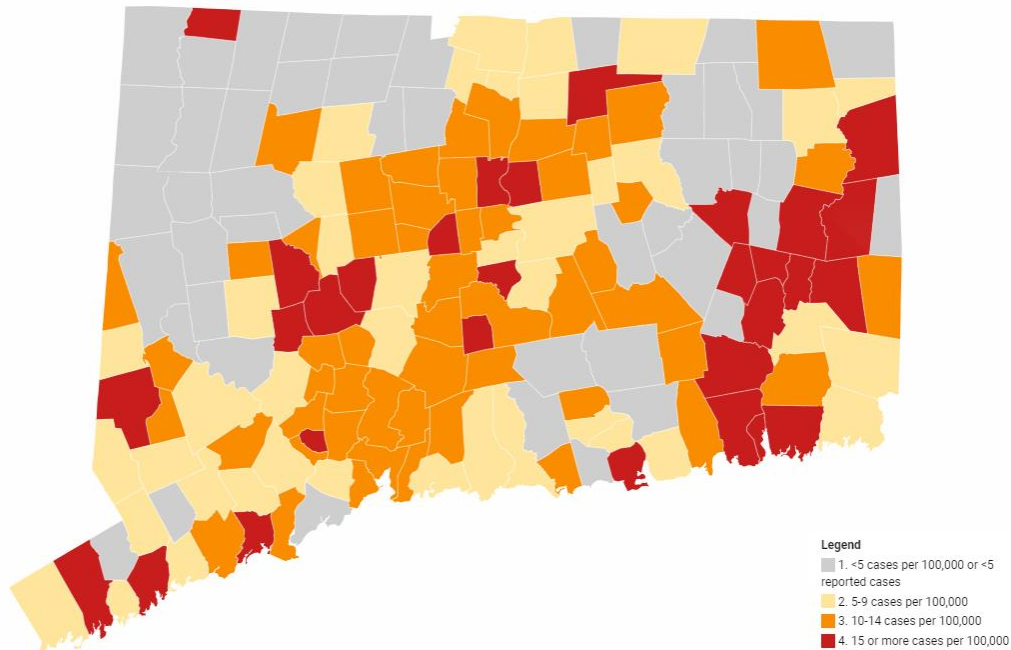
(Last week's OS Residential Positive Case Data should have read 72)

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

- **Old Saybrook is currently experiencing its highest COVID-19 positivity rate since March.**
- **This is NOT good.** We must take proactive measures to reverse this trend.
- Contact Tracing for Old Saybrook has determined that Community Spread **IS** happening at social gatherings. It is **NOT** happening in our schools or restaurants.

State of Connecticut COVID-19 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**









This map shows the average daily rate of new cases of COVID-19 by town during the past two weeks. Only cases among persons living in community settings are included in this map; the map does not include cases among people who reside in nursing home, assisted living, or correctional facilities.
Source: CT DPH - Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

- **Today at 5 PM, Old Saybrook was placed in the RED 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	REMAND 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

Required Emergency Protective Actions

State Department of Public Health

- The State Department of Public Health has issued a Public Health Alert for Old Saybrook.
- This MUST be taken seriously.

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!
- DO NOT hold indoor social gatherings with people that do not live with you.
- PLEASE postpone your parties! Social gatherings promote the spread of COVID-19.
- DO NOT attend or host outdoor activities where mask wearing AND social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Its time to take COVID-19 VERY serious again. WE MUST reverse the spread of COVID-19.
- WE can do this TOGETHER! Let's keep Old Saybrook Safe!

Local Government

- All indoor activities at Park and Recreation are POSTPONED. Outdoor parks are open!
- Measures are being taken at our Police and Fire Departments to maintain a healthy public safety workforce.
- We will continue our enhanced communication with the public.
- Follow the Police Department on Instagram! @OldSaybrookPD For the latest news!

Business Sector Rules

- The First Selectman, with advice from his Public Safety Leadership Team, has elected NOT to “roll back” from Phase 3 to Phase 2. **Old Saybrook remains OPEN at Phase 3.**
- This decision was made based on a very important fact.
- The fact that Community Spread of COVID-19 is NOT happening in our schools or restaurants.

COVID 19 Testing Sites

- Contact 211 for a list of COVID 19 Testing Sites.
- CVS in Old Saybrook – Follow registration procedures at CVS.com
- Community Health COVID-19 Testing next Thursday at Saybrook Point 10am-4pm.

Public School District

PUBLIC SCHOOL STATUS as of 10/29/2020

Old Saybrook Senior High School - On Campus / In Classroom Learning
(45 Students participating in Distance Learning)

Old Saybrook Middle School - Distance Learning
(Distance Learning – Grade 6 ONLY)

Goodwin Elementary School - On Campus / In Classroom Learning
(One Kindergarten Class participating in Distance 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 “RED” Status DOES NOT affect the Schools or alter a school schedule.
- 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.
- 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.**

Social Services / Youth and Family Services

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

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!
- PLEASE BE SMART! Parties are NOT a good idea right now.....PLEASE be smart about this!
- The Town will not be having any formal Halloween Activities this year.
- Sadly, the Police will NOT be handing out candy this year. (We are bummed!)
- We will be on Patrol protecting those who still choose to Trick or Treat.

Small Business Information – NEW Grant Opportunity!

- This is a \$5,000 grant (not loan) for small businesses from the State!
- The application period will be one week long, starting the week of November 9, 2020.
- There is \$50 million available (10,000 grants).
- The DECD Cares Grant is for small businesses with no more than 20 FTE employees that can demonstrate a 20% loss or more in revenue as of 9/30/20 compared with the same period in 2019.
- The full parameters are here.

<https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/CT-CARES-Small-Business-Grant-Program#:~:text=The%20Department%20of%20Economic%20and,ongoing%20challenges%20of%20COVID%2D19.>

- Need PPE? Purchase supplies from the Town at municipal discounts!
- Visit www.OldSaybrookPPE.com to place your order!

We are Here for YOU!

- Questions? Email us at eoc@oldsaybrookpolice.com
- We will be more than happy to answer them for you.
- Stay Healthy, Stay Safe, Keep Smiling. We will get through this TOGETHER!



**ONE COMMUNITY.
ONE TEAM.**