

Old Saybrook

COVID 19 Community UPDATE #79 – November 12, 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,
Emergency Protective Measures and other government activities.

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 15 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 - 26 Confirmed Cases
 - Clinton - 151 Confirmed Cases
 - Deep River - 38 Confirmed Cases
 - Haddam - 79 Confirmed Cases
 - Old Saybrook - 99 Confirmed Cases

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

- **Old Saybrook is still experiencing a high COVID-19 positivity rate.**
- **We NEED YOUR help to STOP Community Spread of COVID-19.**
- Contact Tracing for Old Saybrook has determined that Community Spread **IS** happening at social gatherings. It is **NOT** happening in our schools or restaurants. YOU can make a difference!

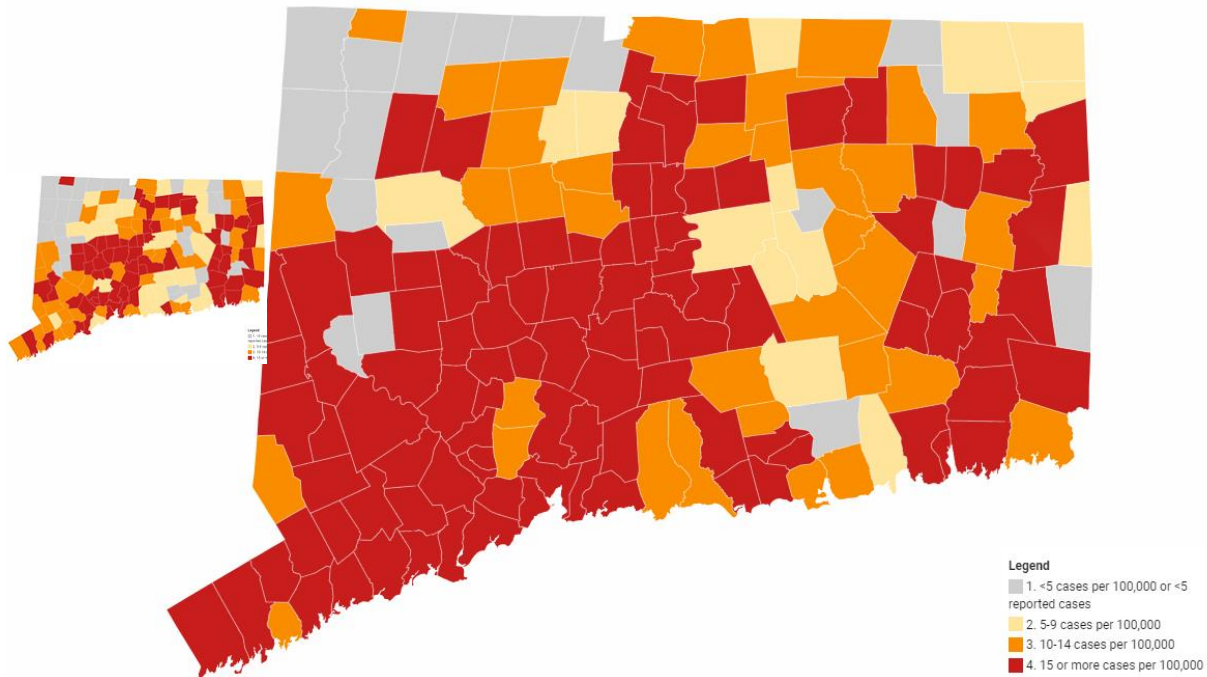
Community COVID 19 Testing

- Since COVID-19 testing began last week in Old Saybrook, 1,282 people have been tested!
- FREE COVID-19 Testing will continue to be available from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM at Saybrook Point by the Mini Golf Course. No appointments / No fees! Please get tested!
- We are pleased to partner with The Community Health Center Inc. who provides this service!
- The COVID-19 PCR Test is the most reliable test and takes 2-3 days for results to be available.
- The average wait time at the Old Saybrook Testing Site is 2 hours – so please arrive early!

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.
- The smaller map on the left is what the state looked like last week.....

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 ORANGE Category.**

- This is the same as last week!
- 80 % of Connecticut’s population is in a RED Zone! (This is not good!)
- 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
REMINI 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

Required Emergency Protective Actions

State Department of Public Health

- The State Department of Public Health maintains increased communication with local authorities.
- Remember the 3 W's - **W**ear your masks, **W**ash your hands, **W**atch your distance!
- Here is where we stand in Connecticut today:

Overall Summary	Total	Change Since Yesterday
COVID Cases	85,899	+1,158
Tests Reported	2,657,798	+24,001
Positivity Rate		4.8%
Currently Hospitalized	617	+33
Deaths	4,726	+10

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.
- Think about grocery shopping for your elderly neighbor. Let's keep everyone safe!
- Rethink your Thanksgiving Plans. DO NOT have large gatherings – keep it small this year!
- 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 continued to be POSTPONED. Outdoor parks are open! Enjoy the nice weather while it lasts! Wear your MASK!
- Other Town Agencies will make programming adjustments to align with Phase 2.1. Please check their websites for the latest program scheduling information.
- Measures are being taken at our Police and Fire Departments to maintain a healthy public safety workforce in order to maintain an emergency workforce to meet Old Saybrook's needs.
- We will continue our enhanced communication with the public.
- Follow the Police Department on Instagram! @OldSaybrookPD For the latest news!

Connecticut Remains in Phase 2.1

- Restaurants are at 50% capacity with a maximum of 8 people at a table.
- Restaurants and entertainment venues must close at 9:30 PM
- Food takeout and delivery services may be open past 9:30 PM.
- Personal Services (hair salons & barber shops) remain at 75% capacity.
- Event venues will be limited to 25 people indoor and 50 people outdoor.
- Performing arts venues are limited to 50% capacity or 100 people maximum.
- Religious gatherings are limited to 50% capacity or 100 people maximum.

Public School District

PUBLIC SCHOOL STATUS as of 11/12/2020

Old Saybrook Senior High School	-	On Campus / In Classroom Learning
Old Saybrook Middle School	-	On Campus / In Classroom Learning
Goodwin Elementary School	-	On Campus / In Classroom Learning <i>(One Fourth Grade Class participating in Distance Learning)</i>

- 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 “Orange” Status or Phase 2.1 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.**

Connecticut NEW COVID-19 ALERT APP

- COVID Alert CT is completely free - Android users can download the app from the Google Play Store, and iPhone users can enable Exposure Notifications within the Settings app.

To learn more click here: <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/covidalertCT/homepage>

- You must be at least 18 years old to use COVID Alert CT.
- COVID Alert CT is the voluntary, anonymous, exposure-notification smartphone app.
- The app keeps track of when people are close to another app-enabled smartphone using Bluetooth technology.
- The app alerts you if you were in close contact with a person who tests positive for COVID19.

- The app also alerts other app-enabled smartphones if you test positive for COVID19 and were in close contact with those individuals, based upon your consent to share close contact codes.

How it Works.....

- As you go about your day, the app uses Bluetooth to detect when another person with the same app comes within 6 feet. Your phone exchanges a secure random code with the other phone to record that they were near.
- If the app senses that you've been with 6 feet of someone for a total of 15 minutes or more in a day, the app adds their phone's random code to a list of close contacts. Devices that are just passing by or stay more than 6 feet away from you are not included on the list.

If you test positive:

- A contact tracer from your higher education institution, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, or your local health department will ask if you are willing to share the "close contact" codes your app has logged while you may have been contagious.
- If you agree, a contract tracer will provide you a code.
- Once you submit that code through the app, those individuals you were within 6 feet of for 15 minutes or more, who have also downloaded the app will receive a notification that they were in close contact with someone with COVID-19. Sharing your list is secure and private. The app never reveals who you are to anyone.

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.
- Call 211 for additional resources, in an emergency/crisis call 911 for immediate assistance.
- Keep a positive mindset – We will get through this!! Smile every opportunity you can!

We are Here for YOU!

- The Police Department and Youth and Family Services WILL be partnering once again to provide those in need with a Thanksgiving meal and toys for the Holidays.
- The 10th Annual "Give the Cops the Bird" Turkey Drive will be held on Saturday November 21 and Sunday November 22. COVID Protocols will be followed. **The need this year is Significant!**
- There will be more information about the Turkey Drive and Toy Drive next week!
- 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.**