Old Saybrook

COVID 19 Community UPDATE #82 – December 3, 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, 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 12 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	-	37 Confirmed Cases
-	Clinton	-	224 Confirmed Cases
-	Deep River	-	62 Confirmed Cases
-	Haddam	-	117 Confirmed Cases
-	Old Saybrook	-	133 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. This is serious!**

■ 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!

■ Only YOU can prevent the spread of COVID-19 – Wear a Mask!

Community COVID 19 Testing

■ FREE COVID-19 Testing is available from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM at Saybrook Point by the Mini Golf Course. No appointments / No fees! Please get tested!

■ Testing will be available seven (7) days a week – including weekends!

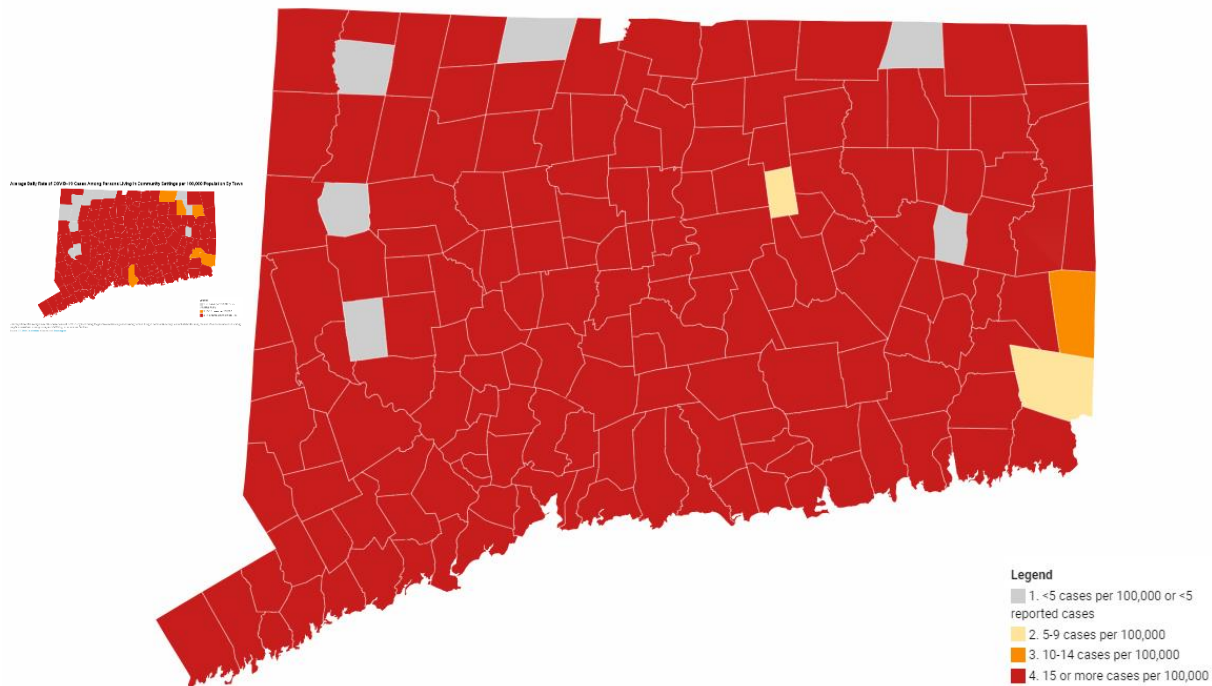■ The COVID-19 PCR Test is the most reliable test and takes 2-3 days for results to be available.

■ The average wait time at the Old Saybrook Testing Site is 2 hours – so please arrive early!

■ Due to high demand, the number of cars in line will be assessed beginning at noon and throughout the early afternoon. Lines may close early if demand exceeds our ability to test everyone in line before closing. CHC staff will advise those already in line when capacity for the day has been reached. We appreciate your patience and flexibility.

■ We are pleased to partner with The Community Health Center Inc. who provides this service!

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.

■ Communities that have increased positive COVID-19 cases are designated as YELLOW, ORANGE, or RED. The State will make these designations each week 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.

■ 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……..

Town Map
Average Daily Rate of COVID-19 Cases Among Persons Living in Community Settings per 100,000 Population By Town

Legend
1. <5 cases per 100,000 or <5 reported cases
2. 5-9 cases per 100,000
3. 10-14 cases per 100,000
4. 15 or more cases per 100,000

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.
Map: Ver 12.1.2020 • Source: CT Department of Public Health • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

■ Today at 5 PM, Old Saybrook was placed in the RED Category-Again.

■ More than 90 % of Connecticut's population is in a RED Zone! (This is not good!)

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:

COVID-19 Daily Summary

Overall Summary	Total	Change Since Yesterday
COVID Cases	126,177	+4,751
Tests Reported	3,386,127	+66,645
Positivity Rate		7.13%
Currently Hospitalized	1,191	-11
Deaths	5,111	+20

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!

■ WE MUST reverse the spread of COVID-19.

■ WE can do this TOGETHER! Let's keep Old Saybrook Safe!

■ Below are the new CDC's NEW Quarantine Guidelines. (PCR tests are FREE at Saybrook Point!)

New CDC Quarantine Guidelines

If exposed to someone who is COVID positive:

14 DAYS	10 DAYS	7 DAYS
still preferred for high risk situations	if no symptoms	with no symptoms and negative PCR test

Essential businesses and schools encouraged to adopt new guidelines immediately

Local Government

■ All indoor activities at Park and Recreation continued to be POSTPONED. Outdoor parks are open! Wear your MASK!

■ Follow the Police Department on Instagram!   @OldSaybrookPD For the latest news!

■ The Public Safety Leadership Team continues to meet regularly with the First Selectman.

■ PPE at Government Pricing!   Now available for Old Saybrook residents!

■ Your order will be delivered right to your door! Check out www.OldSaybrookPPE.com

Get Your Flu Shot!

■ The Connecticut River Area Health District wants to give you a Flu Shot!

■ Please contact their office at 860-661-3300 to schedule a convenient appointment.

■ You may preregister at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDutf6yr5yIucuy1GS-VRTa3r8VHv7I7QOM1Y3lclopaZIOw/viewform

Public School District

PUBLIC SCHOOL STATUS as of 12/3//2020

Old Saybrook Senior High School	-	Online Learning (Back in school Monday!)
Old Saybrook Middle School	-	On Campus / In Classroom 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 "Red" Status or Phase 2.1 DOES NOT affect the Schools or alter a school schedule.

■ The reason that a school moves to online learning may not be because of a COVID-19 "outbreak", but rather that there are too many faculty members who are classified as a "Direct Contact" of just one positive case and must quarantine – leaving not enough staff to safely open a school "in person".

■ 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.

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

COVID-19 Vaccination

■ We are monitoring the Federal and State Government's Vaccination Plans.

■ We will ensure that should the vaccine become available for widespread distribution we will be ready to assist the Regional Health Department with vaccination clinics.

■ First doses are scheduled to arrive in Connecticut on 12/14/2020.

■ The numbers listed below are in thousands. (31,000 doses will arrive on 12/14)

■ The State is following CDC Guidelines to determine who is eligible to receive the vaccine first.

■ Phase 1A will be for Healthcare providers (doctors, nurses, CNAs, & EMS Providers)

Vaccination Distribution

Week of:	12/14	12/21	12/28	1/4	1/11	1/18	1/25
1st dose (thousands)	31	94	51	51	51	51	51
Cumulative	31	125	176	227	278	329	380
2nd dose				31	31	94	56
Cumulative				31	62	156	212

Current estimates, subject to change

■ This shows who may receive the vaccine in the next two phases of administration.

Future phases

Phase 1b
(Mid-January to late May)

· Critical workforce

· Other congregate settings

· Adults 65+

· High risk under 65

Phase 2
(Early June)

· Under 18

· Remaining over 18

Preliminary, subject to Federal guidance

Make a Child's Wish Come True

■ Our Annual Toy Drive starts on FRIDAY!!

■ There are close to 200 hundred families that will need assistance ensuring there is something for their kids this holiday season.

■ Pleased donate NEW – UNWRAPPED Toys by dropping them off at the Police Department or at the collection bin located at Wal-Mart.

■ For contactless donation services, simply pull into the Police Department and call us!

■ We will send someone out to remove you donations from your vehicle.

■ The need this year, due to COVID-19, is the greatest it has ever been! **We need toys!**

■ Shopping solely on line? Simply dropship your donation to OSPD, 36 Lynde Street!

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!

Old Saybrook C.A.R.E.S.

■ Old Saybrook C.A.R.E.S. is the beneficiary of the Old Saybrook Gingerbread House Contest.

■ Proceeds from your participation and votes will go directly to helping residents of Old Saybrook most affected by COVID-19. Help spread some holiday cheer!

■ If you'd like to enter a Gingerbread House into the contest or for further information, please visit: https://www.oldsaybrookct.gov/economic-development/pages/os-gingerbread-house-decorating-contest).

■ There is no cost to register for the contest.

■ Gingerbread houses will be displayed at Pursuit of Pastry and voting begins December 5th.

■ Care to donate? Donations can be mailed to: CARES Committee c/o Town Hall, 302 Main St. Old Saybrook, CT 06475 or via our Website: www.middlesexunitedway.org/oldsaybrookcares.

■ The deadline for 2020 Grant Applications is November 30th. Grant application are available at town hall or on our website.

Holiday Greeting Card Program For Seniors

■ We are seeking pictures, poems, and holiday cards for our Seniors living at Gladeview and Apple Rehab.

■ We will quarantine, sanitize, and laminate each submission and then deliver them!

■ You may email your submission or drop them off at the Police Department.

■ Email your submissions to fun@OldSaybrookPolice.com

The Great Restaurant Raffle is ON!

■ Help support the Chamber of Commerce and our local restaurants!

■ Purchase a raffle ticket for $20 – 1st prize is $4,200 in restaurant gift cards! Click the link!

https://greatosraffle.eventgroovefundraising.com/2655da

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.