

# Old Saybrook

## COVID 19 Community UPDATE #84 – December 17, 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 **22** 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 - 47 Confirmed Cases
  - Clinton - 292 Confirmed Cases
  - Deep River - 97 Confirmed Cases
  - Haddam - 157 Confirmed Cases
  - Old Saybrook - 187 Confirmed Cases

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

- **Old Saybrook is experiencing a VERY 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!

#### Get PPE for Your Home!

- PPE at Government Pricing! Now available for Old Saybrook residents!
- Your order will be delivered right to your door! Check out [www.OldSaybrookPPE.com](http://www.OldSaybrookPPE.com)

## Community COVID 19 Testing

- FREE COVID-19 Testing resumes tomorrow!
- Testing is available 7 days a week from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM at Saybrook Point!
- 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!
- You may pre-register by using this link:  
<https://chc1.quickbase.com/db/bqyhdf4v?a=nwr&nextURLDashboard=%2Fdb%2Fbqyhdez4g%3Fa%3Dshowpage%26pageid%3D101>
- We are pleased to partner with The Community Health Center Inc. who provides this service!
- Thank you to the dedicated CHC Staff for their great work and wonderful service!

## State Department of Public Health

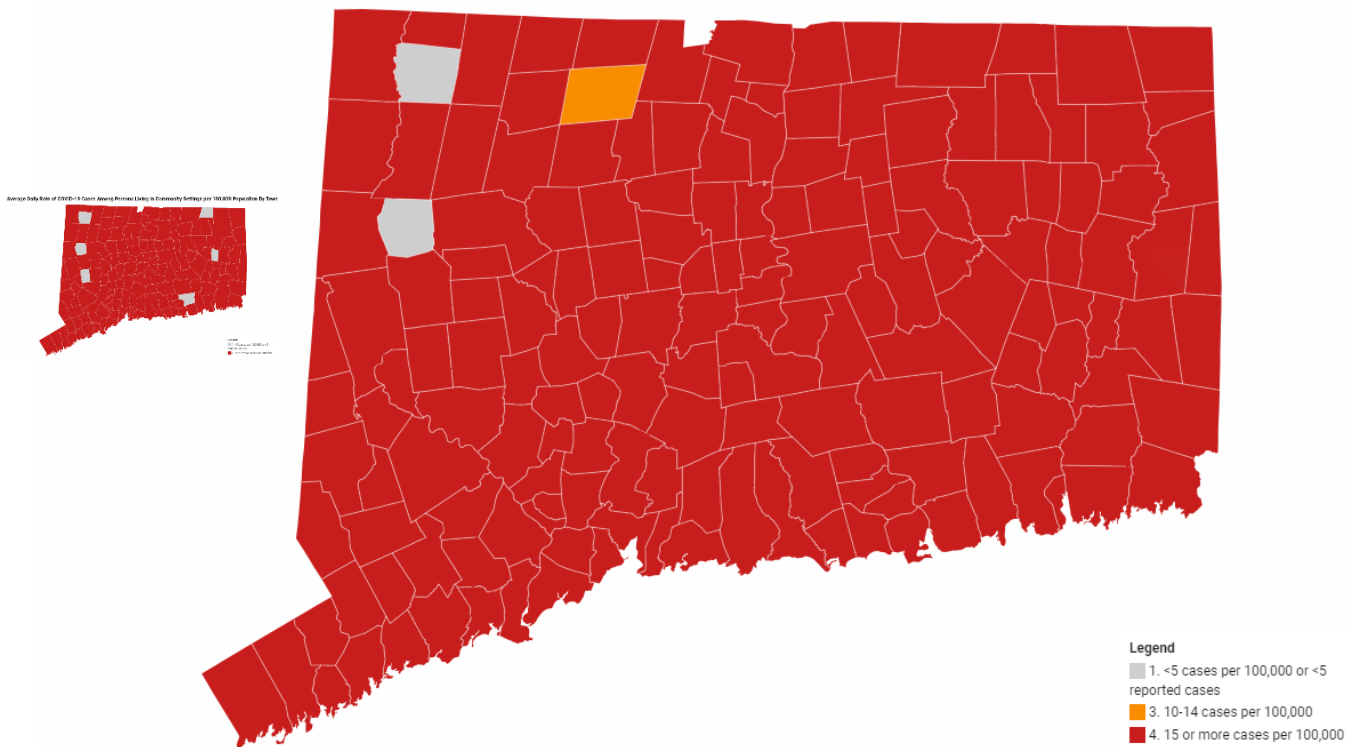
- The State Department of Public Health maintains increased communication with local authorities.
- Remember the 3 W's - **W**ear your masks, **W**ash your hands, **W**atch your distance!
- Here is where we stand in Connecticut today:

COVID-19 Daily Summary		
Overall Summary	Total	Change Since Yesterday
COVID Cases	160,102	+2,321
Tests Reported	3,896,941	+35,948
Positivity Rate		6.46%
Currently Hospitalized	1,205	-49
Deaths	5,552	+46

## 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.
- This 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 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.....

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 RED Category-Again.**
- More than 90 % of Connecticut’s population is in a RED Zone! (This is not good!)

## Required Emergency Protective Actions

### 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.
- 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!

## 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!

## Public School District

### PUBLIC SCHOOL STATUS as of 12/10//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>(Grades 3 and 4 – Distance Learning)</i>

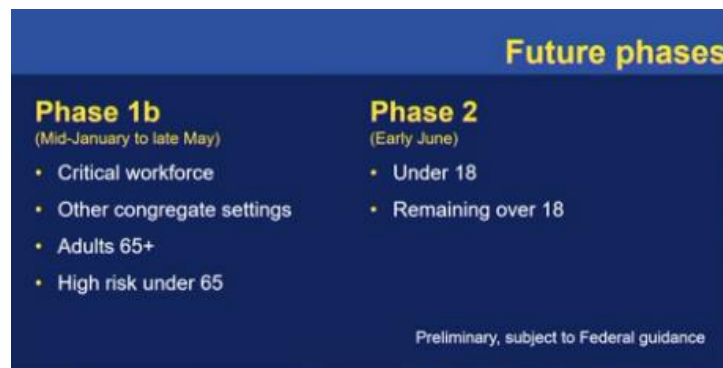
- The Superintendent makes the decision concerning On Campus / In Person Learning vs Distance Learning based on facts concerning positive COVID 19 Cases, Contact Tracing Reports, and Staff Availability.
- If there is a positive case of COVID-19 in one of our schools, it does not mean the entire school must close. Being in cohorts may allow for only one class or only one grade to be impacted.
- The “Red” Status 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.**

## Local Government

- Follow the Police Department on Instagram! @OldSaybrookPD For the latest news!
- The Public Safety Leadership Team continues to meet regularly with the First Selectman.

## 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.
- 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).
- We have offered logistical support to assist with Community Mass Vaccination.



## Make a Child's Wish Come True

- THANK YOU Old Saybrook!!!!
- We collected lots and lots of toys for those in need this Holiday Season!
- Our Elves are busy sorting and getting ready to assist Youth and Family Services to get your donated toys to families that have signed up to be part of this wonderful community program.

## Holiday Greeting Card Program For Seniors

- **LAST CALL!!**
- 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](mailto:fun@OldSaybrookPolice.com)

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

- Old Saybrook C.A.R.E.S is pleased to announce that we are now accepting **Grant Applications for 2021**. Grant applications are available at town hall or on our website. If you are, or anyone you know is, in need due to issues with COVID -19 we encourage you to apply.
- 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!
- There is no cost to register for the contest.
- Gingerbread houses will be displayed at Pursuit of Pastry and voting begins December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 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](http://www.middlesexunitedway.org/oldsaybrookcares).

## Virtual Visit With Santa!

- The Police Department is PROUD to offer individual & private virtual visits with SANTA!!
- Residents may sign up for a specific time for a Skype visit with SANTA this Saturday!
- SANTA visits will be unique to each child! (*name, anything you want us to know...*)

### Register for a virtual visit with SANTA Here:

<https://forms.gle/tJxATVeJn3a3zEM88>

- Once registered we will provide you with a unique Skype Number for SANTA!
- Skype is FREE and can be downloaded here: <https://www.skype.com/en/get-skype/>

## We are Here for YOU!

- Questions? Email us at [eoc@oldsaybrookpolice.com](mailto: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.**