

Old Saybrook

COVID 19 Community UPDATE #14 - March 29, 2020

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 daily summary of preparedness,
response and other government activities.

Public Safety & Community Information

- The Nation, State, and Town remain under Declared States of Emergency.
- Old Saybrook was notified of another confirmed positive case of COVID-19 today.
- There are now five (5) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Old Saybrook.
- Yesterday we chose not to list the “number” of confirmed cases in Old Saybrook as we believe the number is artificially low.
- Here is why:
 - Those in close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19, who is currently ill or becomes ill with similar symptoms, may not receive testing for COVID-19.
 - Instead, Doctors choose to assume they have the highly contagious virus because they live with and are exposed to a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19.
 - These additional exposure cases are not reported to the Department of Public Health and are not “reportable cases”.
 - Therefore if one (1) person in a family of four (4) is diagnosed with COVID-19 and the remaining three (3) family members become ill with similar symptoms (and are not hospitalized) it is assumed by Doctors that they have COVID-19. However Town data would only reflect the one (1) confirmed case.
- COVID-19 Test results are currently taking five (5) to seven (7) days.
- We are expecting and are prepared for further confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Old Saybrook.
- We have temporally changed our “normal” based on this very sound Public Health Concept:
LESS CONTACT = LESS VIRAL INFECTIONS = LESS DEATH
- You can go to the grocery store, get takeout, get gas for your car, visit the park, go for a walk,

Just Use Common Sense – Social Distancing Really Works – It SAVES LIVES!!

- If you have recently moved your family to Old Saybrook from another location—any location—please consider sheltering in place (self-quarantine)) for fourteen (14) days to prevent further community spread.
- With so many second homes in our community, this has become an area of major concern for our Town. Please be respectful – no one wants to get sick.
- There is NOT a travel ban! You are still able to drive on the public roadways!
- The Town is awaiting an interpretation from the Governor’s Office concerning the CDC Travel Advisory Issued for Connecticut last evening. The Advisory is listed here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s038-travel-advisory.html>
- Banning people travelling to Old Saybrook is currently against Federal and State Law.
- The Governor has ordered the restriction of social and recreational gatherings to no more than five (5) people. (*Religious services may have fifty (50) people.*)
- The Governor has ordered that restaurants, that require those picking up food to enter the restaurant facility, to limit the entrance of customers into their restaurant to the minimum extent necessary to pick up and pay for orders. Many OS restaurants were already doing this.
- The Governor’s order does not place any additional restrictions of restaurants that are “walk up” in nature or restaurants that are carrying meals to customers in their parking lots.
- Again, if you are standing in a line – remember social distancing – 6 feet - it really works!
- A list of “frequently asked questions/answers” on Connecticut’s actions concerning COVID-19 can be found at this link: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/COVID-19-FAQs.pdf?la=en>
- Old Saybrook’s First Responders have personal protective equipment, adjusted response guidelines, and open/clear communication – all of which will keep them as safe as possible.
- If you do not need to be out in public – don’t be!
- The Town’s Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is operational.
- An updated list of all restaurants that are open for take-out and/or delivery are attached.
- Restaurants may use one (1) A-Frame Sign to advertise to the public without penalty.
- The Town is very supportive of our local businesses!
- The Public Safety Leadership Team continues to meet every day to brief the First Selectman and to coordinate preparedness and response activities for the Town of Old Saybrook.
- Arrangements are in place for Public Safety Leadership Team Members to work remotely incase of illness. In case of extreme illness, secondary leadership has also been identified.
- All non-essential businesses are closed to the public as ordered by The Governor.

- Businesses can click the link below for a COVID 19 Business toolkit (This is being updated).
<https://www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/coronavirus-business-toolkit>
- Information for business that are interested in filing for a State Bridge Loan may be found at:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/CT-Recovery-Bridge-Loan-Program>
- There is NO curfew. No Curfew has been imposed.
- There is NO food shortage in Old Saybrook.
- The American Red Cross had a very successful Blood Drive in Old Saybrook last week.
- Blood Bank Supplies are LOW. Donations are needed!
- Click this link to schedule an appointment at an area Red Cross Blood Drive:
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=06475>
- The Emergency Operations Center is using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat to connect with residents. Search COVID19OS to find us on your favorite social media platform.
- Please make sure your family & friends are signed up to receive these daily notices. As this public health emergency progresses, this information will be of vital importance.
- Currently over 2,500 people are signed up to receive this newsletter!
- Please visit the Emergency Management Website as your sole local online source of all information related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
<https://www.oldsaybrookct.gov/emergency-management>

Public Health

- It is extremely important that EVERYONE takes this Public Health Emergency seriously!
- DO NOT go out into the public if you have a fever or flu like systems.
- DO NOT go into a retail store or restaurant if you have a fever or flu like systems.
- COVID-19 is HIGHLY Contagious. If you have flu like symptoms STAY HOME!!
- **Practice social distancing. Maintain six (6) feet from other people.**

Be smart when outdoors enjoying a park/beach – **Practice Social Distancing.**

Standing in a line is fine – just **Practice Social Distancing.**

Go for a walk - just **Practice Social Distancing.**

- Playscapes will be sanitized three times a week.
- Wash your hands with soap and water frequently for twenty (20) seconds or use at least 60% alcohol based sanitizer.

Municipal Government Operations

- Town Hall is OPEN tomorrow although the doors to Town Hall will be locked.
- Non Public Safety, Municipal Government services are available by appointment only.
- Please contact the Department you wish to do business with.
- If you need documents from Town Hall you may receive them via email, US Mail, or have them delivered to your car by calling the First Selectman's Office. 860-395-3123
- The Town will be assisting the Democratic and Republican Town Committees host "online meetings" in order to select convention delegates.
- Outdoor recreation facilities are OPEN! **Please follow "Social Distancing" recommendations**, stay in groups of less than five (5) people – but GO OUTSIDE!!
- Signage reminding people visiting our beaches, parks, & playscapes to practice social distancing and handwashing have been placed at parks and beaches around town.
- Be smart when at our facilities. If there are too many people there when you arrive, choose to visit another time.
- Our municipal beaches and parks will remain open until the Governor orders State parks and beaches closed. Currently, all State parks and beaches are OPEN.
- YOUR actions can help prevent community spread. Please choose to help.
- Many people have called wanting to help in some way. We are so appreciative of all the offers. The best way to help right now is to heed all of our warnings, and model proper behavior for all to witness.

Social Services / Youth and Family Services

- Access Health CT is offering a special enrollment period from March 19 - April 2, 2020. If you are uninsured please use this opportunity to enroll. Go to www.AccessHealthCT.com
- Social Services Appointments will be conducted by phone, Contact Sue Consoli 860-395-3188
- In case of job loss caused by COVID-19 please visit the State's Department of Labor Page at:
<http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/UI-online/index.htm>
- Youth and Family Services Counselors will soon be able to provide tele-counseling services. This should begin by mid-week this week.
- The United Way has established the COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Fund. The fund is designed to assist people impacted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.unitedway.org/#>

- Behavioral Health Support and Resources are available via phone by contacting Director Heather McNeil 860-510-5042.

- Other services are available by contacting 211

Public School District

- Week two of Distance Learning starts tomorrow!

- Please encourage your children to get into a “normal” school routine.

- Food distribution for children enrolled in the Old Saybrook Public School District continues. Pick up is available from 9-10 AM, each weekday at the Goodwin School and the High School. Meals are free!

- Student Technology needs are being met by the Public School District.
(Laptops and Internet Access)

- The OSPS website is being updated for parents and students daily.

<https://www.oldsaybrookschoools.org/>

Good News!!

- The Emergency Operations Center’s contest is in the final hours – get your submissions in!

- We are asking **EVERYONE** to submit a photo that creatively promotes:

Proper “Social Distancing”, Proper “Hand Washing”, and Proper “Sneezing/Coughing”.

- This contest will HELP remind people to BE SAFE!

- Winners will also receive a large cheese pizza and Ice Cream Cake on Tuesday for Dinner.

- All submissions MUST be in by noon on Monday.

- Submit photos to FUN@OldSaybrookPolice.com (Please see the attached flyer)

- Find out how much you might be receiving in a stimulus check – click here for the calculator:

<http://dig.abclocal.go.com/ccg/stimulus-calculator/index.html>

- The GREAT Take Out Give A Way is On!! With the support of the Saybrook Wealth Group and the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber is giving away ten (10) \$100 Restaurant Gift Certificates (one a day). Click the link for more information.

<https://www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/giveaway>

- Got Good News? Send it to us! We’d love to share.

- Wal-Mart is Hiring!! They want to help those that may be out of work. Please stop in to apply for one of the many temporary full and part time jobs.

- Be safe. Keep Smiling. We will get through this!



**ONE COMMUNITY.
ONE TEAM.**