Amity Regional School District Reopening – December 11, 2020 Update

The decision of the district's instruction model is developed in consultation with local health departments and with consideration of the leading and secondary indicators and metrics identified in Addendum 4 of the CT Department of Education's reopening plan. These are identified by town and by county. Superintendents in BOWA meet weekly with health officials from the Orange Department of Health and the Quinnipiack Valley Health District to review weekly data. The purpose of those meetings is 1) to discuss the instructional model that provides maximum educational learning opportunities while mitigating health risks to students and staff and 2) to make decisions that are both responsive to the current health crisis, but that also provide continuity of educational programming based on local data and information.

Leading Indicator

Leading Indicator	MORE In-Person Learning	Re-assess strategies to determine appropriate balance of in-person and remote learning (hybrid learning)	LESS In-Person Learning
Number of new cases of COVID-19 (14-day average of new cases per 100,000 population per day)	< 10 new cases per 100,000 per day	10 to < 25 cases per 100,000 per day	25+ cases per 100,000 per day

The CSDE and CT DPH use the 14-day average of new cases per 100,000 population per day as the leading indicator for determining the instructional model. The data in the Amity communities since the start of the school year is:

Reporting Period	Bethany	Orange	Woodbridge	Amity
8/30/2020 - 9/5/2020	7.8	3.1	1.6	4.2
09/06/2020 - 09/12/2020	5.2	1.0	1.6	2.6
09/13/2020 - 09/19/2020	5.2	2.0	1.6	2.9
09/20/2020 - 09/26/2020	2.6	3.1	4.9	3.5
09/27/2020 - 10/10/2020	13.0	4.1	3.2	6.8
10/04/2020 - 10/17/2020	10.4	6.7	4.9	7.3
10/11/2020 - 10/24/2020	10.4	9.7	10.5	10.2
10/18/2020 - 10/31/2020	9.1	12.8	15.4	12.4
10/25/2020 - 11/7/2020	13.0	15.9	12.2	13.7
11/1/2020 - 11/14/2020	24.8	24.1	17.0	22.0
11/8/2020 - 11/21/2020	27.4	27.7	21.1	25.4
11/15/2020 - 11/28/2020	27.4	36.4	24.3	29.4
11/22/2020 - 12/5/2020	31.3	33.3	26.0	30.2

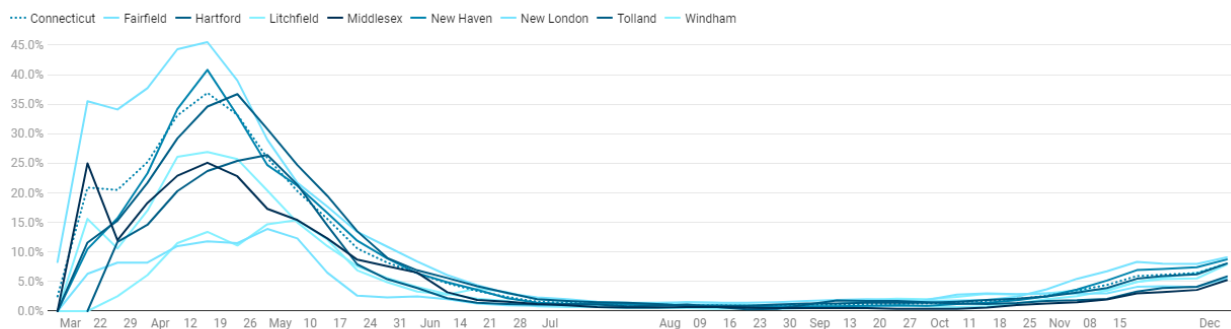* The DPH changed from a 7-day average to a 14-day average on October 15, 2020.

As noted in Addendum 4, "analyzing any of the suggested leading or secondary indicators at the individual town or school district level in our state may result in rates that are too unstable to be of any use in continuous decision-making." Amity is fortunate that we can consider all three towns that we serve, as well as the New Haven county indicators when decision-making.

Secondary Indicators

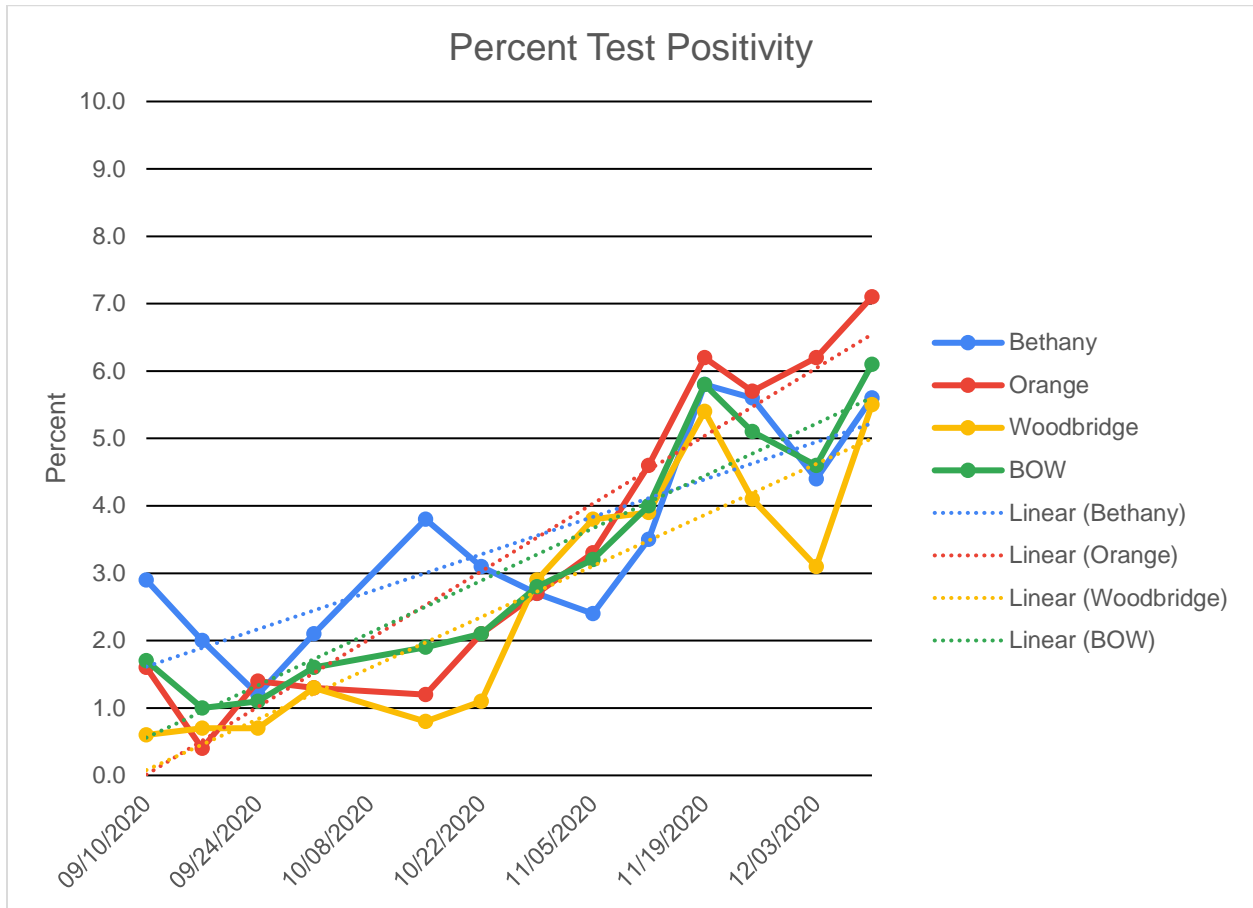| Secondary Indicators	MORE In-Person Learning	Re-assess strategies to determine appropriate balance of in-person and remote learning (hybrid learning)	LESS In-Person Learning
Percent positivity rate (# of positive tests/ # of total tests, 14-day average)	Secondary Indicators trending down to flat	**Direction of Change:** Secondary Indicators trending flat to upward	Secondary Indicators trending upward
Number of new COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 population (14-day average)	No statistically significant changes to Secondary Indicators	**Speed of Change:** Any statistically significant changes upward to Secondary Indicators	Consistent, statistically significant changes upward to Secondary Indicators
COVID-like and Influenza-like Illness (CLI and ILI) Syndromic Surveillance			

From a historical perspective, the percent test positivity at the start of the pandemic in Connecticut in March 2020 is very different from now – even as cases increase in the state.

Percent Test Positivity (14-Day Average)

···· Connecticut — Fairfield — Hartford — Litchfield — Middlesex — New Haven — New London — Tolland — Windham

Source: CT Department of Public Health · Created with Datawrapper

The first of the secondary indicators, percent test positivity, is shown below for all three towns since the start of the school year. While there are fluctuations from data point to data point, the plot of the trend line demonstrates the overall pattern.

The Indicators on COVID-19 hospitalizations and COVID-like and Influenza-like Illness cannot be monitored at the town level, since numbers on the town level are so low. However, it can be monitored at a county level and the data per 100,000 per population per day from New Haven County since the beginning of the school year is as follows:

Reporting Period	COVID-19 Hospitalizations	COVID-like illness
8/30/2020 - 9/5/2020	0.4	1.7
09/06/2020 - 09/12/2020	0.6	1.9
09/13/2020 - 09/19/2020	0.5	2.0
09/20/2020 - 09/26/2020	0.4	2.1
09/27/2020 - 10/10/2020	0.5	2.5
10/04/2020 - 10/17/2020	0.6	2.7
10/11/2020 - 10/24/2020	0.8	2.9
10/18/2020 - 10/31/2020	1.3	3.5
10/25/2020 - 11/7/2020	2.1	4.5
11/1/2020 - 11/14/2020	3.6	5.8
11/8/2020 - 11/21/2020	4.6	6.9
11/15/2020 - 11/28/2020	4.7	7.5
11/22/2020 - 12/5/2020	5.0	7.3

As noted in Addendum 4, "analyzing any of the suggested leading or secondary indicators at the individual town or school district level in our state may result in rates that are too unstable to be of any use in continuous decision-making." Therefore, the state also summarizes data by county to assist school districts in decision-making. The December 10, 2020 released data is summarized below. New Haven County is identified in the high category for both leading and secondary indicators.

Summary Table

| County | Leading | | Secondary | | | | |
	New COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population per day	Leading Indicator Risk Category	Percent test positivity	New COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 population per day	Percent COVID-19-like illness hospital ED visits	Secondary Indicators Risk Category	Reporting Period
Fairfield	56.4	High	9.1%	5.2	9.6%	High	11/22/2020 - 12/05/2020
Hartford	54.3	High	8.0%	5.0	5.6%	High	11/22/2020 - 12/05/2020
Litchfield	55.4	High	8.1%	2.2	5.1%	High	11/22/2020 - 12/05/2020
Middlesex	39.9	High	5.2%	5.1	4.6%	High	11/22/2020 - 12/05/2020
New Haven	56.0	High	8.7%	5.0	7.3%	High	11/22/2020 - 12/05/2020
New London	35.0	High	5.5%	2.8	4.5%	High	11/22/2020 - 12/05/2020
Tolland	30.2	High	5.9%	0.6	4.0%	High	11/22/2020 - 12/05/2020
Windham	49.0	High	7.9%	2.5	3.5%	High	11/22/2020 - 12/05/2020
Connecticut	**53.0**	**High**	**8.0%**	**4.5**	**6.5%**	**High**	**11/22/2020 - 12/05/2020**

Current School COVID Data

The chart below provides a snapshot of the current COVID-19 status of our schools and district. This chart indicates the number of new cases and quarantines over a 1-week period. Please note that this is a moment in time and the actual number of positive cases in isolation and close contacts in quarantine changes daily. Below is the December 10, 2020 update.

COVID Data – 12/4/2020 – 12/10/2020

	+ Cases	Quarantined
AMSB	2	4
AMSO	6	5
ARHS	6	27
District	14	36

Next Steps

The middle schools opened for the middle schools returned students to full in-person learning on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. Approximately 21% of students are participating in voluntary remote learning at AMSO and approximately 26% of students are participating in voluntary remote learning at AMSB. We completed a walk-through of AMSO with the health department on December 10, 2020 and have a walk through scheduled at AMSB on December 15, 2020. The health districts have endorsed continuing the full in-person model at the middle schools.

The high school returned to a hybrid model of instruction on December7, 2020. The health districts endorse the high school remaining in the hybrid instructional model.

We will reassess metrics again next week.

The health district recommends a preplanned week of remote learning following the December Winter Break. All students will participate in remote learning from January 4 – January 8, 2021.

At the end of last school year, we administered a survey to staff, students, and families about our spring remote instructional model. Following the December Winter Break, we will administer a survey again to check our progress as we approach the midpoint of the school year. This will give us information to make improvements to our instructional models during the second semester.