

## Amity Regional School District Reopening – December 18, 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
<b>Number of new cases of COVID-19</b> (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
11/29/2020 – 12/12/2020	54.8	42.0	18.7	38.5

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

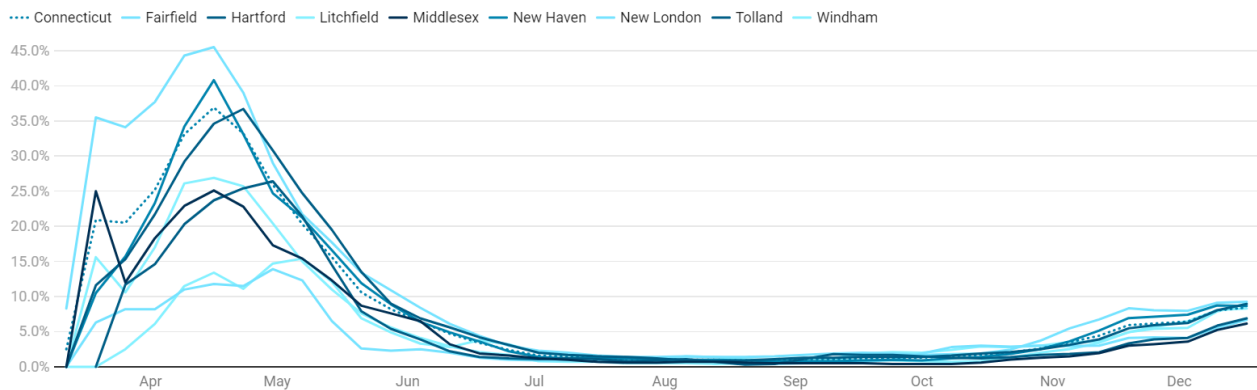
As noted in Addendum 4, “analyzing any of the suggested leading or secondary indicators at the individual town or school district level in our state may result in rates that are too unstable to be of any use in continuous decision-making.” Amity is fortunate that we can consider all three towns that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

### Secondary Indicators

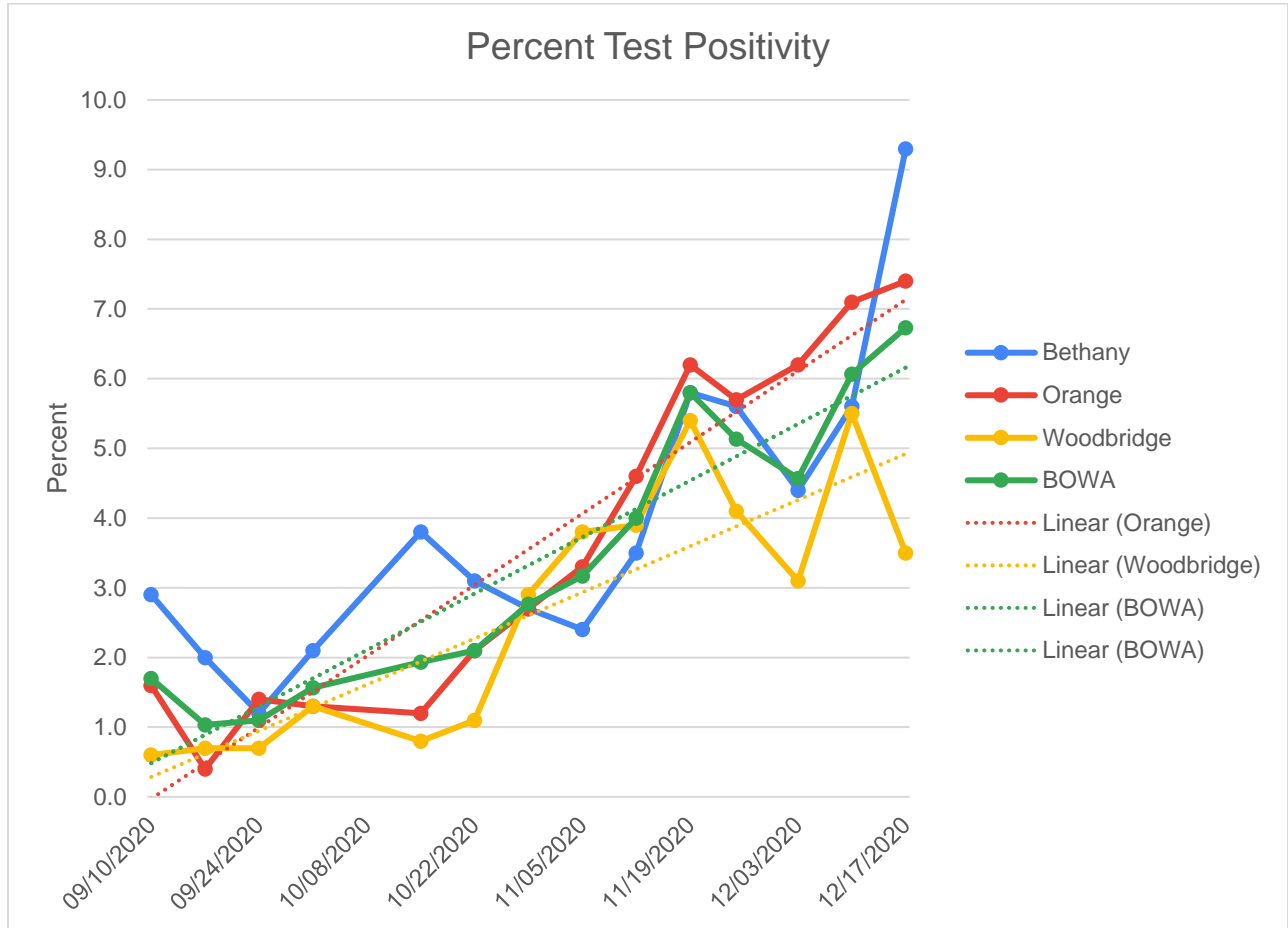
Secondary Indicators	MORE In-Person Learning	Re-assess strategies to determine appropriate balance of in-person and remote learning (hybrid learning)	LESS In-Person Learning
<b>Percent positivity rate</b> <i>(# of positive tests/ # of total tests, 14-day average)</i>	Secondary Indicators trending down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

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)



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
11/29/2020 - 12/12/2020	5.2	7.6

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			Reporting Period
	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	
Fairfield	61.2	High	9.3%	5.0	9.0%	High	11/29/2020 - 12/12/2020
Hartford	66.5	High	8.9%	5.6	6.2%	High	11/29/2020 - 12/12/2020
Litchfield	56.4	High	8.3%	2.7	6.4%	High	11/29/2020 - 12/12/2020
Middlesex	48.3	High	6.1%	4.0	5.1%	High	11/29/2020 - 12/12/2020
New Haven	65.2	High	8.7%	5.2	7.6%	High	11/29/2020 - 12/12/2020
New London	48.8	High	6.7%	3.4	5.1%	High	11/29/2020 - 12/12/2020
Tolland	38.1	High	6.9%	0.7	4.5%	High	11/29/2020 - 12/12/2020
Windham	64.1	High	9.0%	2.6	3.5%	High	11/29/2020 - 12/12/2020
Connecticut	61.4	High	8.4%	4.7	6.7%	High	11/29/2020 - 12/12/2020

## 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 new 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 17, 2020 update.

School are required to report every positive COVID-19 case for all staff and students. This includes staff and students who are working remotely or who have already been quarantined and are not in the school environment. The letters that are sent to the community are only sent when a community member has been in the school recently and contact tracing and notification is required.

COVID Data – 12/11/2020 – 12/17/2020

	+ Cases	Quarantined
AMSB	0	2
AMSO	0	3
ARHS	2	8
District	2	13

## Next Steps

The local health departments are able to review the positive COVID infection data based on age groups of individuals who have tested positive. Based on a review of the data this week, there have been very few cases of school age children testing positive for COVID-19. The health districts endorse continuation of the in-person hybrid instruction for the high school and the full in-person instruction for the middle school.

With the winter break beginning next week, we will not be meeting with the health districts until January 8, 2021. Please remember that the health districts recommend a preplanned week of remote learning following the December Winter Break. All students will participate in remote learning from January 4 – January 8, 2021. We will decide on January 8, 2021 what the learning model will be for the following week. When we return, we would anticipate returning to the current learning models, but will make that determination with the most recent data. Additionally, since school health offices are closed for the Winter Break, there will be no updates on the school COVID data from December 24, 2020 – January 3, 2021.

Parents are strongly encouraged to email the school nurses if their students test positive during the Winter Break.