

Amity Regional School District Reopening – April 9, 2021 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 |

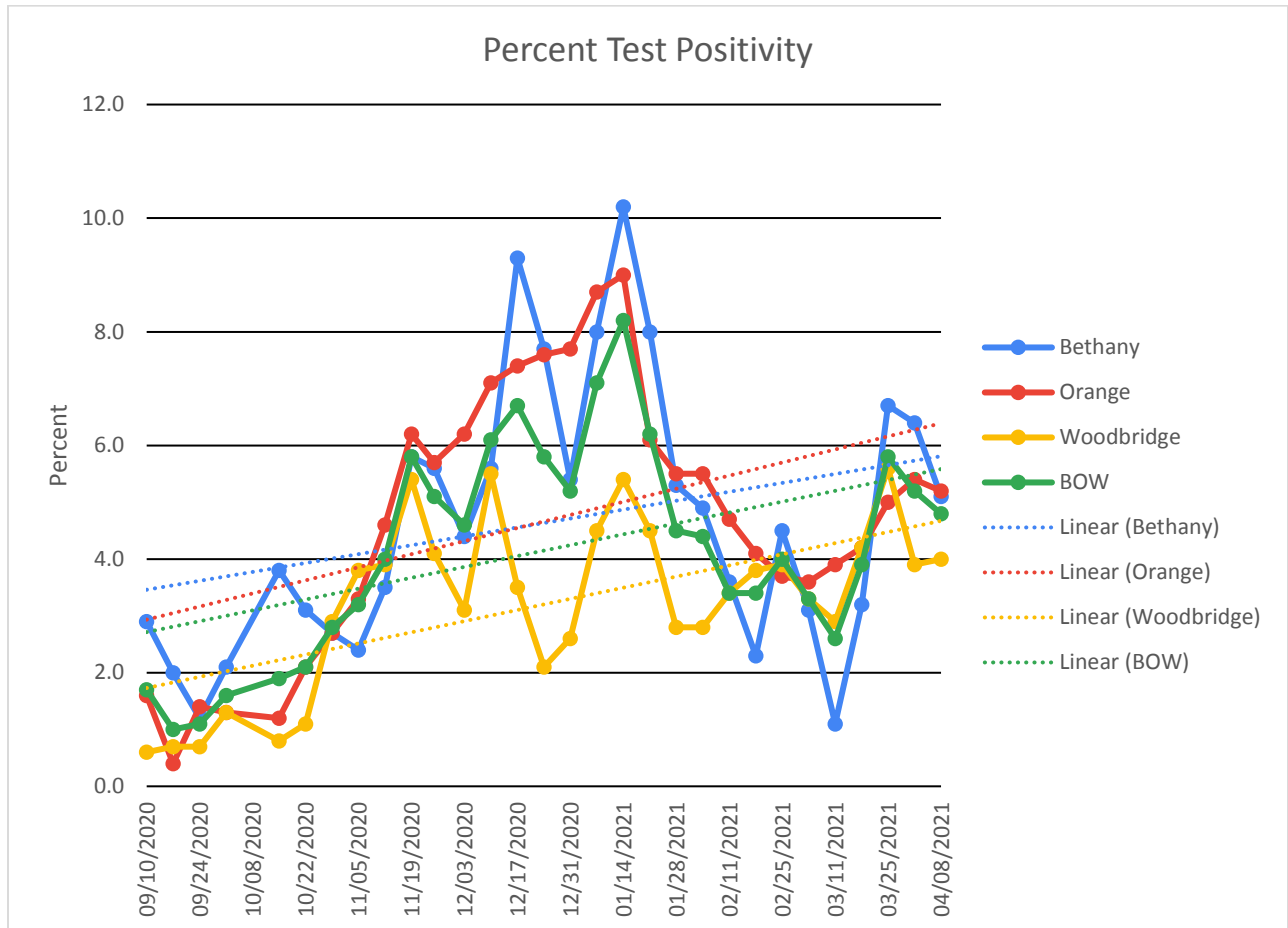
The CSDE and CT DPH use the 14-day average of new cases per 100,000 population per day as the leading indicator for determining the instructional model. The data in the Amity communities since the start of the school year is:

| 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 |
| 11/29/2020 - 12/12/2020 | 54.8 | 42.0 | 18.7 | 38.5 |
| 12/6/2020 - 12/19/2020 | 43.0 | 35.5 | 10.5 | 29.6 |
| 12/13/2020 - 12/26/2020 | 30.0 | 41.0 | 16.2 | 29.1 |
| 12/20/2020 - 1/2/2021 | 53.5 | 59.9 | 38.1 | 50.5 |
| 12/27/20 - 1/9/2021 | 74.3 | 66.6 | 46.2 | 62.4 |
| 1/3/2021 - 1/16/2021 | 65.2 | 45.6 | 34.9 | 48.6 |
| 1/10/2021 - 1/23/2021 | 45.6 | 40.5 | 22.7 | 36.3 |
| 1/17/2021 - 1/30/2021 | 41.7 | 41.5 | 22.7 | 35.3 |
| 1/24/2021 - 2/6/2021 | 23.5 | 30.7 | 21.9 | 25.4 |
| 1/31/2021 - 2/13/2021 | 13.0 | 23.6 | 21.1 | 19.2 |
| 2/7/2021 - 2/20/2021 | 26.1 | 19.5 | 26.8 | 24.1 |
| 2/14/2021 - 2/27/2021 | 16.9 | 21.0 | 25.1 | 21.0 |
| 2/21/2021 - 3/6/2021 | 3.9 | 22.0 | 19.5 | 15.1 |
| 2/28/2021 - 3/13/2021 | 19.6 | 20.5 | 23.5 | 21.2 |
| 3/7/2021 - 3/20/2021 | 40.4 | 25.6 | 28.4 | 31.5 |
| 3/14/2021 - 3/27/2021 | 35.2 | 29.7 | 21.9 | 28.9 |
| 3/21/2021 - 4/3/2021 | 24.8 | 25.6 | 19.5 | 23.3 |

* 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.

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 |
| 12/6/2020 – 12/19/2020 | 5.1 | 7.5 |
| 12/13/2020 – 12/26/2020 | 5.4 | 6.9 |
| 12/20/2020 – 1/2/2021 | 4.8 | 6.7 |
| 12/27/2020 – 1/9/2021 | 4.9 | 6.4 |
| 1/3/2021 – 1/16/2021 | 6.0 | 6.8 |
| 1/10/2021 – 1/23/2021 | 6.0 | 6.5 |
| 1/17/2021 – 1/30/2021 | 5.3 | 5.7 |
| 1/24/2021 – 2/6/2021 | 4.6 | 5.0 |
| 1/31/2021 – 2/13/2021 | 4.4 | 4.3 |
| 2/7/2021 – 2/20/2021 | 4.2 | 3.7 |
| 2/14/2021 – 2/27/2021 | 3.8 | 3.8 |
| 2/21/2021 – 3/6/2021 | 3.9 | 3.9 |
| 2/28/2021 – 3/13/2021 | 4.3 | 3.8 |
| 3/7/2021 – 3/20/2021 | 4.5 | 3.7 |
| 3/14/2021 – 3/27/2021 | 3.3 | 4.4 |
| 3/21/2021 – 4/3/2021 | 3.3 | 4.9 |

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 April 8, 2021 released data is summarized on the next page. 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 | 37.1 | High | 7.5% | 3.1 | 5.8% | High | 03/21/2021 - 04/03/2021 |
| Hartford | 25.1 | Moderate | 4.3% | 1.9 | 3.0% | Moderate | 03/21/2021 - 04/03/2021 |
| Litchfield | 41.5 | High | 5.8% | 1.1 | 4.7% | High | 03/21/2021 - 04/03/2021 |
| Middlesex | 27.0 | Moderate | 3.3% | 1.4 | 3.2% | Moderate | 03/21/2021 - 04/03/2021 |
| New Haven | 43.0 | High | 6.3% | 3.3 | 4.9% | High | 03/21/2021 - 04/03/2021 |
| New London | 18.7 | Moderate | 2.8% | 1.3 | 2.8% | Moderate | 03/21/2021 - 04/03/2021 |
| Tolland | 20.4 | Moderate | 4.5% | 0.1 | 2.7% | Moderate | 03/21/2021 - 04/03/2021 |
| Windham | 20.3 | Moderate | 3.8% | 0.4 | 2.3% | Moderate | 03/21/2021 - 04/03/2021 |
| Connecticut | 32.8 | High | 4.7% | 2.3 | 4.1% | High | 03/21/2021 - 04/03/2021 |

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 April 8, 2021 update.**

Schools 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 – 3/27/2021 – 4/8/2021

| | + Cases | Quarantine |
|----------|---------|------------|
| AMSB | 1 | 2 |
| AMSO | 2 | 2 |
| ARHS | 8 | 54 |
| District | 11 | 58 |

Please note that due to the April Vacation next week, current school COVID data will not be updated again until the April 23, 2021 report.

Next Steps

Learning Model -

The instructional learning models and school schedules are planned to remain the same as they currently are when we return from the April vacation.

Middle Schools -

Beginning April 20, 2021, the middle schools will return to rotating classes for cohorts of students. This plan has been reviewed by the health districts. In this plan:

- Students would remain in their cohort. They would move to different classrooms each period with that same group of students.

- We would also ask each team of teachers collaboratively develop seating charts for each classroom so that for the most part, students sit near the same students – thereby minimizing the number of close contacts.
- Upon entering the room, students would have the opportunity to wipe down the desk.
- Rather than transition all students at the “bell,” there will be a staggered class rotation that will limit the number of students in the hallways.

This plan will provide movement breaks for the students and begin preparing them for what we hope is a more normal schedule of rotation in the next school year. Look from communication from the middle schools for when class rotations will begin.

A plan for bringing music instruction in both instrumental classes and choral classes back into the middle school has been submitted and reviewed by both health departments. With the purchase of some additional PPE – particularly those specific for music – middle school students will be able to resume a more traditional mode of instrumental and choral classes in the school setting.

April Vacation –

Unlike other holidays this year, there is no plan for the BOWA school districts to have a week of remote learning following April vacation. School will resume in the existing learning model following April break. Families who choose to travel during the school recess are strongly encouraged to follow the Amity travel guidelines listed below.

Travel Guidelines –

As of March 19, 2021, **Governor Lamont’s Executive Order No.9S, Section 1 regarding travel is no longer in effect.** Connecticut residents and travelers to Connecticut should **follow [travel-related guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health \(CT DPH\)](#)**. Mandates and requirements are not currently in place in Connecticut. Travel increases your chance of spreading and getting COVID-19. CDC recommends that you do not travel at this time. Delay travel and stay home to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

The Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge, and Amity School Districts, along with the Orange Health Department and the Quinnipiack Valley Health District strongly recommend that students/employees self-quarantine for a period of 10 days after travel or present a negative COVID test prior to returning to school/work. Any type of negative COVID-19 test (rapid or PCR) is acceptable in lieu of a 10-day quarantine. The test must be performed in the seventy-two (72) hours prior to returning to Connecticut or at any time following return to Connecticut.

Domestic Travel Guidance Update for Fully Vaccinated Persons

On April 2, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated the guidance for **domestic** travel for fully vaccinated persons: [Domestic Travel During COVID-19 | CDC](#). While the CDC still recommends delaying travel for unvaccinated persons (including children), this update allows for additional flexibility as follows:

- Fully vaccinated persons (persons at least 14 days or more after the last dose of their vaccine series) **do not need to quarantine or get tested** after **domestic** travel.
- Fully vaccinated persons should still wear a mask, practice other precautions during travel, and monitor symptoms after travel.

CDC guidance for international travel has ***not*** changed: [Testing and International Air Travel | CDC](#).

Update on Student Vaccination Clinic –

In order to have better success at securing a clinic for students, the Amity School District will be partnering with the North Haven School District under the umbrella of QVHD. We are continuing to reach out to Griffin Health to provide a Pfizer vaccination clinic at the earliest possible date. However, because of our partnership with North Haven and since North Haven is the location of the QVHD offices, it is now more likely the clinic would be held at the North Haven Recreational Center. We will communicate as soon as we have any information about this. The earliest possible date non-Alliance school districts can host student vaccination clinics is in May.

We are also exploring the possibility of hosting an 18+ clinic at ARHS in collaboration with QVHD. Our hope is that our older students would avail themselves of this clinic, thereby reserving more Pfizer appointments for our students who are 16-17 years old.