

Amity Regional School District Reopening – May 7, 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](#).

Since October, Superintendents in BOWA have met weekly with health officials from the Orange Department of Health and the Quinnipiack Valley Health District to review weekly data.

Based on the flat or downward trend of the metrics, and the increasing number of individuals who are vaccinated, these regular weekly meetings will no longer be necessary. The school districts and health departments will meet on an as-needed basis to address any sudden changes to the metrics and to discuss and plan end-of-year events and activities. We will also continue to incorporate state mandates and guidance as well as recommendations from the CDC in partnership with the health districts.

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
3/28/2021 – 4/10/2021	30.0	26.1	25.1	27.1
4/4/2021 – 4/17/2021	22.2	24.1	21.1	22.5
4/11/2021 – 4/24/2021	16.9	22.5	10.5	16.6
4/18/2021 – 5/1/2021	14.3	19.5	5.7	13.2

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

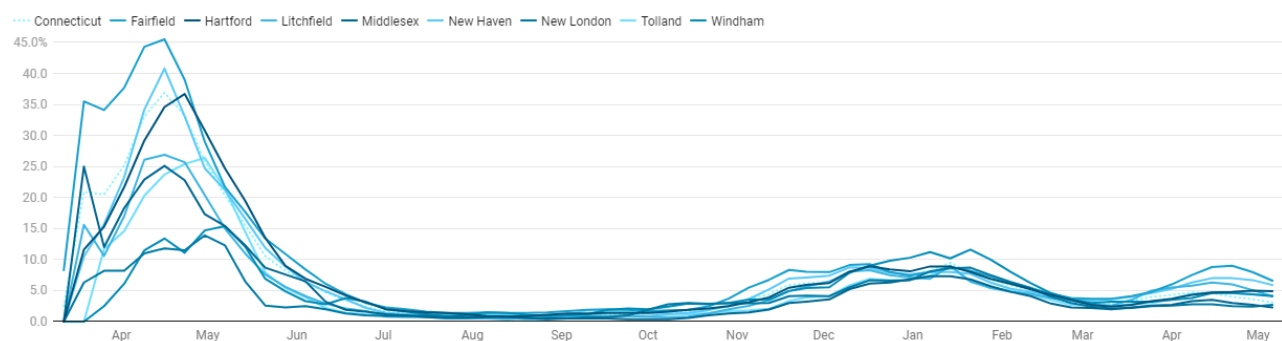
As noted in Addendum 4, “analyzing any of the suggested leading or secondary indicators at the individual town or school district level in our state may result in rates that are too unstable to be of any use in continuous decision-making.” Amity is fortunate that we can consider all three towns that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

Secondary Indicators

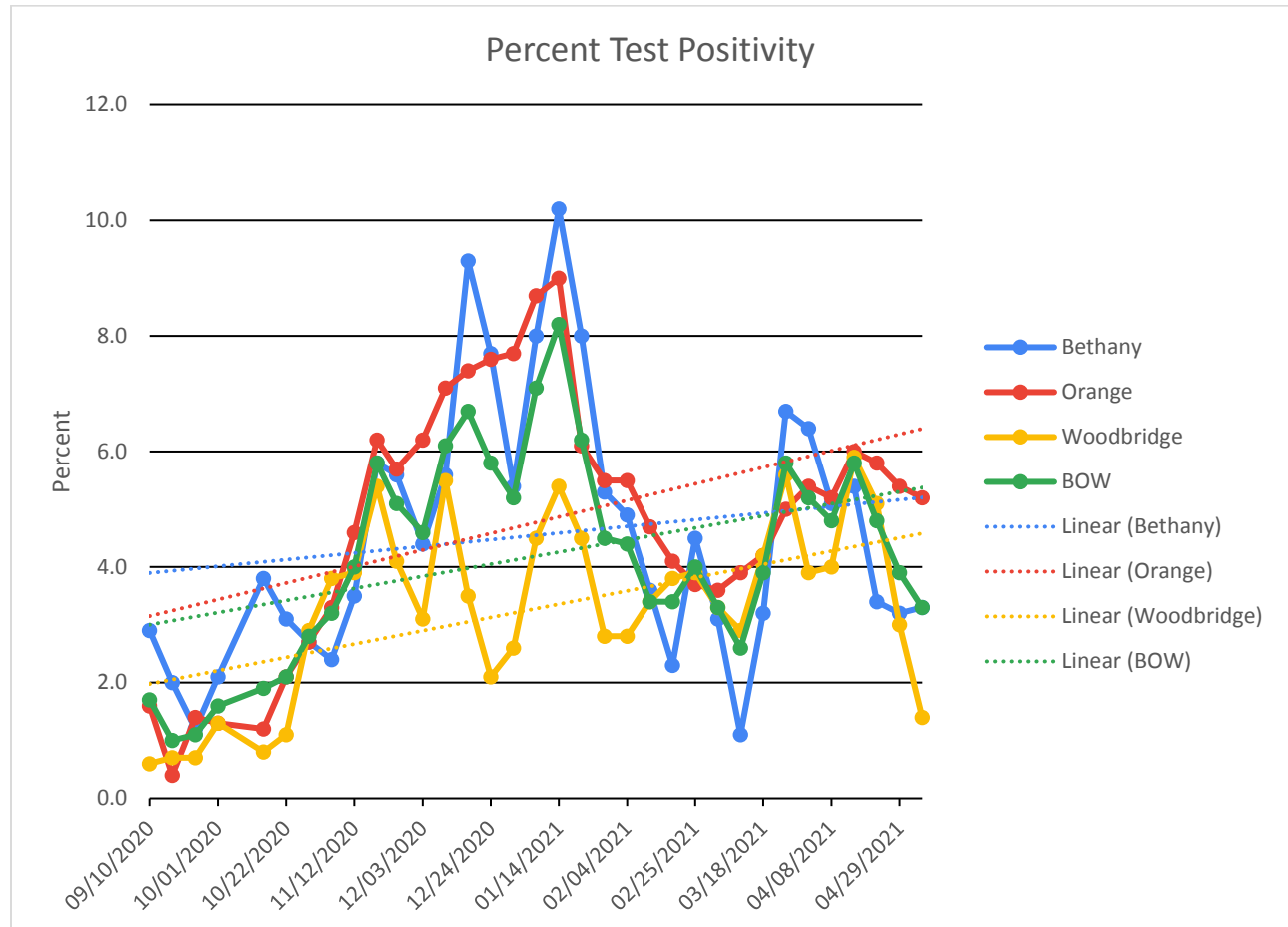
Secondary Indicators	MORE In-Person Learning	Re-assess strategies to determine appropriate balance of in-person and remote learning (hybrid learning)	LESS In-Person Learning
Percent positivity rate <i>(# of positive tests/ # of total tests, 14-day average)</i>	Secondary Indicators trending down to flat	<u>Direction of Change:</u> Secondary Indicators trending flat to upward	Secondary Indicators trending upward
Number of new COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 population <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
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)



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
3/28/2021 – 4/10/2021	4.7	5.1
4/4/2021 – 4/17/2021	4.7	4.8
4/11/2021 – 4/24/2021	4.4	4.1
4/18/2021 – 5/1/2021	4.0	3.3

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 May 6, 2021 released data is summarized below. New Haven County is identified in the **moderate** 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	16.6	Moderate	6.6%	2.8	4.0%	Moderate	04/18/2021 - 05/01/2021
Hartford	16.4	Moderate	4.9%	1.6	2.6%	Moderate	04/18/2021 - 05/01/2021
Litchfield	13.9	Moderate	4.1%	1.0	1.9%	Moderate	04/18/2021 - 05/01/2021
Middlesex	11.1	Moderate	2.3%	1.0	2.0%	Moderate	04/18/2021 - 05/01/2021
New Haven	22.7	Moderate	5.9%	4.0	3.3%	Moderate	04/18/2021 - 05/01/2021
New London	13.2	Moderate	2.7%	2.0	2.4%	Moderate	04/18/2021 - 05/01/2021
Tolland	11.0	Moderate	4.2%	0.2	2.4%	Moderate	04/18/2021 - 05/01/2021
Windham	16.1	Moderate	4.1%	0.6	2.1%	Moderate	04/18/2021 - 05/01/2021
Connecticut	17.2	Moderate	3.1%	2.4	3.0%	Moderate	04/18/2021 - 05/01/2021

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 May 6, 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 – 4/30/2021 – 5/6/2021

	+ Cases	Quarantine
AMSB	0	0
AMSO	1	0
ARHS	1	2
District	2	2

Next Steps

Learning Model -

Our learning model will continue with the status quo – full in-person with 12:47 dismissal at ARHS and full in-person with full days (except 12:12 pm dismissal on Wednesdays) at the middle schools.

After a visit with the health districts to Amity Regional High School, we have reluctantly made the decision to continue the 12:47 dismissal until the end of the school year. While we were hopeful to return to full days on May 19, 2021, the recommendations from the health districts for lunch were too challenging to put into place prior to the end of the school year on June 8, 2021. Additionally, full days at

the high school would have had a significant impact on student athletes and after school sports, as locker rooms remain closed – not due to COVID – but because we continue to use them for storage of classroom furniture so that student seating in classrooms remains at a maximum physical distance.

The visits with the health departments also provided us with feedback and suggestions for the end of year activities we have planned and all our plans were approved by the health districts. Communication about the end of year activities will come from the schools.

May 19, 2021 State Mandate Changes

On May 19, 2021, all COVID restrictions in the state of Connecticut will be lifted except for the requirement of masks when indoors. At that time, the Amity Regional School District will – in general – no longer **require** masks when participating in or viewing an outdoor activity. Masks will be strongly encouraged and in cases where safe social distancing cannot be maintained, masks will still be required – even if the event is held outdoors.

COVID Vaccinations for Children 12 and Up

Pfizer is expecting approval of its vaccination for children ages 12 and up very soon. After discussion with our partners in the North Haven School District, QVHD, and Hartford Health, **there will NOT be designated closed COVID vaccination clinics** for students when that approval begins. Hartford Health has indicated there is a surplus of supply and ample open appointments to manage the addition of students ages 12-15. Our contact recommends that parents access this [link](#) as information changes daily. The page will provide an option to indicate the age of the person getting the vaccine (currently set at 16-17) and then only Pfizer clinics will be available for selection.