

Amity Regional School District Reopening – April 30, 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 Quinnipiac 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

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

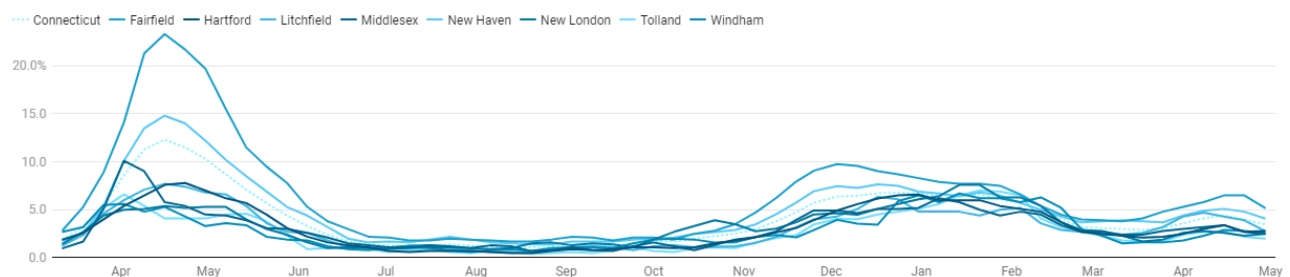
As noted in Addendum 4, “analyzing any of the suggested leading or secondary indicators at the individual town or school district level in our state may result in rates that are too unstable to be of any use in continuous decision-making.” Amity is fortunate that we can consider all three towns that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

Secondary Indicators

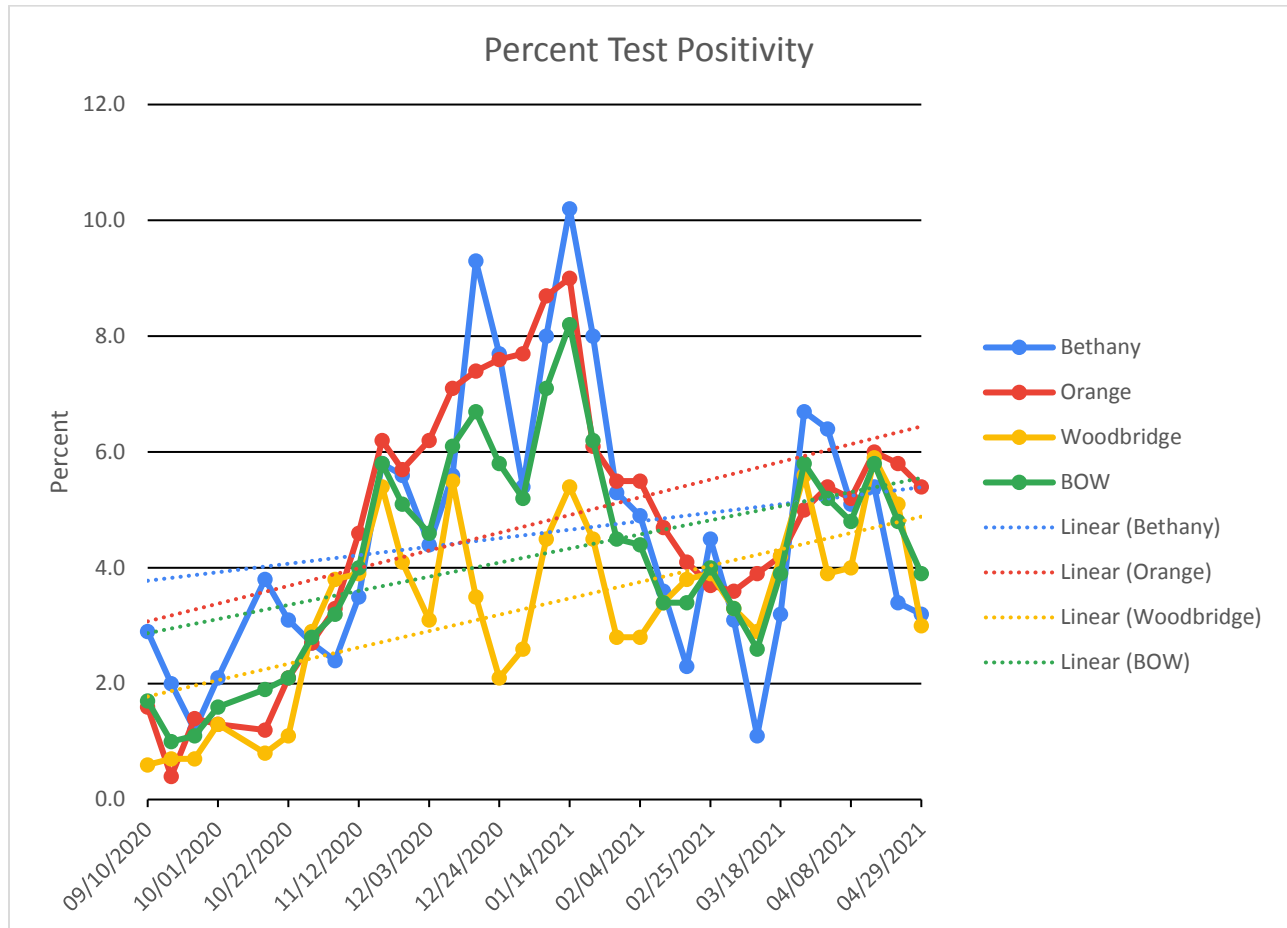
Secondary Indicators	MORE In-Person Learning	Re-assess strategies to determine appropriate balance of in-person and remote learning (hybrid learning)	LESS In-Person Learning
Percent positivity rate <i>(# of positive tests/ # of total tests, 14-day average)</i>	Secondary Indicators trending down to flat	<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 COVID-like Illness Hospital Emergency Department Visits (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

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 29, 2021 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		
Fairfield	24.4	Moderate	8.0%	3.2	5.2%	Moderate	04/11/2021 - 04/24/2021
Hartford	19.0	Moderate	5.0%	1.8	2.8%	Moderate	04/11/2021 - 04/24/2021
Litchfield	20.7	Moderate	5.1%	1.1	2.8%	Moderate	04/11/2021 - 04/24/2021
Middlesex	16.3	Moderate	2.7%	1.0	2.5%	Moderate	04/11/2021 - 04/24/2021
New Haven	28.6	High	6.7%	4.4	4.1%	High	04/11/2021 - 04/24/2021
New London	13.3	Moderate	2.4%	2.0	2.5%	Moderate	04/11/2021 - 04/24/2021
Tolland	11.6	Moderate	4.4%	0.0	2.0%	Moderate	04/11/2021 - 04/24/2021
Windham	19.0	Moderate	4.4%	1.0	2.6%	Moderate	04/11/2021 - 04/24/2021
Connecticut	22.1	Moderate	3.6%	2.6	3.5%	Moderate	04/11/2021 - 04/24/2021

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 29, 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 – 4/23/2021 – 4/29/2021

	+ Cases	Quarantine
AMSB	0	1
AMSO	0	2
ARHS	1	3
District	1	6

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.

Visits this past week by the OHD and QVHD to AMSO and AMSB were very positive. The health districts had no additional recommendations for changing our current practices and learning models at the middle schools. The health districts will be visiting the high school next week to 1) review how the return to full in-person attendance is going and 2) discuss next steps in light of the reopening of many business and relaxing of restrictions anticipated on May 19, 2021.

May 1, 2021 State Mandate Changes

On May 1, 2021, several restrictions that we have experienced for the past year are going to be lifted. Since many of our students have not yet completed their full dose of the COVID-19 vaccination or are too young to receive a vaccination, the Amity Regional School District will maintain many of our mitigation strategies and practices. All students and staff will still be required to wear a mask (both indoors and outdoors) except when eating or during designated mask breaks, practice social distancing, and maintain good hand hygiene.

CIAC Changes Quarantine Period for Student Athletes

The CIAC recently updated its guidelines for individuals quarantined as a closed contact to an index case. Quarantined athletes, coaches, officials, and other participants can be allowed to return to participation in athletics after completing 10 days of quarantine, provided a PCR test collected at day 8 or later is negative and no symptoms associated with COVID-19 were experienced throughout the entire quarantine period. Prior to the student-athlete or coach returning to participation, written documentation must be submitted and approved by school medical personnel.

Quarantine of Vaccinated Persons

Individuals who have been fully vaccinated (2 weeks after the single dose J&J vaccine or 2 weeks after the 2nd dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) are not required to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact. If your student is notified as a close contact, but has been fully vaccinated, please contact the school nurse and be prepared to show proof of your student's vaccination.

Quarantine within 90 days of COVID

For individuals who recently tested positive for COVID-19, quarantine is not recommended if another exposure occurs within 90 days after the date of symptom onset from the initial COVID infection. If your student is notified as a close contact, but was diagnosed as COVID positive within the past 90 days, they may not need to quarantine if they are asymptomatic. Please contact the school nurse and be prepared to show evidence of the positive COVID diagnosis.