

Amity Regional School District Reopening – April 2, 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

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

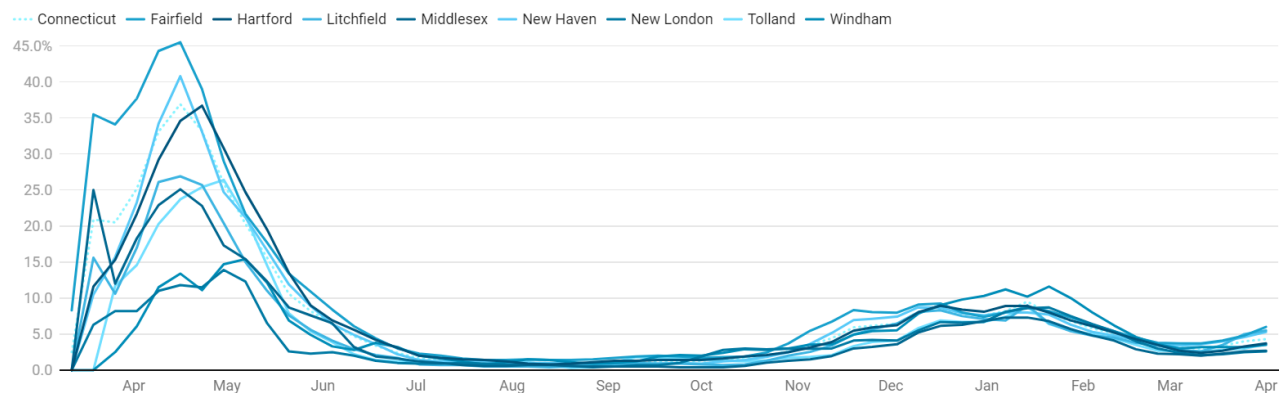
As noted in Addendum 4, “analyzing any of the suggested leading or secondary indicators at the individual town or school district level in our state may result in rates that are too unstable to be of any use in continuous decision-making.” Amity is fortunate that we can consider all three towns that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

Secondary Indicators

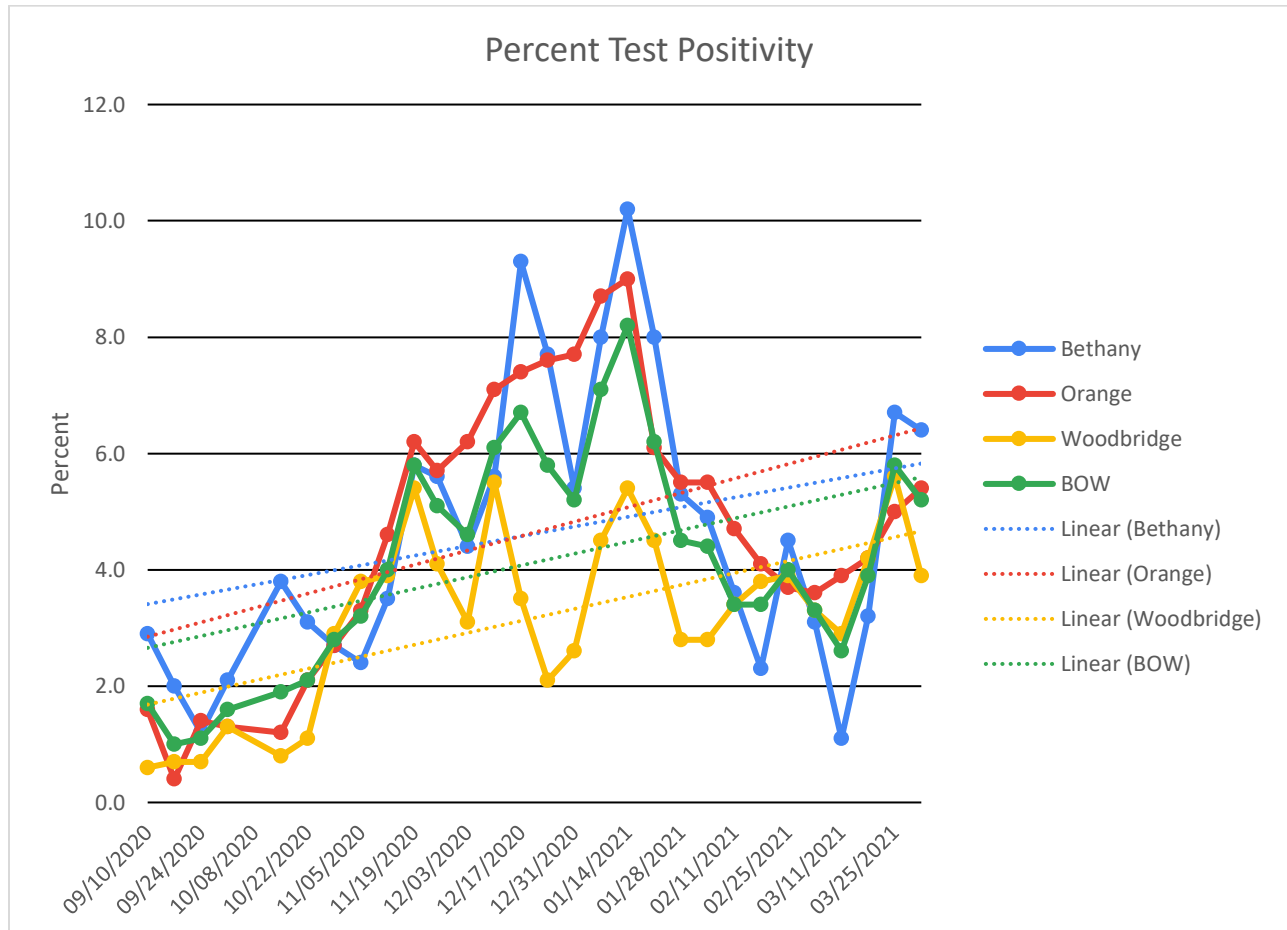
Secondary Indicators	MORE In-Person Learning	Re-assess strategies to determine appropriate balance of in-person and remote learning (hybrid learning)	LESS In-Person Learning
Percent positivity rate <i>(# of positive tests/ # of total tests, 14-day average)</i>	Secondary Indicators trending down to flat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



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

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 1, 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	36.4	High	6.0%	2.8	5.3%	High	03/14/2021 - 03/27/2021
Hartford	23.6	Moderate	3.7%	1.6	2.5%	Moderate	03/14/2021 - 03/27/2021
Litchfield	41.3	High	5.5%	0.8	4.3%	High	03/14/2021 - 03/27/2021
Middlesex	24.1	Moderate	2.7%	1.4	3.0%	Moderate	03/14/2021 - 03/27/2021
New Haven	39.6	High	5.3%	3.3	4.4%	High	03/14/2021 - 03/27/2021
New London	18.9	Moderate	2.6%	1.4	2.6%	Moderate	03/14/2021 - 03/27/2021
Tolland	16.9	Moderate	3.6%	0.0	2.4%	Moderate	03/14/2021 - 03/27/2021
Windham	20.2	Moderate	3.5%	0.3	1.8%	Moderate	03/14/2021 - 03/27/2021
Connecticut	31.1	High	4.3%	2.2	3.6%	High	03/14/2021 - 03/27/2021

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 1, 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 – 3/26/2021 – 4/1/2021

	+ Cases	Quarantine
AMSB	1	10
AMSO	1	5
ARHS	4	56
District	6	71

Next Steps

Learning Model -

The Amity School District will continue next week in the existing instructional models. Middle Schools will remain full in-person for full days (except Wednesdays) and the High School will remain full in-person with early release days.

Please check this week's school newsletters for information about changes to the dismissal times at all the schools next week due to Professional Learning and elementary school parent teacher conferences.

The middle schools are starting to plan a 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 for communication from the middle schools for when class rotations will begin.

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 Quinnipiac 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.

Update on Student Vaccination Clinic –

The DPH issued a memo that student vaccination clinics for Alliance School Districts may begin mid-April and non-Alliance Districts, such as Amity, may begin running student vaccination clinics in May. QVHD is continuing to try to arrange a partnership between Amity and Griffin Health to provide a Pfizer vaccination clinic at ARHS at the earliest possible date. We will communicate as soon as we have any information about this.