



MEDIA RELEASE

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East Hampton COVID-19 Update as of October 29, 2020

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East Hampton is at Orange Alert Level

East Hampton, CT, October 29, 2020 – The Town of East Hampton was elevated to an “Orange Alert” under the States COVID Response Framework. According to the most recent information from the Connecticut Department of Public Health, East Hampton saw twelve new cases of COVID-19 since the last report, which leads to an average daily positivity rate in the last two weeks of 11.7 per 100,000 population. The total number of diagnosed COVID-19 cases is now 96 since tracking began in March. While it is presumed that many of the earlier cases have recovered over time, these new case numbers show 30 new East Hampton cases in recent weeks. Fortunately, the Town has seen no additional deaths related to the virus and remains at three such losses.

Under the State’s new alert system, an “Orange Alert” is the second level of alert and calls for the scaling back of large events, limiting of indoor events and avoiding time with persons outside one’s household without protective measures. High risk individuals are especially encouraged to stay home and stay safe. Restaurants and businesses remain open under the State’s Phase 3 regulations and are reminded to strictly adhere to those protocols. Schools will be modifying their learning model and will communicate directly with impacted families with that information.

Chatham Health District continues to report that new cases are linked to an increase in close contacts among people at small private gatherings and in other cases without protective measures. These close contacts and the continued infections demonstrate the need to take protective measures for ourselves and others by adhering to the proper guidelines and quarantine rules while we are out and in social settings. Residents are encouraged to postpone indoor gatherings, especially those where mask wearing and social distancing cannot be maintained.

Residents are also encouraged to be tested for COVID-19 even if one has been tested before or little or no symptoms are showing. While a test is a snapshot of one’s status on the day of a test, knowledge is power as we all work to keep the virus in check in the community. To find a testing site, visit the State’s Coronavirus website at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus> and enter the appropriate zip code. Residents may also call 2-1-1 or visit www.211ct.org to find a nearby testing location. CVS Pharmacy in East Hampton is the closest site but free testing is also available in Middletown at the Community Health



Center. Due to East Hampton’s Orange Alert Status, State medical officials have prioritized residents for testing – even those who do not exhibit symptoms. When completing the questionnaire to schedule testing, please indicate that on the form.

Remember: Protect others by staying home if you are sick or have traveled to locations identified in the State’s travel advisory, covering coughs and sneezes, and regularly cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces. Especially as the case rate increases, the Health District and the Town remind residents of the importance of maintaining “social distancing” of at least 6 feet, staying away from larger groups of people, and wearing a face mask that covers both the mouth and nose whenever possible. When dining out, keep the face mask on except when actively eating or drinking. Taking these steps will allow the community to remain at Phase 3 of the reopening plan and prevent the need to roll back to greater restrictions. Adhering to these measures can also keep East Hampton and the surrounding areas out of the “Red” zone with a much higher case rate.

For the most current updates and recommendations regarding COVID-19, visit ct.gov/coronavirus. For general questions, call 2-1-1. For information on Town services, monitor the Town’s website and social media.

Other COVID-19 resources:

- COVID-19 Community Alert Infographic: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/Communications/Graphics/COVID-chart.jpg>
- COVID-19 Community Alert Map is posted here at 4:00 pm on Thursdays: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker>.

The next Town update is scheduled for the week of November 2.