



AVON
CONNECTICUT

AVON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



November 6, 2020

Dear Neighbor:

This letter serves as an update to our previous correspondence dated October 30, 2020, regarding the continued uptick in cases in our community. Due to the steadily increasing rate of COVID-19 in Connecticut, Governor Lamont has announced that the entire state will revert to a slightly modified version of the Phase 2 rules, known as "Phase 2.1," effective at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, November 6, 2020.

A chart outlining sector-specific Phase 2.1 rules in comparison to prior phases is attached to this letter for review. In addition to sector-specific capacity limitations, Phase 2.1 includes a mandatory 10:00 p.m. closing time for in-person restaurant service, entertainment and recreation venues, and indoor and outdoor events at commercial venues, as well as a 10 person gathering limit for both indoor and outdoor events in private residences.

In the last fourteen days, Avon has experienced a total of 26 cases, which equates to a case rate of 10.1 per 100,000 population, a decrease over last week's rate of 12.9 per 100,000 (33 total cases). We remain an "orange alert" community at this time. The Town, Board of Education, and the Farmington Valley Health District continue to monitor the absolute number of cases and the case rate, both in Avon and across the Farmington Valley, as well as the context of the circumstances under which the cases are occurring, as we work collaboratively to take steps to mitigate the spread of the virus in the community. We continue to see single households with multiple cases, a number of cases involving health care workers, and many cases resulting from private gatherings where social distancing and mask wearing were not observed. A few positive cases continue to occur in individuals attending, or working at, the Avon Public Schools, however to date we have not observed instances of secondary transmission in the schools.

Avon High School will continue to operate under the hybrid learning model until further notice in order to better facilitate contact tracing efforts in the event of additional positive cases, given that we are unable to work within cohorts of students at AHS. All other Avon Public Schools continue to be open for in-person learning at this time. Safety measures will continue to be reinforced with staff, students and families. We are hopeful that our efforts to reduce community spread will be successful so that our schools can remain open.

Preventing a continued increase in cases in Avon must be a community-wide effort and we must all do our part to prevent the spread of the virus. We remind residents of the following:

- COVID-19 symptoms may vary significantly from person to person and many of the symptoms are similar to those of other illnesses. Do not assume that your symptoms are something else! If you have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, isolate and get tested. Be sure to remain isolated while you await your test results.
- Small social gatherings can have a significant impact on the spread of disease and are impacting our case rate. This is particularly problematic as we move into the colder seasons. **LIMIT or ELIMINATE** all social activities outside of your immediate family unit.

- We know that transmission can occur among individuals who are not experiencing any symptoms (asymptomatic). Testing is available for anyone seeking a test. Anyone that believes they have been exposed is also urged to seek testing. Asymptomatic individuals should seek a PCR test as these are more sensitive than the rapid test and are more likely to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals.
- The basic control strategies of proper mask wearing, social distancing, staying home when sick and hand hygiene continue to be critically important in slowing the spread.
- High risk individuals should stay safe and stay home.

We will continue to provide the community with updates regarding the status of cases in Avon as new information becomes available. Please do not hesitate to contact the Town at (860) 409-4300, the Board of Education at (860) 404-4700, or the Farmington Valley Health District at (860) 352-2333 with questions. Be safe and be well.

Warmest Regards,

Brandon Robertson

Brandon Robertson
Town Manager

Bridget H. Carnemolla

Dr. Bridget Heston Carnemolla
Superintendent of Schools

Jennifer C. Kertanis

Jennifer C. Kertanis, MPH
Director of the Farmington Valley Health District

Attachment

Phase Comparisons

Industry	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 2.1 - Effective 11/6/20
Restaurants	Up to 50% capacity indoors with 6 ft spacing and/or non-porous barriers	Up to 75% capacity indoors with 6 ft spacing and/or non-porous barriers	Up to 50% capacity indoors with 6 ft spacing and/or non-porous barriers Max of 8 people/table
Personal Services	Up to 50% capacity indoors with 6 ft spacing and/or non-porous barriers	Up to 75% capacity indoors with 6 ft spacing and/or non-porous barriers	See Phase 3 rules
Libraries	Up to 50% capacity indoors	Up to 75% capacity indoors	See Phase 3 rules
Outdoor Event Venues (e.g. Amphitheaters, Race Tracks)	Up to 25% with social distancing and masks required	Up to 50% with social distancing and masks required	Up to 25% with social distancing and masks required
Indoor Performing Arts Theaters	Closed	Up to 50% capacity with 6 ft spacing between parties	Up to 50% capacity with 6 ft spacing between parties, capped at 100 people
Indoor Recreation	Up to 50% with social distancing and masks required	Up to 50% with social distancing and masks required	Up to 50% with social distancing and masks required, movie theaters and similar entertainment venues capped at 100 people
Private, Social and Recreational Gathering Sizes – Commercial Venue	Indoor – Cap of 25 people Outdoor – Cap of 100 people	Indoor – Up to 50% capacity, capped at 100 people Outdoor – Cap of 150 people	Indoor – Cap of 25 people Outdoor – Cap of 50 people
Private, Social and Recreational Gathering Sizes – Private Residences	Indoor – Cap of 25 people Outdoor – Cap of 100 people	Indoor – Cap of 25 people Outdoor – Cap of 150 people	Indoor – Cap of 10 people Outdoor – Cap of 10 people
Graduations	Indoor – Not allowed Outdoor – One time exemption capped at 150 people with masks and social distancing required	Indoor – Up to 50% capacity, capped at 200 with masks and social distancing required Outdoor – Up to 50% capacity or 6 ft spacing, no capacity limit with masks and social distancing required	Indoor – Up to 50% capacity, capped at 100 with masks and social distancing required Outdoor – See Phase 3 rules
Religious Gatherings	Indoor – Up to 25% capacity capped at 100 people Outdoor – Capped at 150 people	Indoor – Up to 50% capacity, capped at 200 with masks and social distancing required Outdoor – Up to 50% capacity or 6 ft spacing, no capacity limit with masks and social distancing required	Indoor – Up to 50% capacity, capped at 100 with masks and social distancing required Outdoor – See Phase 3 rules

Courtesy of the Department of Community & Economic Development:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Sector-Rules-and-Certification-for-Reopen>