



AVON
CONNECTICUT



October 30, 2020

Dear Neighbor:

This letter serves as an update to our previous correspondence dated October 22, 2020, regarding the continued uptick in cases in our community.

Yesterday afternoon, Governor Lamont released an update to the Department of Public Health's weekly color-coded COVID-19 alert map¹ for all municipalities in the state, identifying the average daily case rate per 100,000 population over the last two weeks, not including data from assisted living facilities and nursing homes. With this update, Avon remains in the "orange alert" zone for municipalities with case rates between 10 and 14 per 100,000 population. In the last fourteen days, Avon has experienced a total of 33 cases, which equates to a case rate of 12.9 per 100,000 population, a slight increase over last week's rate of 12.1 per 100,000 (31 total cases). As we have previously indicated, Avon's ongoing designation as an orange alert community is not cause for immediate concern, however it does call for increased vigilance when it comes to limiting gatherings, mask wearing and social distancing.

We continue to monitor not only the absolute number of cases and the case rate, but also 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. Based on the contact tracing work completed by the Farmington Valley Health District, we continue to see a number of positive cases clustered in single households which have since isolated, as well as a number of cases involving health care workers. Additionally, we continue to see a few positive cases in individuals that either work at, or attend, the Avon Public Schools, however none of these cases were acquired in the school setting and there have been no instances of secondary transmission in the schools as a result of these cases. It is absolutely critical to note that many of the positive cases in our community can be traced to small, private social gatherings where the attendees refrained from wearing masks and did not social distance.

In addition to the updated alert map, yesterday the Governor issued Executive Order 9J, which provides orange and red alert municipalities with the authority to revert to the Phase II sector rules and limitations for gatherings, businesses, activities, and religious gatherings in an effort to reduce community spread. We have enclosed a table comparing the Phase II sector rules to those currently in effect under Phase III.

At this time, the Town is electing to remain at Phase III until further notice. As previously noted, the majority of Avon's cases are being traced back to small, private social gatherings, rather than our local businesses and houses of worship. Additionally, for many of our businesses, there is no practical difference between their Phase II and Phase III business models because, due to space limitations, they are unable to increase their occupancy to the levels permitted by Phase III, while also maintaining the required social distancing for their customers. While the Town is electing maintain the status quo at this time, please note that we continue to closely monitor our cases and their context and may make the determination to revert back to Phase II in the coming weeks if the data indicates that taking this step may help to prevent additional community transmission.

¹ portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker

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.

The Town, Board of Education, and Farmington Valley Health District continue to coordinate our response efforts and we will provide the community with updates as the situation progresses. 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

Industry	Phase 2	Phase 3
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
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
Libraries	Up to 50% capacity indoors	Up to 75% capacity indoors
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
Indoor Performing Arts Theaters	Closed	Up to 50% capacity with 6 ft spacing between parties
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
Private, Social and Recreational Gathering Sizes – Private Residences	Maximum of 25 people	Maximum of 25 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
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