



Town of Cromwell

October 29, 2020

Press Release

Office of the Town Manager
Anthony J. Salvatore

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Enza Macri

Dear Cromwell Community,

We hope this letter continues to find you and your loved ones well.

Today, the Town of Cromwell was notified by the Department of Public Health that the COVID-19 risk level has been elevated from orange to red. This means that the positive COVID-19 cases rate is at 15+ per 100,000 residents per day over a 2 week average. A red risk level indicates that community spread is rising. See the [Connecticut Department of Public Health Town-Level COVID Response Framework Chart](#) below.

As of today, Cromwell has a cumulative count of 215 positive cases. Approximately 105 of these positive cases (50%) are from long term care facilities leaving approximately 110 cases (50%) from the remainder of the community. This equates to .73% of Cromwell's total population of approximately 15,000 residents. Of the 110 positive cases in the general community, 9 are under the age of 18 and 7 attend Cromwell Public Schools. As of April 1, 2020, we have lost 34 of our residents. All but two have been in long term care facilities. As a community, we mourn the loss of all the residents that have been lost during the pandemic. In the majority of the positive cases, symptoms are mild, but we need to redouble our efforts to stop the spread and avoid further infection. The local case rate per day over a two week average is at 18 persons per 100,000 population as of this date.

Due to the increase in positive cases in Cromwell, town and school officials, in consultation with the Cromwell Health Department, are asking all residents for full cooperation. In order to decrease the cases and keep everyone as safe as possible, we must implement the following mitigation strategies and not minimize the need to utilize precautionary measures. **It is more imperative than ever to please:**

- **wear masks/face coverings in public places at all times**
- **respect social distancing guidelines**
- **and take extra precautions if you are at high-risk should you contract the coronavirus**

As a community, we must work together to increase public awareness. This includes moving activities to outdoors when possible and minimizing social gatherings. Over the next few days, we will be evaluating all indoor and outdoor activities and making decisions on how to move forward. Once this information is determined, we will share it with the community.

The school system will continue to reinforce and monitor safety measures with staff, students and families. They will also re-assess strategies to determine the appropriate balance of in-person, hybrid and remote learning.

Mitigation strategies are fluid as the status of COVID-19 is ever-changing. The Town of Cromwell is working hard to keep all residents safe. The town is currently reviewing the option of going from Phase 3 to Phase 2 and will make that determination on Monday, November 2, 2020. However, primary indicators suggest the town remain in Phase 3 of the Governor's Plan.

For additional information on COVID-19 symptoms, please see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>







Residents, staff and students that are exhibiting any of the above symptoms, or feeling ill, should call their medical provider to report their symptoms and ask about testing prior to seeking in-person care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital.

For more information on what to do if you or a family member has possible symptoms, a diagnosis, or exposure to COVID-19, please see:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/Addendum-5-Interim-Guidance-for-Responding-to-COVID-19-Scenarios-in-CT-School-Districts.pdf>

Together, the Town of Cromwell and the Cromwell Public Schools are closely monitoring this situation and working in collaboration with the Department of Public Health. We appreciate all the effort that the community will engage in to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus so that we do not see an additional upsurge in our community. If there are any updates to this situation, we will notify you in a timely manner.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TOWN-LEVEL COVID RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

	Yellow 5-9 cases per 100k per day	Orange 10-14 cases per 100k per day	Red 15+ cases per 100k per day
 DPH Response	Outreach to Local Health Department	ENCOURAGE TESTING FOR ASYMPTOMATIC RESIDENTS	
		Weekly calls with Local Officials	Issue Public Health Alert
 Individuals	Masks, distancing, extra precautions for high risk	Avoid larger events, limit time with non-family members	Limit trips outside home, avoid gatherings with non-family members
 Communities	Scale up public awareness, social media	Scale back public events	Cancel public events and limit community gathering points; Reverse 9-1-1
 Organized Group Activities	Move activities outdoors where possible	Limit group sizes; Postpone indoor activities where mask wearing or social distancing cannot be maintained	Postpone all indoor activities; Postpone outdoor activities where mask wearing or social distancing cannot be maintained
 Pre K-12 Schools	Re-Enforce and monitor safety measures with staff, students and families	Maximize spacing, mask wearing, ventilation and hygiene to support in-person learning	In collaboration with Local Health Department and Superintendent, consider more distance learning above 25
 Business & Sector Rules	REMINDE STAFF TO ASSESS THEIR SYMPTOMS DAILY AND NOT REPORT TO WORK IF THEY ARE ILL		
	Phase 3 with enhanced enforcement	Phase 3 with enhanced enforcement	Municipal option to revert to Phase 2



**CT DPH would like to remind everyone of the 3 W's:
Wear your mask, Wash your hands, and Watch your distance!**