



COVID19 Update

Friends and neighbors,

Over the last two weeks, we have seen an increase in the number of positive COVID19 cases in our community. As of yesterday's case report from Torrington Area Health Department, we have had 11 cases this month. There was an expectation of an increase in the weeks after Halloween, and I am concerned as we head into these last eight weeks of the year. College students will be returning home from school, the colder weather is pushing people inside, families want to gather for Thanksgiving. We all have to do our part to keep safe as we continue to stay safe and slow the spread of COVID19.

Testing: We will be standing up a drive-thru COVID19 testing site this Monday, November 23rd in the parking lot at Town Hall from 10:00am - 2:00pm. New Milford VNA will be conducting the testing. This is a PCR test and you will receive results in approximately 48 hours. Please keep in mind that due to current lab capacities, testing is prioritized for those who are symptomatic or have had a known close contact with a positive case.

To register:

- For planning purposes, please register using [this hyperlink](#) to choose either the morning or afternoon session.
- Once you have registered, click [this hyperlink](#), or visit our website, www.townofkentct.org, to download the COVID19 Testing Consent Form. Complete the fillable form, print out and sign it. (forms are also available at Kent Station Pharmacy). Bring the completed form, along with a copy of your insurance card, with you. If you do not have insurance, just bring the completed form.

Note: be prepared to wait in line. Due to demand, testing is on a first-come-first-served basis. New Milford VNA will have two nurses and they have conducted hundreds of these tests so the flow should move fairly quickly, but please be patient.

Other testing locations: There is an obvious shortage of testing sites in the Northwest corner. On statewide calls with both the Governor and the DPH Commissioner, I asked for more testing sites within a reasonable distance of our rural towns. The Commissioner reported that they are looking to add some sites in the coming weeks and I offered our town as an option. I will update you as we find out more information.

If you are looking for testing and cannot wait to get tested on Monday here in town, visit the [State's 2-1-1 website](#) and enter your zip code to see on a map nearby testing location.

Travel Advisory: As of today, Vermont has been added to the Governor's Travel Advisory, leaving only New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island, and Hawaii.

If you are thinking about travelling over the Thanksgiving holiday, *please seriously consider staying put instead*. If you do choose to travel, please keep in mind:

- The CDC has just issued [new guidance regarding Thanksgiving travel](#) - in short, **"the safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving is to celebrate it at home with the people you live with"**.
- check the [CDC COVID Data Tracker page](#) to understand the infection rate of the state you may be heading to;
- review the notification and quarantine requirements of the [Governor's Travel Advisory](#), and please follow the guidance for returning home.
- many think of the risks around air travel is the air quality; recent data shows air quality in an airplane is relatively high; the risk isn't necessarily in sitting in your seat, but the many other risks that occur during an air travel journey - getting on and off, moving items around, using restrooms, the multiple touchpoints that occur during movement

through multiple airports - that end up being the cause of an infection.

COVID Alert CT app: COVID Alert CT is a voluntary, anonymous, exposure-notification smartphone app. You will get an alert if you were in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19. Knowing about a potential exposure allows you to self-quarantine immediately, get tested, and reduce the potential exposure risk to your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others. Visit the [COVID Alert CT webpage](#) for details and instructions for enabling notifications on your iPhone and downloading the app for Android devices.

Town Hall: While Town Hall continues to be closed to public access, we continue to be open for business. Please do not hesitate to call any office or department with questions or requests - accommodations will be made while keeping the health of the public and our staff our priority. We continue to reevaluate these decisions as we move through the pandemic.

Where to find information: Below are hyperlinks to find up-to-date COVID19 data:

- [CDC COVID19 Data Tracker page](#)
- [State of CT DPH COVID19 Data Tracker page](#)
- [State of CT Travel Advisory page](#)

It's so important to stay safe as we head into this second wave, and stay committed to the

"3Ws"

Wear A Mask | Wash Your Hands | Watch Your Distance

Lastly, a new term is emerging. "COVID-fatigue" is defined as being exhausted by the chronic stress, sustained disruptions to "normal" life, worry about friends & family. We are all living with these stresses every day.

Remember...

...take a breath,

...give folks a minute,

...assume some positive intent.

Stay well,

Jean

Important Dates

November 24 and 25: Town Hall will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

visit the [events page](#) on our website for a full schedule of all meetings

Giving back during the pandemic

These are difficult times, I think everyone feels the palpable stresses from so many angles. As I've said so many times, Kent is an amazingly generous community. We make meals when someone comes home from the hospital; we help our neighbors cut up trees after storms; we come together in times of adversity.

Here are some ways you can help give back to families locally and across the state.



The Kent Santa Fund assists local children under the age of 16 during the holiday season. The fund, which operates anonymously, utilizes community and business members who shop and donate gifts without knowing the participants. COVID-19 has caused the Kent Santa Fund to change the way we will assist the local children. This year, in lieu of gifts, the Kent Santa Fund will be providing gift cards to the families. The gift cards will allow the families to prioritize their needs during the holidays. The community has always been very generous. We hope that you will consider making a monetary donation to the Kent Santa Fund. You'll be helping members of our community who live with the harsh reality of financial insecurity every single day. Donations should be made payable and mailed to Kent Santa Fund, P.O. Box 678, Kent, Ct 06757. or placed in the white drop box next to the front door of Town Hall.

Contact Joyce directly at 860.927.4627
or adminassist@townofkentct.org. with questions.

The weather has already begun it's march toward the single digits. Two years ago, on a lark, I emailed a group of friends to collect coats for Coats for CT.

my goal was to collect 50 coats in four days. We ended up collecting 167 coats!

I drove my car, stuffed to the brim with bags of coats, to the drop-off location.

I hope we can beat that number this year. We have two drop-off locations:

**The front porch of Bain Real Estate
(21 North Main Street)
and**

The rear entrance of the Kent Town Hall.

Drop-off one coat or 20!

Deadline to drop-off is November 25th.

Shop local to support community businesses

The Kent Chamber of Commerce wants everyone to be safe in this unique time. Shopping locally this holiday season a great way to support our local businesses, and stay close to home.

Our businesses are all taking the Statewide Sector Rules seriously to protect both workers and shoppers.

Visit the [Chamber of Commerce website](#) for more information on shopping local.



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visit our website: www.townofkentct.org

