

October 28th 2020 update

The news this week regarding the spread of COVID-19 throughout the state was sobering. As positivity climbs higher in the state, the experts tell us we are entering a dangerous new phase of the pandemic.

Department of Public Health Releases COVID Color alert system:

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) launched a new weekly, color-coded COVID-19 alert system for every city and town in the state, showing the average daily case rate per 100,000 population for the last two weeks and classifying number recent cases with a color-coded framework; gray (lowest recent case count), yellow, orange and red (highest recent case counts). The new weekly alert level is also accompanied by municipal-level guidance on recommended actions for individual residents, institutions such as schools, houses of worship and community organizations, plus municipal leaders and local health directors.

The data can be found here: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker>

At this time, the town of Manchester is listed as Yellow, with 8.4 cases per 100,000 (data reported 10/4 to 10/17).

Arbors COVID Stage System: In relation to this framework, Arbors of Hop Brook has designated COVID Risk Stages Guidance, which follows the Department of Public Health Framework, as a method to communicate activity, programing and visitor guidelines appropriate to meet the level of prevalence in the community and surrounding county.

The Arbors Risk Stag Guidance will be updated and evaluated on a weekly basis. Our current stage will be posted on our community TV channel and at the entry way.

Testing Update: Based on guidance from Department of Public Health, Arbors staff and caregivers will be tested for COVID weekly. We will be offering resident COVID testing on a regular basis and more dates will be announced soon.

Vaccine Update: Based on information from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Arbors has opted to partner with CVS to provide vaccination

services to residents, which has been classified as a priority group. We are in the beginning stages of planning for on-site vaccinations. The nation-wide vaccination service is supposed to be a 3-phase approach to vaccination based on supply availability. No more information is available or known at this time, but we will continue to provide updates as they become available.

Travel Advisory: The state's Travel Advisory directs all travelers to self-quarantine for a 14-day period when entering or returning to Connecticut from one of the identified states. Please note, the state of Connecticut does offer travelers an “opt out” of the quarantine by testing prior to travel, however, visitors to Arbors must participate in a quarantine to come onsite. This is because the tests often fail to show when someone is carrying COVID if their exposure has been very recent (e.g. during travel). They are more accurate five to seven days from exposure. Flying carries additional risks because it requires being in a confined space with others. Travelers from other states should be advised of the 14-day quarantine requirement.

All states **with the exception of** Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New Jersey, Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii are part of the Connecticut travel advisory.

A Note About The Holidays and Family Gatherings: Even if there's no travel involved, gathering indoors with extended family and friends can be risky, especially for persons over 65. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says people 65 years and older are at higher risk for getting a severe case of COVID-19. About 80% of all deaths in the U.S. from COVID-19 have been of people in this age group.

Anthony Fauci, one of the nation's top COVID-19 medical experts and the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has warned that coronavirus cases could spike if as families gather and celebrate indoors.

These decisions aren't easy. We are all wanting to see loved ones and to keep up traditions. But the reality is there's no way to protect from COVID if you choose to gather with others. The safest thing to do is stay home and opt to not spend time with extended family this year.

Thank you and stay safe! Chanté Drasdis, Executive Director

Arbors COVID Risk Exposure is currently at:

Moderate

Town of Manchester COVID Response Level is currently at:

Yellow

Risk escalation can be related to local area or community factors.
Exposure Risk will be re-evaluated: **on November 6th**

Resident and Visitor Guidelines During

Moderate Exposure Risk

Resident Activities

Groups of 5 or fewer residents gathering in community

External activities visitors prohibited (yoga instructor, lecturers, etc)

Follow additional COVID Warning steps about outings

Dining

Communal dining capacity limited to state guidelines.

Tablemates unchanged until risk level is reduced (residents may opt for room service).

Visitors

Visitors discouraged from non-essential visits. Outside visits or chat room visits available (2 adult visitors at once). Visitors encouraged to participate in COVID testing within 72 hours of visiting

External activities visitors prohibited (yoga instructor, lecturers, etc)

Sales tours limited to 3 scheduled visitors at a time, limited touring

Visitors coming from a travel advisory location may not enter Arbors until in Connecticut for 14 days






COVID Warning

Moderate Exposure Risk

High Exposure Risk

Building Quarantine

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
	ENCOURAGE TESTING FOR ASYMPTOMATIC RESIDENTS		
	Outreach to Local Health Department	Weekly calls with Local Officials	Issue Public Health Alert
	HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS SHOULD STAY HOME, STAY SAFE		
	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
	Scale up public awareness, social media	Scale back public events	Cancel public events and limit community gathering points; Reverse 9-1-1
	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
	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
	REMAND 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!**