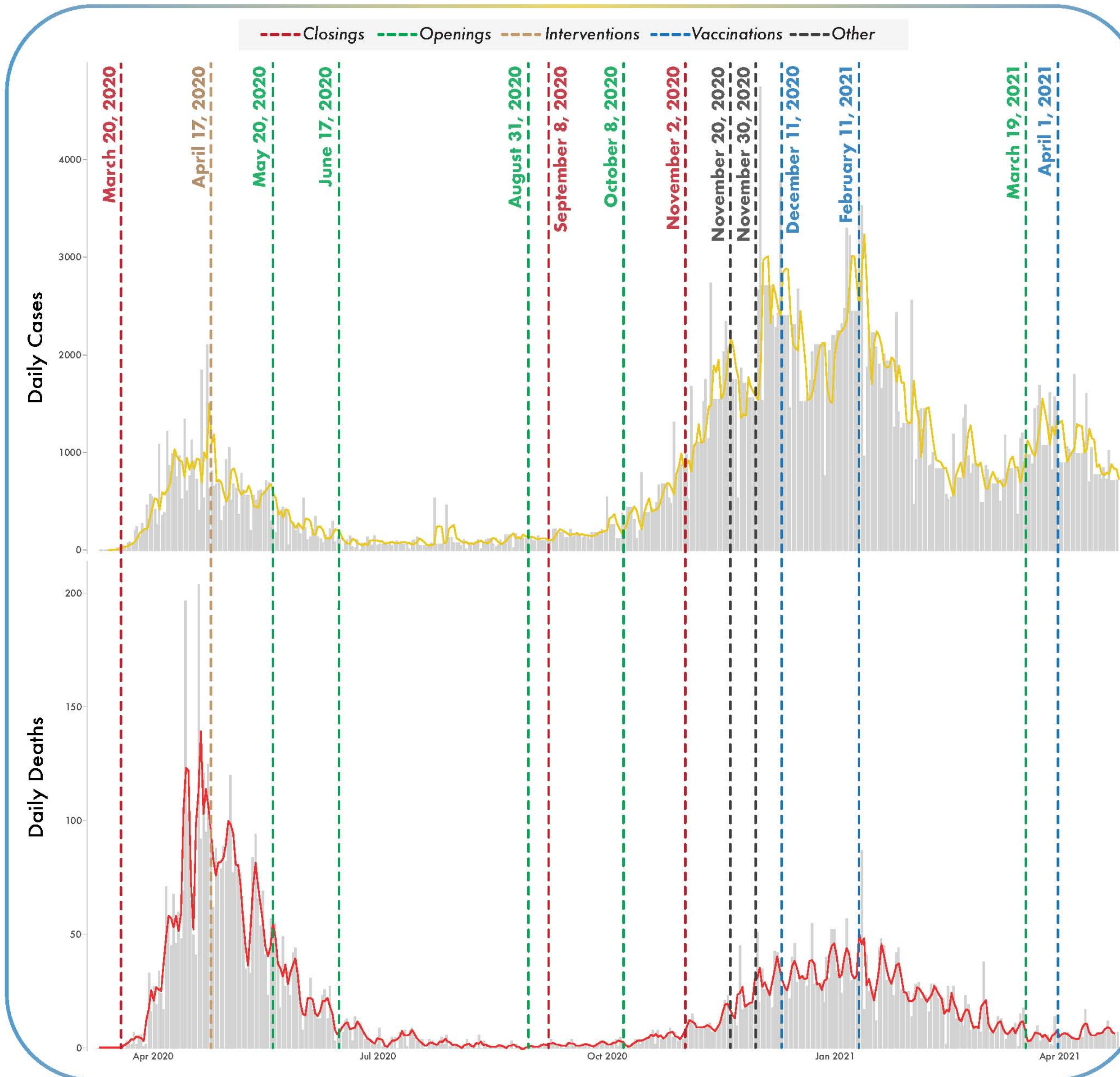


A Year of Decisions: A Spatiotemporal Visualization of COVID-19 and Executive Orders in Connecticut

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Background

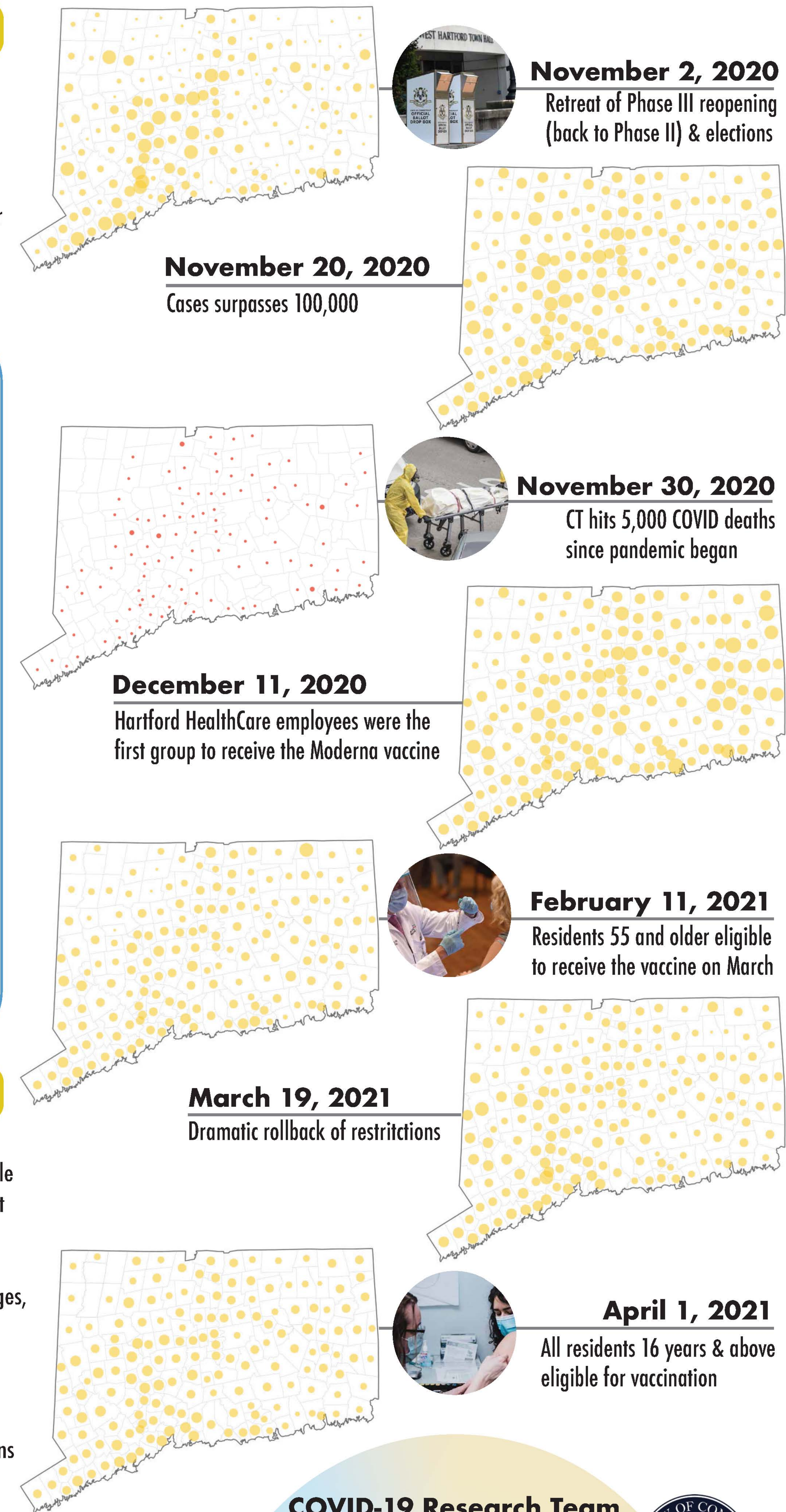
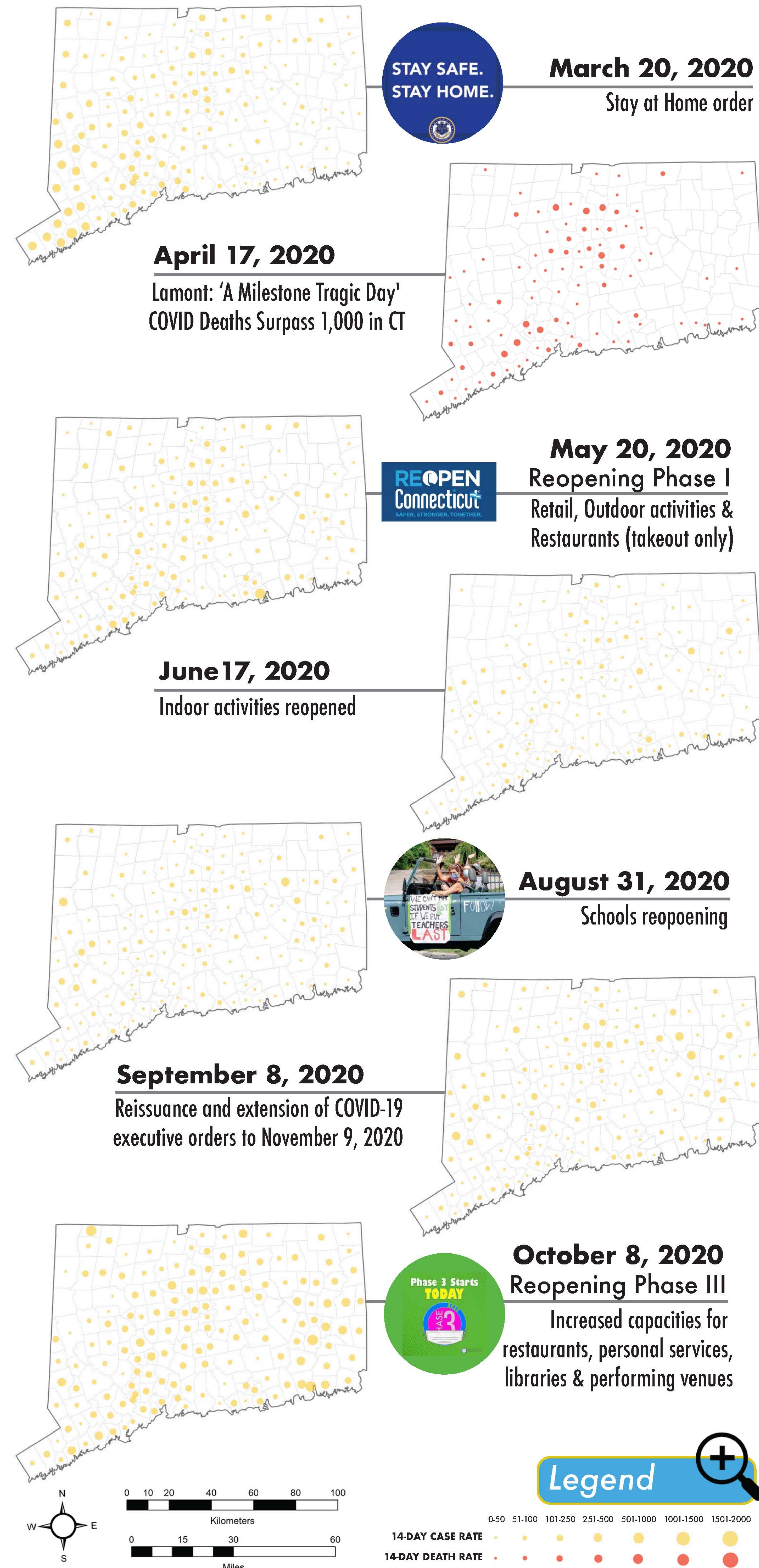
The coronavirus pandemic is not just the biggest story of the past 1-2 years. It is the defining moment of a generation. This visualization attempt is the first of its kind to provide a spatiotemporal story from the first case to the first vaccine and beyond for the state. Little is known about the impact of these policy decisions on the spatiotemporal spread of COVID-19 in the state. This timeline of maps shows several key executive orders and other significant events in the year following the first reported case in the state. Each map shows the 14-day case or death rate after each key event or executive order in yellow and red, respectively. The two graphs in the center display the daily cases and deaths for the state over the same time-period along with the selected events identified as closings, openings, interventions, vaccinations or other.



Where do we go from here?

It's hard to believe that at the beginning of 2020, people hadn't even heard of COVID-19, and now our lives are upended by it. The year 2020 was incredibly hard for families and vulnerable people in our communities but we can finally see light at the end of the tunnel. All Connecticut residents 16 and older started getting the COVID-19 vaccine starting April 1st, 2021. As of April 24th, 2021, 52.7% of the population have received at least 1st dose, and 35.9% are fully vaccinated. Governor Lamont announced that the state plans to move forward in two stages, both contingent on declining coronavirus metrics and rising vaccination rates. First, on May 1, the state will lift all outdoor restrictions, including allowing bars to operate outdoors without serving food. Then, on May 19, the state will do away with the remaining restrictions. That means bars will be able to open indoors, event venue and stadium capacity limits will be removed, and social distancing requirements will be dropped. In addition, gathering restrictions for private events will be eliminated. The one exception to the reopening is the indoor mask mandate.

Only time and continued tracking of spatiotemporal spread of COVID-19 cases and deaths such as our visualization can say whether this executive order is premature or not!



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