



COVID-19 UPDATE:

There are **14** confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex and one death. In Middlesex County there are 545 confirmed cases, 38 hospitalizations and 57 deaths. Statewide there are 23,100 confirmed cases, 1,947 hospitalizations and 1,639 deaths due to COVID-19. There have been 71,497 patients tested for COVID-19.

The rate of hospitalizations has been slowing but we must keep up the social distancing and other measures so we can look toward getting things up and running again in the safest possible manner.

Please check on your neighbors and friends. We will get through this together.

Stay safe,

Norm

[Town Website](#)

Congress adopted a new round of funding for the Paycheck Protection Program- \$320 Billion:

- In order to get a head start on the process, contact your lender now, let them know you will be applying for the PPP and complete the application in advance. [Click Here](#) for the application.
- For a list of approved US Small Business Administration (SBA) lenders in Connecticut [Click Here](#).
- Check here for updates from SBA: www.sba.gov

Other Grants and Opportunities to help business owners:

- [GoFundMe](#) Small Business Relief Fund is supplying businesses who raise at least \$500 in a fundraising campaign and have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 with matching grants. These businesses must be independently owned and not nationally dominant. The grant must be used to pay for employees or ongoing business expenses.

- The Council of Fashion Designers of America and Vogue are offering grants of up to \$100,000 for fashion industry businesses at least two years old and with less than \$10 million in annual revenue and fewer than 30 employees. [Click Here](#)
- Licensed beauty professionals out of work are eligible for \$1,000 grants from Beauty Changes Lives. [Click Here](#)
- Spanx and the Spanx By Sara Blakely Foundation are administering 1000 grants of \$5,000 to women-owned small businesses every month. [Click Here](#)
- Duke University has created a [collective list](#) of roughly 400 grants available to small businesses in the United States; and GrantWatch is [monitoring grants](#) for nonprofits and small businesses.

How We Feel App to provide health officials with critical data

“HOW WE FEEL” APP

Anonymously Provide Scientists with Health Information Needed to Understand the Spread of COVID-19

For Every New Signup, *How We Feel* Will Donate a Meal to People in Need

Help Your Neighbors. Help Pinpoint COVID-19 Hot Spots



DOWNLOAD ON THE APPLE APP STORE AND THE GOOGLE PLAY STORE



4/20 - Governor Ned Lamont today announced that the State of Connecticut is partnering with the developers of the How We Feel app in an effort to anonymously provide scientists with critical health information needed to understand the spread of COVID-19.

The How We Feel app is an initiative to anonymously provide scientists with critical health information needed to understand the spread of COVID-19. Users self-report basic health information into the app once per day, and the data is anonymously provided to leading medical institutions so scientists and public health officials can better spot emerging outbreaks early, identify new populations who are at risk, and measure the efficacy of public health measures such as social distancing.

Available to download for free in the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play store](#), it is supported by a nonprofit organization and does not require logging in or the sharing of any personal details, such as name or email address. In addition to being available to download to mobile devices, users can also complete the survey through a web version available at howwefeel.app.

Connecticut receives \$2 million federal grant for mental health services in response to pandemic.

The Connecticut Department of Mental Health announced Wednesday that the grant has been awarded to address the behavioral health care needs of different populations heavily impacted by the pandemic. The list includes people with severe mental illness, substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders, youth with severe emotional disturbances and their families, individuals with less severe mental health conditions, and health care practitioners.

Update on the processing of unemployment claims by the Connecticut Department of Labor

The Department of Labor has processed more than 320,000 of the 397,000 unemployment claims it has received since March 13. With the new technology enhancements, the processing time should be reduced to about one week by the close of this week. Benefits will be retroactive to the date a person needed to apply. The direct deposit option is the quickest method to receive the benefits.

LATEST COVID-19 FACTS

- [COVID-19 Testing Sites Locator](#)
- [COVID-19 Self Checker](#)
- [Center for Disease Control](#)
- [State of CT Coronavirus Information](#)
- [Governor Lamont Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Emergency Orders Issued by Governor Lamont](#)

FOR INFO ON COVID-19 CALL 2-1-1

STAY HOME. STOP THE SPREAD. SAVE LIVES.

Sign up for Safer Essex Emergency Alerts

Receive alerts about critical community information directly to your cell phone or email. Go to www.essexct.gov and search "Safer Essex" or call 860-760-4340 x112.

Sign up for Essex News

Encourage your friends and neighbors to receive this newsletter. Simply send an email request to essexnews@essexct.gov to be added to our distribution list.

Sign up for Weekly Check-In Call

Residents age 62+ are encouraged to sign up for a weekly check-in call from a volunteer. Please call Essex Social Services Department at

860-767-4340 x 201.

Town of Essex