



COVID-19 UPDATE:

There are [14](#) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex and one coronavirus related death.

Yesterday, the governor announced that in mid-May the state plans on starting a computerized contact tracing system called ContaCT, created in cooperation with Microsoft, for tracing the contacts of patients with COVID-19. This will allow a notice to be sent to people without symptoms to self quarantine after confirmed contact with COVID-19 patients. Participation is not mandatory but the more people who choose to participate, the more effective the program will be. Tracing information will be kept confidential.

"The program will be performed by the Department of Public Health personnel and people from the 64 local health departments statewide, along with trained and credentialed people from the academic realm, including schools of public health, medicine, nursing and social work" said Kristen Soto, surveillance coordinator for the DPH.

I know this pandemic cannot be over fast enough. It's been difficult for everyone but we must not be complacent. Please continue adhering to the safety measures implemented including, washing hands frequently, practice social distancing (6ft), wear a mask, and stay home if you can.

Hope is on the horizon,

Norm

[Town Website](#)

COVID-19 Low Interest Rate

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town of Essex is granting a lower rate of interest on taxes. Interest is normally charged at the rate of 1.5% per month, 18% per year from the due date of the tax, with a portion of a month being considered a full month. However, the Board of Selectmen has voted for a program that will allow for a lower rate of interest: .25% per month, or 3% per year, from the due date of the tax, **for a period of up to 90 days only**. If paid after 90 days, the interest will revert to the previous rate.

CT Dept of Labor Has Started Issuing Supplemental \$600 Stimulus Payments for State Unemployment Benefits

The additional \$600 weekly payment, known as Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, was created as part of the emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is retroactive to March 29, 2020 and will be provided through July 25, 2020. For those who already received unemployment benefits for previous weeks - such as April 4, 11, and 18 - the agency will be providing retroactive payments as a lump sum by the end of this week.

Claimants can check their online accounts on the CTDOL website at www.filectui.com and see the deposits were issued over the weekend. Those who receive payments through direct deposit should begin seeing the additional amount appearing in their bank accounts by Tuesday.

Benefits Coming for Self Employed

CTDOL continues to work nonstop to implement the remaining two recently established federal stimulus programs:

- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), which provides **benefits for self-employed individuals** among others. Applications expected to be available on April 30th. [Click Here](#) for FAQ's (Pg 2-4)
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), a 13-week extension that allows eligible claimants to collect the additional weeks after exhausting the 26 weeks of state benefits. Anticipated to be in operation by mid-May. [Click Here](#) for FAQ's (Pg 4-5)

Both programs will be retroactive.

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

“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**



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