Dear Friends and Neighbors,

One of the things keeping many of us sane during this time of social distancing is getting outside, and luckily, Essex is an easily navigated space, with sidewalks and hiking trails. Let's continue to take the proper precautions to stay safe.

The CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) announced the following measures to reduce crowding and help visitors to #StaySafeOutdoors:

- Picnic tables/areas in State Parks & Forests are closed
- "Walk-in" visitors are not allowed when Parks are closed
- Solitary recreation is recommended and groups of more than 5 are prohibited
- Violations of these and other rules associated with Executive Orders can be prosecuted as "up to Class D felonies" and may include a ban from State Parks and other properties for 30 days

See the full DEEP press release here.

Governor Lamont signs his 21st Executive Order No. 7T:

- **Access Health CT** extends special enrollment period for uninsured residents to April 17
- **Department of Social Services** extends deadline to apply for winter home-heating assistance
- **Department of Social Services** extends Emergency SNAP benefits to 97,000 households
- **Department of Revenue Services** extends filing
HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Please support the Town's Emergency Assistance Fund by donating today to help residents in need. Donations should be mailed to the Town of Essex Social Services Department, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT 06426.

- Residents age 62 and over are invited to participate in a new program where you will receive a weekly check-in call from a community volunteer for the duration of social distancing. Please call the Social Services Department at **860-767-4340 x 201** to register. Please pass this information along to anyone you think would benefit from this service.

LATEST COVID-19 FACTS

- [Center for Disease Control](#)
- [State of CT Coronavirus Information](#)
- [Governor Lamont Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Emergency Orders Issued by Governor Lamont](#)

STAY HOME. STOP THE SPREAD. SAVE LIVES.

Register 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 Safer Essex Emergency Alerts
Receive alerts about critical community information directly to your cell phone or email. Go to [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov) and search "Safer Essex" or call 860-760-4340 x112.