

May 1, 2020

Special Issue



For Info on COVID-19 Call 211

[Town Website](#)

COVID-19 UPDATE:

There are **15** confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex and one coronavirus related death.

Our hearts go out to those inflicted with this illness and those who have lost loved ones as a result of this virus.

While we have endured several weeks of restrictions and social distancing requirements, we still need to maintain our course for some time going forward. We cannot jeopardize the significant progress made that brings our state close to an anticipated reopening around May 20th. The reopening of the economy will happen in phases over a period of time. We will get there.

Please remain vigilant about washing hands, social distancing, wearing masks, and staying home if feeling ill.

Hope is on the horizon,

Norm

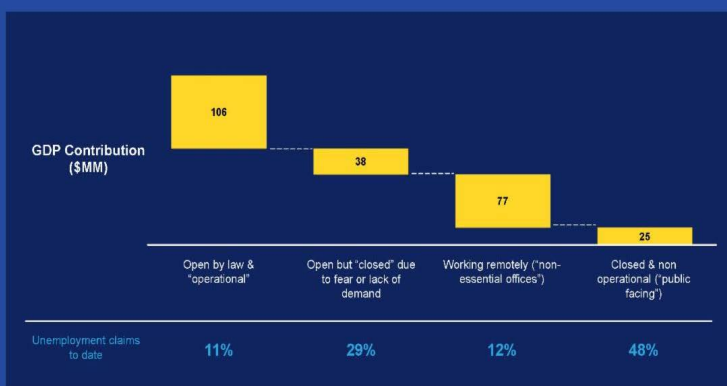
Governor Lamont outlines the approach to reopening Connecticut's economy in phases beginning May 20, 2020

Here are several slides from his presentation. To watch the full video of the governor's news briefing, [click here](#).

Criteria for Initial Reopening

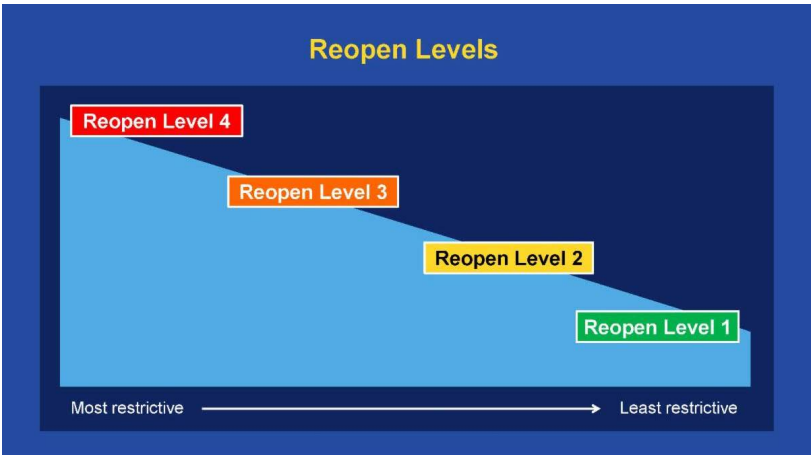
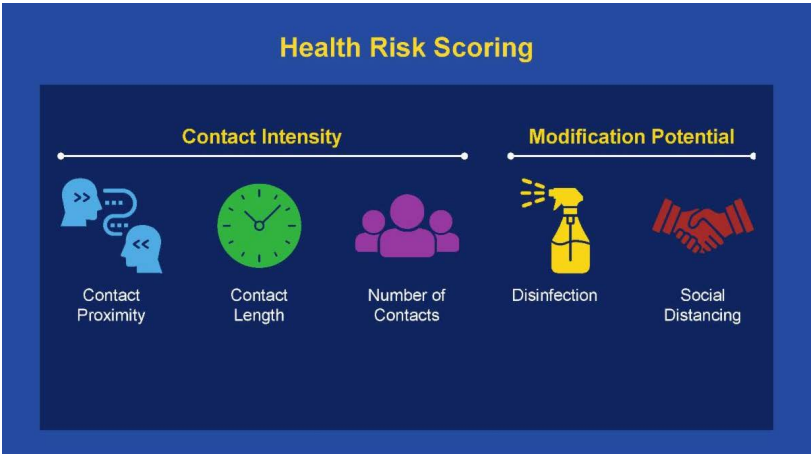
Disease conditions	1	14-day decline of hospitalizations
	2	Increased testing available
Virus management (testing & tracing)	3	Sufficient contact tracing capacity
	4	Protect high-risk populations
Healthcare capacity & supplies	5	Adequate healthcare capacity
	6	Adequate supply of PPE
'New Normal'	7	Appropriate physical distancing regulations

Business & Employment Loss



The How & What





Plan to Reopen Connecticut's Economy

Now	May 20th
Manufacturing	Restaurants (outdoor only - no bar areas)
Essential retail	Remaining retail
Real Estate	Offices (continue work from home where possible)
Utilities	Personal services (hair & nail only)
Construction	Museums, Zoos (outdoor only)
Childcare	Additional outdoor recreation (e.g., camping, mountain biking)
Hospitals	University research programs

Contingent upon meeting our reopening criteria + all businesses will open at limited capacity as defined by reopen levels

UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYED TO BEGIN APRIL 30TH

The Connecticut Department of Labor began accepting claim applications for the self-employed, many who are eligible to collect unemployment insurance benefits under the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program.

Federal guidelines require that self-employed individuals, including independent contractors and "gig" workers, first apply through the Connecticut unemployment system located on www.filectui.com. Applicants must receive a determination notice in the mail from the Connecticut Department of Labor before they can apply on the newly-designed Pandemic Unemployment Assistance online system that will also be located at www.filect.com.

Self-employed individuals must follow this two-step application process:

STEP ONE: Beginning April 30

File a regular state claim application with the Connecticut Department of Labor at www.filectui.com, using the BLUE button to file.

NOTE: Self-employed individuals who already filed a claim application through this system SHOULD NOT file again. The agency has these original claims and a duplicate is not needed.

After completing and submitting your application, look for an email from CTDOL stating, "Thank you for submitting your online application for unemployment compensation benefits with the Connecticut Department of Labor. ... Please look for a CONFIRMATION EMAIL notifying you that your claim has been processed. This email will include your NEXT STEPS information including instructions for when to start filing your weekly claims.

Look for a second email from CTDOL:

"Your claim for benefits has been processed if this is a new claim then we are sending information regarding your claim via US mail."

Look for your eligibility determination (Form UC-58 Monetary Determination) that must be sent through the US mail service.

- If the UC-58 Monetary Determination shows that you have a "zero" weekly benefit rate (which means you do not have wage earnings in the state system) you are not eligible for state benefits and are eligible to file in the ReEmployCT system for self-employed individuals.
- If the UC-58 Monetary Determination shows a weekly benefit rate, you have wage earnings in the state system and are entitled to collect state unemployment benefits.

Step TWO: Once You Receive Your UC-58 in the Mail

Go to CTDOL www.filectui.com and click on the PUA button.

The PUA system will have a record of your state benefit ineligibility status.

Complete the PUA application -

- Applicants will need 2019 IRS forms, 1099, 2019 W-2s, and Schedule C. Applicants will be asked to provide earnings for 2019, broken down by quarters. Those without tax records for 2019 can self-attest their earnings, but will be subject to audit.
- Applicants will be asked the date when COVID-19 impacted their employment. Federal guidelines allow this to go back to Feb. 2, 2020. If an unemployed status goes back to retroactive weeks, the system asks the claimant for weekly earnings through the current week filing.

Once the PUA application is completed, if applicants did not select a payment method when filing under the state unemployment system, they will select their method of payment (direct deposit or debit card - the agency recommends direct deposit for much faster payment). Payment selection is made by returning to www.filectui.com selecting the "method of payment" green button.

A frequently asked questions document located [on the Connecticut Department of Labor's website](#) is being updated to include a section on the PUA application process, guidelines, and additional details.

For more information, [read the press release issued today by the Connecticut Department of Labor.](#)

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