

May 6, 2020

Special Issue



For Info on COVID-19 Call 211

[Town Website](#)

COVID-19 UPDATE:

There have been **16** confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex and one coronavirus related death.

Statewide we have had 8 days of decreasing hospitalizations but during last night's briefing the Governor reported an increase of 36 new hospitalizations yesterday. The 14 straight days of decreased hospitalizations required to begin the re-opening process is based on a rolling average of decline. So while this one day does not reverse the downward trend, the infection rate is still not under control.

We all need to take this public health emergency seriously. COVID-19 is highly contagious. There is still a lot we do not know about it. When you do not wear a mask or practice social distancing, you endanger yourself and others! If we become complacent everybody loses.

This pandemic has been incredibly difficult for everyone and devastating for many.

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

Stay safe,

Norm

TONIGHT at 5pm via ZOOM- Board of Selectmen Meeting will Consider Borrowing Resolution

It is currently unknown to what extent the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 crisis will impact the various revenue sources for the Town at the beginning of next fiscal year 2020-2021 which begins on July 1, 2020. Local tax revenues and State funding may lag and impact the Town's cash flow and liquidity. The Town maintains a healthy fund balance which will serve as our primary resource to maintain our cash flow. Nonetheless, as the duration of this crisis is

unclear and in an abundance of caution, the Town seeks to put in place a borrowing resolution to allow the Town to borrow up to \$5,000,000 in the event the need arises.

The Board of Selectmen will consider the attached borrowing resolution at their meeting tonight(May 6, 2020) at 5pm via Zoom Meeting. Details to attend the meeting remotely are provided in the attached agenda along with the full borrowing resolution. [Click Here](#) for agenda with attachments.

From the Director of Health

Governor Lamont issued an Executive Order on April 14, 2020 directing face coverings to be worn by anyone in public wherever a 6ft distance is unavoidable - including by employees while in the workplace. This Order remains in effect for the duration of this public health emergency. Current plans to re-open businesses in CT do not eliminate the directive to wear masks in public areas. It is the responsibility of each resident and each business owner to purchase or make masks for themselves and their employees and to take these precautions for personal safety.

The Essex Health Department and the Emergency Management Department are unable obtain an adequate supply of masks to distribute to every resident in the community. Orders to purchase masks and other personal protective equipment in early April 2020 are currently on back-order with no anticipated delivery date. It is an unsustainable practice for the Town to supply disposal masks for all residents.

The Health Department encourages everyone to purchase or make cloth, washable, re-usable face coverings for each member of your household. Surgical masks and N95 masks are intended for single-use only and are in short supply. Because it is anticipated that this virus will re-emerge later this year, having an adequate supply and wearing your own personal face covering is an essential step to keeping yourself and your family healthy.

- Lisa Fasulo
Director of Health
Deputy Emergency Management Director

Cloth Face Coverings or Masks:

- Wearing of cloth face coverings or masks in public places is required wherever close contact with others is unavoidable. [Executive Order 7BB](#),
- [CDC: How to Wear a Cloth Face Covering](#) Cloth face

coverings can be made at home using cotton fabric, bandana or a t-shirt. Purchase face coverings and masks from local stores or online retailers such as Amazon, Walmart, WB Mason or www.antidotegear.com and www.shopvida.com also sells replacement filters for their masks.

- Essential employees are required to wear masks in the workplace. [Safe Workplace Rules for Essential Employers](#)

Governor Lamont Signs 36th Executive Order to Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19

[Executive Order No. 7II](#) enacts the following provisions:

1. **Extension of school class cancellations for remainder of school year:** Extends the cancellation of in-person classes at public schools statewide for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. Schools will be required to continue providing distance learning during this period.
2. **Authorization for the Department of Social Services commissioner to temporarily waive, modify, or suspend home health regulatory requirements:** Makes it easier for Medicaid members to access home health services by allowing payment for these services to be ordered by advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants, in addition to physicians.
3. **Extension of the start date for imposition of a late fee for obtaining dog licenses from July 1, 2020 to August 1, 2020:** Provides dog owners with a grace period through July 31, 2020 before a late fee is imposed for dog licenses, which are normally issued in June of each year.
4. **Authority to waive certain requirements for the issuance of vouchers under the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children:** To limit the need for in-person transactions, this order waives the signature requirement on the voucher registry for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, and permits any adult to act as a designated proxy to pick up and redeem the vouchers on behalf of an eligible participant.

Governor Lamont Receives Recommendations for a Phased Reopening of Colleges and Universities in Connecticut

The recommendations include the gradual reopening of higher education campuses over the course of the summer - at the discretion of each institution - based on the type of educational programs offered and whether they provide residential services. By the fall semester, if prevailing health conditions permit, all of the sector may reopen, although

institutions will be free to decide whether they need more time for certain programs to restart.

The reopening of any higher education institution will need to be phased based on the varied nature of the activities on its campus. For example, research operations function similarly to the operations of a place of business and can be restarted relatively quickly. Likewise, community colleges are easier to open than fully residential colleges, where the challenges are much greater given that students live together in close quarters.

[Click Here](#) for the detailed announcement.

Free Advisory Support for Student Loan Borrowers

Governor Ned Lamont announced today that [Summer](#), a social enterprise that assists student loan borrowers, is providing Connecticut residents financially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis with free assistance managing their student loans. [Click Here](#) for more information.

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](#)

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