



## First Selectman's COVID-19 Update

### CT is moving into Phase 1b of the COVID-19 mass vaccination plan.

Phase 1b includes:

- Individuals **75** years old or older
- Frontline Essential workers
- Individuals living in congregate settings
- Individuals eligible in Phase 1a (healthcare workers, EMS/Fire/PD, long-term care facilities)

Additional details on *how* the 75+ residents will be notified to receive their vaccine will be announced later this week.

Additional details on *who* frontline essential workers are will be announced later this week.

Congregate settings are those in which residents share bathrooms, cafeterias & other activities of daily living. Congregate settings do not include apartment buildings.

**A Phase 1b -eligible person can only receive a COVID-19 vaccine if they have an appointment.**

When a 75+ resident is notified from an official source (either by phone call, email or thorough a prior healthcare/patient Electronic Medical Records system – such as *MyChart*) the 75+ resident will be registered and able to schedule an appointment at one of several locations around the State.

There are local vaccination clinics, hospitals, outpatient clinics ready to administer vaccine. **For the most up-to-date information on the state vaccination distribution plan [Click Here](#).**

The larger mass vaccination sites such as Rentschler Field & Xfinity Center are being stood up today. Hammonasset is an option which is *still under discussion*.

#### **FAQs:**

Primary Care Physicians do not have the vaccine in their offices.

The Essex Health Dept is not administering COVID-19 vaccinations. Essex has always

been included in CT's Mass Dispensing Area 39 (MDA 39) and has always partnered with area towns for any Emergency Mass Dispensing Activity & Pandemic Response. Area towns include Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Old Saybrook, & Westbrook.

Vaccinating of Phase 1a-eligible people is now complete. Essex first responders (EMS, Fire, PD), school nurses, residents at Essex Meadows Long-term care facility, Essex Village Manor, and Meadowbrook manor have received (or been offered) vaccine.

For additional information go to [www.ct.gov](http://www.ct.gov) click on the red bar at the top of the page and scroll down to COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plans. Or simply go to this web address: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/covid-19%20vaccinations>

## **Eversource Encourages Customers to Take Advantage of Payment Assistance & Protection Programs**

### *Critical information on residential protections and programs*

BERLIN, Conn. (Jan. 6, 2020) – With the start of a new year, Eversource is reminding customers to enroll in one of its payment plans or assistance programs to protect them from service disconnection by calling 800-286-2828. Both residential and nonresidential customers are eligible for payment arrangements at this time. Any residential customers experiencing difficulty paying their utility bill should contact Eversource's call center to inquire about being coded hardship. Any customers ineligible for hardship status, including both residential and nonresidential customers, should ask about the COVID-19 Payment Program.

Customers who've never needed assistance previously may not realize they qualify for protection from service disconnection and may also be eligible for other programs to reduce past due balances. For example, a household of five with an annual income of ~\$84 thousand dollars meets the income-eligibility requirements. Eversource encourages all customers to contact the energy company at the number above or to check their eligibility on the state income-eligibility matrix - and find out if one of the energy company's programs below could be beneficial to them.

"We want to help our customers enroll in the special payment plans available during these challenging times," said Eversource Vice President of Customer Operations Jess Cain. "Participation in a payment plan not only helps customers by arranging affordable monthly payments, it also protects them from service disconnection. We encourage customers to contact us so we can help them determine which of our flexible payment plans or special programs would be the most helpful to them."

## **Connecticut Water COVID-19 Extended Payment Plans Available**

COVID-19 extended payment plans are available for any customer with past due balances without requiring a determination of financial need to assist you during this period. Plans are interest-free, do not require a down payment and can be spread out up to 24 months. These plans will be available until at least February 9, 2021.

**If you are having trouble paying your bill, please contact us by phone at 1-800-286-5700 as soon as possible for information.**

<https://www.ctwater.com/customers/customer-assistance>

## **Governor Lamont Warns Connecticut Residents To Be Aware of COVID-19 Vaccination Scams and Report Suspicious Behavior**

(HARTFORD, CT) – Governor Ned Lamont and other state officials today are warning Connecticut residents that as the COVID-19 vaccine continues to become available to more people, they should be aware of potential scams related to the vaccine and be on the lookout for certain warning signs that can help them avoid being scammed.

Residents are reminded that:

- No one from a legitimate vaccine distribution site will ever ask for your Social Security number or bank information in order to receive a vaccine.
  - Nobody will ever need to pay to get early access to the vaccine.
  - While patients may be asked to provide health insurance information when they receive the vaccine, health insurance is not required to receive it.
  - Patients will never be asked to pay to put their name on a list to receive the vaccine.
- Internet scammers may post as legitimate businesses or organizations related to the distribution of the vaccine in an effort to steal personal or financial information.
  - People should ensure that emails related to the vaccine are coming from legitimate sources before clicking links or opening attachments.
  - When providing personal information, people should double check the URL to ensure its legitimacy.
- There are a limited number of federally approved vaccines and treatments.
  - People should be aware of anyone offering a “miracle cure,” treatment, or medication that claims to prevent the virus and is not one of the federally approved vaccines.

If anyone becomes aware of a vaccine-related scam or believes they may be the victim of a scam, they should file a complaint with state and local authorities:

Suspected fraud or business-related scams can be reported to the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection by visiting [ct.gov/DCP](http://ct.gov/DCP) or sending an email to [dcp.complaints@ct.gov](mailto:dcp.complaints@ct.gov).

Suspicious activities related to vaccine distribution practices or concerns for public health can be reported to local law enforcement or local public health officials.

For the most up-to-date information about where, when, and how to receive the vaccine in

Connecticut, visit the state's website at [ct.gov/covidvaccine](https://ct.gov/covidvaccine).

General information about the vaccine is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19).

The 2-1-1 information hotline is also available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to answer questions.

**All Town of Essex Board and Commission Meetings are available to attend virtually via Zoom online conferencing.** Please check the calendar on the homepage [essexct.gov](https://essexct.gov) for details. Virtual meetings are open to the public and you are invited and encouraged to attend.

**TAX TIME**



### **A Message from the Tax Collector**

*Please mail your tax payment or pay online.*

Community transmission of COVID-19 continues to rise sharply in Essex and across Connecticut. Now, more than ever, we all must be more diligent. With taxes due in January 2021 we strongly encourage mailing in your tax payment. If you want us to send you a receipt, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope along with your payment. You can also pay your taxes online: [Pay Taxes Online](#)

[COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Information](#)

[CT Covid-19 Cases by Town](#)

[COVID-19 Testing Sites](#)

[Connecticut Travel Advisory](#)

[Connecticut COVID-19 Data Tracker](#)

[EES - Frequently Asked Questions pdf](#) ([google docs direct link](#))

**For info on COVID-19 call 2-1-1**

**Please continue to wear your mask, keep a minimum of 6ft social distance, wash your hands, and stay home if you feel unwell. We will get through this together.**

#### **Sign up for Essex News**

Encourage your friends and neighbors to receive this newsletter.

[Click Here](#) to subscribe.

#### **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](https://www.essexct.gov) and search "Safer Essex" or call 860-760-4340 x112.

#### **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.

**Have Questions?**  
Give us a call.  
860-767-4340 x145

