



First Selectman's COVID-19 Update

Wishing you and your family a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving. This is going to be a difficult holiday season as the rates continue to trend upward. Many people are experiencing "COVID Fatigue". Let's keep our eyes on the horizon. We know the vaccine is coming so let's get there safely together.

Please read the State of CT guidance on holiday gatherings [here](#).

Stay Safe,
Norm

Essex is in the red, as is most of the state. The Connecticut Department of Public Health released its weekly [COVID-19 Alert Map](#), which indicates that most cities and towns in Connecticut are now in the red zone alert level, the highest of the state's four alert levels. The COVID-19 Alert Map is updated every Thursday at 4pm and can be found on the state's coronavirus website ct.gov/coronavirus....

[Click Here](#) for CT COVID-19 Cases, Deaths, and Tests by Town

From the Essex Health Director:

Community transmission of COVID-19 continues to rise sharply in Essex. This trend is the same across Connecticut. Now, more than ever, we all must be more diligent about wearing masks whenever outside the home or dwelling unit including common areas in apartment and condominium buildings, common public area such as sidewalks, dog parks, businesses, gas stations – essentially, everywhere that non-household members may come into close contact.

This Holiday season and winter months will be challenging for so many of our residents (more challenging than many of you may realize), so please, please continue to:

- wear your masks appropriately - covers the nose & mouth
- maintain 6ft or more social distancing – especially as you shop or dine in our local businesses
- wash hands frequently – more frequently than you think you should
- stay home when you are feeling unwell – your coworkers will thank you

Although this year has been difficult for some and devastating for others, we will continue to face this challenge together as a community of friends, neighbors, businesses, local leaders and state partners. We are certainly all in this together. I wish you and yours a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Lisa Fasulo
Director of Health

Governor Lamont signs 81st executive order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Enacting the following provisions:

- **DECD authority to enact rules for all sports activities:** Expands authority of the commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development to establish mandatory safety rules to all sports.
- **Renewals of certain permits extended:** To promote compliance with pandemic-related restrictions on sales of liquor, extends the renewal period for certain liquor permits and refunds certain renewal fees already paid.
- **Extending authorization for online continuing education for plumbers and electricians:** Extends to February 9, 2021 the time during which plumbers and electricians may satisfy continuing education requirements through online learning.
- **Extended deadlines for continuing education for plumbers and electricians:** Extends to February 9, 2021 the deadline for electricians and plumbers to complete their continuing education requirements while allowing them to renew licenses according to original deadlines.

The Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development today published updated sector rules regarding team sports, as well as gyms and fitness centers. These rules take effect Monday, November 23.

Some of the new rules include:

- All team sporting activities, except collegiate and professional, are prohibited until January 19, 2021.
- All team scrimmages, competitions, camps, clinics, and tournaments including all interscholastic, “pick-up” games, and other informal athletic activities prohibited.
- “Team” is defined as a group of more than four people jointly engaged in an organized or recreational athletic activity on a court, field, etc.
- Masks are now required in all gyms and fitness centers with no exceptions.
- Fitness classes have been reduced to 25 percent capacity.

For the full rules released today, [click here](#).

Governor Lamont Announces Fines for Businesses Violating

COVID-19 Rules Increase to \$10,000

Fines for violations can be issued by local health directors or municipal designees, with the support of law enforcement. Other fines that remain in effect for violations of the state's COVID-19 rules include \$500 for organizing an event over capacity limits, \$250 for attending events over capacity limits, \$100 for failure to wear a face mask or covering when in public, and up to \$500 for violations of the state's travel advisory.

The gathering sizes and capacity limitations that are exempt from this order, which include private gatherings at private residences, religious and spiritual gatherings, and graduations, shall continue to be subject to infractions for violations of sector rules and other COVID-related orders.

"Particularly as we approach Black Friday and the start of the holiday shopping season, we want to stress the importance of following public health protocols to protect both customers and workers," Governor Lamont said. "Working together, we can get the spread of COVID-19 under control while mitigating the impact that it is having on our economy."

[Click Here](#) for full article.

[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.

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