



The Town Hall is open to the public with safety procedures in place. Masks are required. Please be patient and respectful while we keep residents and staff safe. I encourage you to do your Town Hall business by mail or virtually. Many services can be done online, by phone, fax, or email.

[Town Website](#)

COVID-19 Update for Essex

There have been [49](#) (31 female, 18 male) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex and sadly, 10 fatalities since the beginning of the pandemic. [Click Here](#)

[CT Travel Advisory Updated 7-28-2020](#)

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we navigate our way through this pandemic, it's crucial that we continue following the safety guidelines to help stop the spread of COVID-19. When socializing, maintain a distance of 6 feet, wear a mask, wash hands frequently, and keep the group small and outside when possible.

I am deeply concerned about recent reports of large groups of young people rafting up on boats in the CT River and elsewhere in the state. None are wearing masks or social distancing. As a result of this behavior, outbreak clusters among 18-29 year olds has been on the rise in recent weeks. We all understand how difficult it is for this age group to be away from friends but their behavior is putting people at risk.

To report non-compliance call 2-1-1 or send an email to covid-19.dph@ct.gov

Norm



A gathering of a significant number of young adults seen recently in Stony Creek.

[Governor Lamont and Public Health Commissioner Concerned Over Covid-19 Outbreak Clusters Among Teens and Young Adults](#)

Governor Lamont Announces Launch of Business.CT.gov

Governor Ned Lamont today announced the launch of business.ct.gov - an online, one-stop-shop where entrepreneurs can easily find information and quickly create a checklist with everything required to start up or manage their business in Connecticut. The online service will make it easier to do business in the state, support small business owners as a partner in their success, and improve citizens' interactions with state government.

The governor explained that the portal aims to prevent businesses from needing to navigate the sometimes complex nature of state government by merging many of their common needs into one simplified location online. When completing transactions through the portal, users will be interacting with several state agencies all in one seamless interaction, allowing them to get their work done quicker.

[Click Here](#)

FEMA Approves Extension Of Non-Congregate Sheltering Program Through September 1

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved a 30 day extension of the non-congregate sheltering authorization under the FEMA Public Assistance program until September 1, 2020. This approval was previously set to expire on August 1, 2020. This vital program, which was initially approved in March, provides non-congregate housing to certain high-risk individuals, including those who have COVID-19 or have been in contact with COVID-19 positive individuals. It provides the state and its municipalities with a 75 percent reimbursement of all eligible costs associated with this housing.

The program includes non-congregate housing for:

- Those at high risk of exposure in public service;
- Individuals in at-risk facilities such as group homes, nursing homes, long-term care sites, and alternative care facilities;
- First responders and health care workers who have been exposed and cannot return home;
- Homeless individuals in congregate shelters; and
- Individuals in domestic violence shelters.

Connecticut's implementation of this program has been highlighted as a best practice by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition.

[Governor Lamont Announces the Everybody Learns Initiative: A \\$43.5 Million Program to Close the Digital Divide for Connecticut Students](#)

Governor Ned Lamont announced that his administration is launching the Everybody Learns initiative: a \$43.5 million investment in remote learning solutions to close the digital divide in Connecticut and empower students across the state to learn from home, especially as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues impacting the country. The governor said that the funding - which comes from the state's portion of the federal CARES Act, the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund, and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund - will be used to purchase 50,000 laptops for students, 12 months of access to at-home internet for 60,000

students, create public hotspots free to the public at 200 community sites across the state, and offer social emotional learning content to school districts statewide.

The number of students identified as in need of access to laptops and at-home internet is based on survey information that was submitted to the State Department of Education and Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology. The state will purchase the at-home internet access through several broadband internet companies, including Altice USA/Optimum, Atlantic Broadband, Comcast, Cox, and Charter. The personal hotspots will be covered by cellular signal through the student hotspot provider Kajeet.

The Office of the Governor, State Department of Education, Department of Administrative Services, Office of Policy and Management, and the Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology will coordinate with internet companies and school districts to ensure students receive the learning devices as quickly as possible, and the form of internet coverage that meets their needs and empowers them to participate in high-quality remote learning. Likewise, internet providers have agreed to work closely with the administration and school IT directors to support households that have students who will be learning this fall.

The 200 hotspots will be open to the public at no cost to the user. The state will partner with the Connecticut Education Network (CEN) to utilize the fiber and infrastructure it already provides to sites in communities across the state and boost signals for the public at large to be able to access for free.

Districts will begin receiving communication from the state today about the process by which they will receive their laptops, broadband vouchers or Kajeet hotspots. Community sites will soon receive communication from CEN about hotspots.

LATEST COVID-19 FACTS

- [Get the Latest Guidance](#)
- [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](#)

Have more questions about Coronavirus?

Ask the CT Virtual Assistant now:
(833) 250-7633

Or call the 2-1-1 Connecticut Hotline

- For guests who are deaf or hard of hearing, relay services are available at 7-1-1
- Out of state? Use our toll-free number: 1-800-203-1234

The CT Virtual Assistant and 2-1-1 info hotline are available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

These services are for general questions about COVID-19. If you're experiencing symptoms, contact your medical provider.

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. [Click Here](#) to subscribe!

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 x201.

Town of Essex