



### For Info on COVID-19 Call 211

[Town Website](#)

Thank you to our Connecticut State Police for speaking the truth and acknowledging the pain and heartache people are feeling at the senseless abuse of authority and the murder committed last week in Minneapolis. Most police officers are ashamed and equally offended as everyone else is. Connecticut needs to be an example of mutual respect between our Officers and those they protect. We need each other now more than ever.

Racism occurs in many forms and should not be tolerated. We need to create unity through open respectful dialogue with one another and stand up together as fellow citizens regardless of a person's race, gender, or profession. Working together peacefully through these challenging times will keep our community safe for everyone.

Violence and destruction do not provide a solution but diminish the message of the protesters. Businesses and communities have been damaged and this behavior should be universally condemned.

We stand in solidarity with peaceful protestors around the country and offer prayers for their safety and for the safety of those public servants who take seriously their oath to protect and serve.

Sincerely,

Norm



James C. Rovella  
Commissioner

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection  
Connecticut State Police  
Office of Media Relations



Colonel Stavros Mellekas  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of State Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 1, 2020

#### A Statement from the Connecticut State Police

A week ago today, a death occurred in Minneapolis. We in law enforcement are not unfamiliar with death, we see it often in many different forms; but the death of George Floyd was different. The indefensible circumstances of this act were carried out in broad daylight, in the middle of a public street by an individual wearing a badge. This individual swore an oath to protect the members of his community, and failed that most basic duty. It was very apparent that this individual used completely unnecessary, unjustifiable force against someone in handcuffs. In that moment, communities were shattered. This individual does not represent police officers.

We extend our sincere condolences to those who knew and loved George Floyd.

To say we condemn this behavior is accurate, but still, the word "condemn" doesn't begin to come close to what we're feeling. We saw what you saw. We watched in disbelief as that individual calling himself a police officer kept his knee on the neck of a human being for almost nine minutes. Why? We're not trained to do this in our police academies. There was no immediate threat. Those police officers on scene, including those that stood around and did nothing, simply failed. They failed not just on a law enforcement level, but on a basic human level.

We are sad, we are angry and we are disgusted. Sad for George Floyd, his family, friends and the people of Minneapolis. We're sad for those minority communities whose distrust in us police officers will only grow deeper because of this. Sad for the hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officers who go to work every day and do the right thing, but will now be viewed in the same light as those former officers who evidently betrayed their oath on that Minneapolis street. The damage done from this is immeasurable and will ripple throughout our country, including our Connecticut communities.

We're disgusted that anyone wearing a police uniform would do what we all saw in that video. We're angry that the actions of a few will affect all of us. If you wear a badge and aren't appalled by that what you saw, please turn it in and find a new profession; we don't need you. For the sake of the community, for the sake of good law enforcement officers everywhere and for the sake of our country, enough is enough.

To our community, please know that we are more than a uniform, we are ordinary people and we stand with you. We anticipate and welcome difficult conversations that will result in progressive changes. Our commitment to public safety remains the same. We will continue to respond to calls for help and keep our streets safe. We will continue to safeguard lives and property in our communities. We will also continue to respect the rights of peaceful protesters and will continue to ensure their safety as we did over the weekend.

Please look out for each other, acknowledge the pain being felt and stay safe.

-END-

## COVID-19 UPDATE:

There have been [24](#) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex and one fatality since the beginning of the pandemic.

[Data on nursing homes in Connecticut as of May 27, 2020](#)

[Data on assisted living facilities in Connecticut as of May 28, 2020](#)



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The State of Connecticut has partnered with United Way/211 to develop and maintain a public testing database. This database can be viewed here [www.211ct.org/covidtesting](http://www.211ct.org/covidtesting). The purpose of this database is to provide accurate information on the locations of public testing facilities; users are able to search for the closest testing location based on their address.

In order to ensure this database remains up to date, we are requesting that new/prospective testing facilities notify 211 of their site on this form: <https://uwc.211ct.org/contact/testing-site-registration/>. If existing sites have updates to their listing they can request this through the link on this form.

## Governor Lamont signs 48th executive order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19

Governor Lamont signed another executive order - the 48th since he enacted the emergency declarations - that builds upon his efforts to encourage mitigation strategies that slow down transmission of the virus. [Executive Order No. 7UU](#) enacts the following provisions:

- **Mandatory COVID-19 testing for staff of private and municipal nursing homes, residential communities and assisted living agencies:** Requires all staff of these facilities to be tested for COVID-19 weekly for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency.
- **Determination of suitable work:** Allows the Connecticut Department of Labor to consider, when determining a worker's eligibility for unemployment benefits, whether COVID-19 means returning to work would pose an unreasonable risk to the health of a member of that worker's household.

## Governor Lamont signs 49th executive order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19

Governor Lamont signed another executive order - the 49th since he enacted the emergency declarations - that builds upon his efforts to encourage mitigation strategies that slow down transmission of the virus. [Executive Order No. 7VV](#) enacts the following provisions:

- **Amended limitation on program sizes in child care:** Modifies the number of children that a child care program can serve during the civil preparedness and public health emergency from 30 to 50 without needing to obtain approval from the Office of Early Childhood. Any facility caring for more than 50 children will need to obtain approval.

## **Governor Lamont Announces Public-Private Partnership to Support Vulnerable Residents During COVID-19 Emergency**

Initiatives Target Those Who Are Otherwise Excluded from Participating in Existing Federal Pandemic Relief Programs.

[Click Here](#) for details.

## **Deadlines approaching for residents who lost health insurance due to job loss to qualify for coverage through Access Health CT**

Connecticut residents who may have lost their jobs from a furlough or layoff within the last two months must act quickly if they would like to enroll in health care coverage through Access Health CT, the state's health insurance marketplace.

In general, people who lost health insurance due to a job loss have 60 days to apply for coverage through Access Health CT, as that job loss is considered a "Qualifying Life Event." This means that the deadline to enroll for anyone who lost their jobs in April is approaching fast.

To help residents maintain qualify and affordable health care coverage, Access Health CT recommends comparing options on [AccessHealthCT.com](https://www.accesshealthct.com) to COBRA coverage, as the marketplace may offer a better, less expensive choice, and is the only place where people can qualify for financial help to lower their costs.

Access Health CT is working closely with the Connecticut Department of Labor and other entities to reach out to businesses that are in the process of reducing their workforce.

For more information, [read the press release issued today by Access Health CT](#).

## **Online purchasing of food with SNAP benefits begins June 2 and 3**

The Department of Social Services today announced that recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will be able to purchase food online from participating retailers in Connecticut beginning Tuesday, June 2 and Wednesday, June 3. SNAP enrollees will be able to use their electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card to purchase eligible food items online for delivery or curbside pickup.

Retailers approved for the initial launch of online SNAP purchasing are Amazon (including Amazon Pantry and Amazon Fresh), 12 Walmart stores ([click here for a list](#)), and 22 ShopRite stores ([click here for a list](#)).

Online SNAP purchasing will begin on June 2 at Walmart in Cromwell and Manchester beginning at 3:00 a.m., ShopRite in Canton and Waterbury beginning at 5:30 a.m., and Amazon beginning at 2:00 p.m. All other participating stores will launch online SNAP purchasing on June 3.

Online contact points for the stores are [www.amazon.com/snapebt](https://www.amazon.com/snapebt); [www.walmart.com/grocery](https://www.walmart.com/grocery); and [www.shoprite.com/Store-Locator](https://www.shoprite.com/Store-Locator).

Only SNAP benefits on EBT cards can be used for online purchases. At this time, cash assistance benefits on EBT cards cannot be used for

any part of online shopping, including shopping, delivery, or service fees. Federal rules do not allow any SNAP benefits to be used for shopping, delivery, or service fees, but some food retailers may choose to waive fees (as Amazon does for orders over \$35). Online shopping customers using SNAP benefits will be able to use other debit or credit cards to pay for any fees or non-SNAP-eligible items they wish to purchase.

For more information about SNAP benefits in Connecticut, visit [www.ct.gov/snap](http://www.ct.gov/snap).

**Additional emergency SNAP benefits being delivered June 18.** [Click Here](#) for details.

## FEMA approves funding for crisis counseling in Connecticut

Governor Lamont today announced that the State of Connecticut has received approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide crisis counseling to those who have been impacted by COVID-19. This program will be administered by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services in cooperation with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. A federal grant of \$669,404 will be utilized by the state to provide the following services:

- Crisis counseling to persons experiencing homelessness who are in shelters, hotels, and in the community, as well as staff in these facilities;
- Crisis counseling to senior citizens in congregate care settings and the community; and
- Enhancement of crisis counseling call-line services provided through United Way 2-1-1.

The funding will also be used to develop a statewide advertising and media campaign, including social media outreach for the purpose of linking victim families to needed resources, as well as provide psychological first aid support and stress management tips.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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**