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
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

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. 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](http://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.


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.

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.essexcit.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@essexcit.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