



For Info on COVID-19 Call 211

[Town Website](#)

The Essex Town Hall is following the Governor's Phase 2 re-opening guidance and will be open to the public on Monday, June 22, 2020 with limited occupancy. Safety enhancements will be in place to protect employees and the public. Entrance to the building will be from the parking lot area only. When you arrive, you will be required to wear a mask, check in, have your temperature taken, and then get the okay to proceed to the department you plan to visit. Due to occupancy restrictions, there may be a significant wait time outside the building. Directional signs will be posted.

Although the building will be open, I encourage you to continue town related business remotely when possible. Staff are available by phone, email, or by appointment.

For the time being, meetings will continue remotely via Zoom. Please check the website calendar for instructions on access to a meeting and changes or cancellations of meetings.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we navigate through this together in the most safe and efficient manner.

Stay Safe,

Norm

COVID-19 UPDATE:

There have been [25](#) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex and one fatality since the beginning of the pandemic.

Governor Lamont announced today, June 5, that he has moved up his Phase 2 reopening plans by three days, giving restaurants, gyms, movie theaters, hotels and other businesses a midweek start on Wednesday, June 17.

Additional safety guidance for businesses that fall under Phase 2 will be released in the next couple of days.

Phase 2 openings include:

- Accommodation (no bar areas)
- Gyms, fitness & sports clubs
- All personal services (nail salons, tattoo parlors)
- Outdoor arts, entertainment, and events (up to 50 people)
- Outdoor amusement parks
- Movie theaters
- Bowling alleys
- Social clubs, pools
- All museums, zoos, aquariums
- Restaurants (indoor dining at 50% capacity, no bar)

Governor Lamont signs 50th executive order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19

Governor Lamont today signed another executive order - the 50th 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. 7WW](#) enacts the following provisions:

- **Technical clarifications regarding the ballot petitioning process for the August 2020 primary and November 2020 general election:** Makes technical clarifications to the ballot petitioning process of Executive Order No. 7LL to make it clear that individual petitions do not need to be mailed to the registrar of voters.
- **Further clarification of limits on alcohol service and sales related to catering:** Permits caterers to provide outdoor service at any location allowed by their license type so long as the event meets the requirements of all executive orders, limits on social and recreational gatherings, and Department of Economic and Community Development sector rules.

60-day extension to Mortgage Relief Program

Governor Lamont and Banking Commissioner Jorge Perez today announced that over 45 banks and credit unions have agreed to extend their voluntary participation in the Connecticut Mortgage Relief Program, which provides relief to consumers facing financial hardship due to COVID-19. The program, launched on March 31, 2020 and set to expire on May 31, 2020 will now run through July 30, 2020.

- **90-day grace period for all mortgage payments :** Participating financial institutions will continue to offer mortgage-payment forbearances of up to 90 days, which will allow homeowners to reduce or delay monthly mortgage payments. In addition, the institutions will continue to:
 - Provide a streamlined process for requesting forbearance for COVID-19-related reasons, supported with available documentation;
 - Confirm approval and terms of forbearance program; and
 - Provide the opportunity to extend forbearance agreements if faced with continued hardship resulting from COVID-19.
- **Relief from fees and charges :** Through July 30, 2020, participating financial institutions will waive or refund mortgage-related late fees and other fees including early CD withdrawals.
- **No new foreclosures for 60 days (through July 30, 2020) :** Financial institutions will not start any foreclosure sales or evictions.
- **No credit score changes for accessing relief :** Financial institutions will not report derogatory information (e.g., late payments) to credit reporting agencies but may report a forbearance, which typically does not alone negatively affect a credit score.

This agreement means that participating banks and credit unions will continue to not initiate any new foreclosures, foreclosure sales and evictions for another 60 days. It also extends the relief on certain fees until that date. The mortgage relief program, applies only to mortgages owned by banks and credit unions, also known as "portfolio mortgages."

For a list of participating financial institutions and a Q&A on the program, [click here](#).

Judicial branch continues with expansion of operations

The Connecticut Judicial Branch today announced that effective Monday, June 29, it is targeting the resumption of limited operations at four additional courthouse locations, including the Judicial District courthouses in Danbury, Milford, and Stamford, and the Geographical Area No. 11 courthouse in Danielson.

The expansion will bring the number of open courthouses to 17, including the Supreme Court, the Appellate Court, 13 Superior Court locations, and two juvenile court locations. As such, one Superior Court courthouse will be open in each of the 13 Judicial Districts. The Judicial Branch is also planning to expand its hours and days of operations to the following:

- Starting the week of June 15, all open courthouse locations will be open each day, Monday through Friday. The hours for the public will be Mondays from 9AM to 5PM, and Tuesdays through Fridays from 9AM to 1PM.
- Starting the week of June 29, the Danbury, Milford, Stamford, and Danielson courthouses will be open to the public. Consistent with all other open courthouse locations, public hours will be Mondays from 9AM to 5PM, and Tuesdays through Fridays from 9AM to 1PM.
- Starting the week of July 6, open courthouse locations will be open to the public Mondays through Fridays from 9AM to 5PM.

Most work within the open court locations will continue to focus on those most pressing matters, such as criminal arraignments for defendants held on bond, domestic violence cases, restraining orders, emergency child custody matters, juvenile detention hearings, and all other emergency matters.

For more information on today's announcement, [read the press release issued by the Judicial Branch](#). Additional guidance on the impact of COVID-19 on the courts continues to be updated on the Judicial Branch's website at jud.ct.gov.

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 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 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