



For Info on COVID-19 Call 211

[Town Website](#)

COVID-19 UPDATE:

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

[Reopening Rules- Phase Two](#)

Note: All businesses subject to the Phase 1 and Phase 2 reopening rules are required to [self-certify](#) prior to opening. If you already self-certified your business during Phase 1, your business will NOT need to certify again during Phase 2.

Get the latest guidance: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/Latest-Guidance>

State campgrounds to open for the summer season on July 8

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has announced that camping will open for the summer recreation season beginning July 8, 2020.

Campers at DEEP campgrounds with recreational vehicles (RVs) will be able to keep their reservations for dates starting July 1, with reopening for both tent and RV camping on July 8. Anyone with reservations before these dates will receive refunds.

Campers can begin making new reservation for the reason using the online reservation system beginning on June 20.

DEEP is actively working to prepare campgrounds to offer safe recreation in compliance with health guidance. This includes hiring and training staff to clean bathrooms and other facilities to standards required by health officials, procuring the required protective gear, and making necessary changes to camp office buildings to ensure visitor and staff safety.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, DEEP staff have worked to keep state parks open and available for residents to get outside for healthful recreation. State parks have welcomed millions of day-use visitors so far this year and expect to welcome millions more this summer.

Governor Lamont signs 51st executive order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19

Governor Lamont today signed another executive order - the 51st 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. 7XX](#) enacts the following provisions:

- **Modification of safety rules for drive-in religious gatherings:** Makes modifications to Executive Order No. 7TT to provide that "drive-in" religious, spiritual, and worship gatherings at which all attendees remain in their vehicles may be held with no limitations on capacity if either vehicle windows remain closed or vehicles remain at least six feet apart and participants wear masks or cloth face coverings.
- **Safety rules for drive-in graduations:** Permits drive-in graduation ceremonies at which all attendees remain in their vehicles except for graduates briefly leaving their vehicles to receive diplomas to be held with no limitations on capacity if either vehicle windows remain closed or vehicles remain at least six feet apart and all attendees wear masks or cloth face coverings.
- **Suspension of the involuntary discharge of nursing facility residents and residential care home residents who may be discharged to homeless shelters, except during emergency situations or with respect to COVID-19 recovered discharges:** Suspends the involuntary discharge of residents from nursing homes or residential care homes to homeless shelters for the duration of the declared emergency. This suspension excludes emergency situations when the individual presents a danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the resident or other residents or staff, including the refusal to comply with established COVID-19 infection control or social distancing measures that could also endanger staff, and does not apply to specific aspects of the Department of Public Health's COVID-19 medical surge plan as addressed in Executive Order No. 7Y.

Connecticut River Ferries Resume Operations

The Connecticut Department of Transportation today announced the resumption of service by the two ferry services across the Connecticut River, between Rocky Hill and Glastonbury and Chester and Hadlyme, beginning Saturday, June 20, 2020.

Typically, the ferries begin operating April 1, but that was delayed as a result of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.

The [Chester-Hadlyme](#) ferry will operate between 7 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Monday-Friday, and between 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The [Rocky Hill-Glastonbury Ferry](#) will operate Tuesday-Friday between 7 a.m. and 6-45 p.m. on weekdays, and 10:30 to 5 p.m. on weekends. Both ferries will operate through Labor Day, September 7.

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