



## For Info on COVID-19 Call 211

[Town Website](#)

### COVID-19 UPDATE:

There have been [17](#) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex and one coronavirus related death.

### **Governor Lamont Releases Rules for Businesses Under First Phase of Connecticut's Reopening Plans Amid COVID-19**

May 20 is the target date for a gradual, phased in re-opening of certain businesses if public health conditions are met. Conditions include 14 consecutive days of declining hospitalization rates, increased testing, contact tracing, protection for those at highest risk, adequate protective equipment, and social distancing measures.

For Phase 1, Governor Ned Lamont and the DECD Commissioner David Lehman have shared the following guidance for restaurants, offices, retail, hair salons and barber shops, and museums and zoos:

- [Hair Salons & Barbershops](#)
- [Museums and Zoos \(Outdoor Only\)](#)
- [Offices](#)
- [Restaurants \(Outdoor Only\)](#)
- [Retail & Malls](#)

All businesses subject to these rules will be required to self-certify prior to opening May 20. The certification system will be online in the coming days providing detailed information on physical distancing, hygiene, sanitizing, ppe, scheduling, training another requirements.

The state has established a new task force to help small businesses understand and implement these new regulations. The task force will release a detailed guide by May 15 to help organizations implement the rules and open safely.

[Click Here to read Governor Lamont's press release](#)

## Essex Fire Marshal

As we prepare for the anticipated Phase 1 re-opening of eligible businesses as set forth by Governor Ned Lamont, I want to remind those eligible businesses that if you intend to erect any type of tent or other membrane structure for the purposes of conducting business, a tent permit is required to be filed with The Office of The Fire Marshal. Approval of any tent or membrane structure having an area in excess of 400 square feet shall not be erected, operated or maintained for any purpose without obtaining approval from the Fire Marshal.

To assist business owners who intend to use a tent or membrane, I have put together a [checklist](#) that can be used to help with preparing for the use of a tent. These are new and trying times but working together we can hopefully smooth out the process to reopening your business. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Stay safe.

Sincerely,

John Planas, Fire Marshal  
[jplanas@essexct.gov](mailto:jplanas@essexct.gov)  
Phone: 860-767-4340 ext. 146

### **Board of Finance Meeting will Consider Borrowing Resolution and Possible Adoption of the Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 - Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.**

It is currently unknown to what extent the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 crisis will impact the various revenue sources for the Town at the beginning of next fiscal year 2020-2021 which begins on July 1, 2020. Local tax revenues and State funding may lag and impact the Town's cash flow and liquidity. The Town maintains a healthy fund balance which will serve as our primary resource to maintain our cash flow. Nonetheless, as the duration of this crisis is unclear and in an abundance of caution, the Town seeks to put in place a borrowing resolution to allow of up to \$5,000,000 of borrowings in the event the need arises. The Board of Selectmen have approved and recommended the borrowing resolution to the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance will consider a borrowing resolution at their meeting on Monday, May 11th, 2020. The full resolution is available through the link below.

Also on the May 11<sup>th</sup> agenda is the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget. Based on the authority granted under the Governor's Executive Order 7I, the Board of Selectmen has authorized the Board of Finance to adopt the budget for the next fiscal year and set the mill rate. The Board of Finance will consider the proposed fiscal year 2020-2021 budget for the Town of

Essex and possibly take action to adopt it. A full summary of the proposed budget is available through the link below.

All those wishing to attend the meeting remotely may join the Zoom Meeting online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88639059939> or via phone by dialing +1 646 558 8656 and entering meeting ID: 886 3905 9939 when prompted.

[Borrowing Resolution link](#)

[FY 2020-2021 Budget Summary link](#)

#### 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**