COVID-19 UPDATE:

There have been 19 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex and one coronavirus related death.

Since March 22, 2020 there have been 19 residents who tested positive for the Coronavirus infection. Most of these residents continue to recover at home and many have been cleared to return to work. Clearance for returning to work is based on CDC guidance and some employers to have more stringent policies in place. Since May 1st there have been 6 new confirmed cases and all are managing their symptoms at home. Please remember, as the availability of testing for Coronavirus increases, so will the number of confirmed cases. Those who test positive must self-isolate to stop the spread of virus to others.

The opening of salons and barbershops has been pushed back to early June by Governor Lamont. The decision was made after getting feedback from many salon and barbershop owners and their employees who didn't think they were prepared to reopen safely at this time. While we may be disappointed in this update, safety is paramount.

Through the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA), small businesses can fill out a form to receive masks for employees and one infrared thermometer per location.

We must continue to wear masks or cloth face coverings in public areas and practice social distancing. Please be considerate to the shop owners and restaurants as they re-open for business. Respect the rules issued by the Governor and supported by the local Health Department. We are a small, close-knit community and must work together to safely support our businesses and residents.

We will get there together, safely.

Norm
Effective 5/20/2020

Outdoor use of the following Town-owned properties shall be permitted for Essex residents only, subject to the restrictions on use set forth below:

GROVE STREET TENNIS COURTS - Hours of Operations 8:00am - 9:30pm

The use of the foregoing town-owned properties shall be for Town of Essex residents only and subject to the following restrictions:

Strictly adhere to the Governor's Executive Orders, including, without limitation, Executive Order (EO) 7N, which prohibits all social and recreational gatherings of more than five (5) people, until such time as EO 7N is further modified or lifted by the Governor;

Maintain Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on social distancing, which include, without limitation, staying at least six (6) feet apart at all times over entire property including any associated parking areas;

Recommendation to wear a face mask / covering in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, e.g., 6-feet social distance, in accordance with CDC guidelines to provide maximum protection to others https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html, including the most vulnerable individuals in our community, subject to mandatory face mask / covering requirements set forth in the Governor's EO 7BB;

Use of tennis courts shall be for TOWN OF ESSEX residents only AND SINGLE PLAY and comply with USTA guidelines, set forth https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/sections/northern/pdf/usta-best-practices-covid-19.pdf, relevant CDC guidelines and as may be further restricted by Town of Essex Health Department or Essex Park and Recreation Department

Use of basketball courts, baseball fields, volleyball courts, dog park and playground equipment on town-owned properties continues to be prohibited until further notice:

These foregoing restrictions, while extensive, may not be entirely comprehensive. If the CDC or the State develops additional methods of reducing or eliminating risk and keeping individuals safe, such restrictions shall be adopted. In addition, further restrictions may be imposed in the event outdoor use of town-owned properties is abused or problematic.

Individuals violating the provisions of this Executive Order or any related local, state or federal order or any related local ordinance or state statute, may be subject to enforcement action.
Governor Lamont and Governor Raimondo to Align Hair Salon and Barber Shop Re-openings in Early June

Hair salons and barbershops were initially included in Phase 1 of Connecticut's reopen plan, which begins May 20, however Governor Lamont said that after having extensive discussions with owners and employees of these businesses he feels that it is in everyone's best interests to provide for some additional preparation time and also align the state with its regional partners. [Click Here for press release]

Small Business Reopening Resource Guide

Reopening recommendations and guidelines

The way we live and work is changing, and some of the new ways that we interact with each other will become routine. At the same time, many of our pre-COVID-19 work habits will be reinforced and will continue to shape how we do business.

The level of uncertainty in the economy is at an all-time high and the recovery is difficult to predict. Although there has been no single policy or proposed response, individual businesses, states, and regions have been taking steps to help their citizens and businesses through this trying period.
We're here to help. Together with the listed community and business support groups from across the state, we have assembled information to assist with a variety of questions you'll have when you're ready to reopen for business. Click Here for recommendations and guidelines.

Governor Lamont Announces Distribution of Infrared Thermometers to Eligible Businesses, Nonprofits, and Places of Worship

Small businesses, nonprofits, and places of worship that would like to request equipment from the state's supply of infrared thermometers should fill out a form online to indicate their request. The state has partnered with the Connecticut Business and Industry Association and its affiliate CONNSTEP to distribute the thermometers. They will be delivered to the municipalities in which the organizations are located, and then the municipalities will contact the recipient entities to inform them of a time and location they can pick up their requested equipment.

Entities that would like to request a thermometer can fill out the forms on the Access to Personal Protective Equipment page, or through the links provided below:

- Small businesses: Any small business in the state that has between 2 and 100 employees are eligible to receive one thermometer per physical address. Click here.
- Nonprofits: Nonprofits located within Connecticut are eligible to receive one thermometer per physical address. To request thermometers for nonprofits, click here. Social services and direct care nonprofits may request a thermometer through the process outlined in this memo.
- Places of worship: Places of worship are eligible to receive one thermometer per physical address. To request thermometers for places of worship, click here.

This distribution will continue while supplies last.

Keep Boating Safe in Connecticut
Your actions are essential to keep boating and marine services open, safe, and accessible for everyone to enjoy. Click Here for guidelines

LATEST COVID-19 FACTS

- COVID-19 Testing Sites Locator
- COVID-19 Self Checker
- Center for Disease Control
- State of CT Coronavirus Information
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.