



For Info on COVID-19 Call 211

[Town Website](#)

COVID-19 UPDATE:

There have been **23** confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex and one coronavirus related death.

This year's Memorial Day ceremonies were different than in past years but what remains the same is that we all joined together in remembering and honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice to fight for the freedoms we enjoy. We will never forget those who have served or their sacrifice.

Stay safe,

Norm

Governor Lamont Announces Approval of First Permit for a Restaurant to Use a State Highway Right-Of-Way for Outdoor Dining.

[Click Here](#)

SNAP UPDATES:

The Connecticut Department of Social Services is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, the state's electronic benefit transfer (EBT) vendor, and participating food retailers to implement SNAP online purchasing in Connecticut.

When activated, those enrolled will be able to use SNAP benefits on their EBT card to purchase eligible food items online for delivery or curbside pickup at participating food retailers.

Participating food retailers to start are Amazon, including Amazon Pantry and Amazon Fresh; 12 Walmart stores ([click here for list](#)); and Wakefern Food Corp., which has 22 participating ShopRite stores in state ([click here for list](#)).

Based on successful system testing, online SNAP access is currently scheduled to begin on Tuesday, June 2, with all participating outlets online by June 3. A full schedule and

contact points will be announced closer to June 2.

Children enrolled in school meals program will soon receive additional, emergency SNAP benefits

The Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) today announced that because of the cancellation of in-person, pre-K to grade 12 classes at all schools in the state for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year, the families of approximately 265,631 public school students and 1,748 private school students who participate in the free or reduced-price meals program will soon receive additional, emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits under the federal Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals while learning from home during the pandemic.

Initially, when schools were slated to reopen on May 20, the state received federal approval to provide \$71.3 million in EBT benefits. That amount, however, increased to \$97.5 million when the decision was made to cancel in-person classes for the remainder of the academic year. The emergency SNAP funding for children who participate in the free or reduced-price meals program was authorized by the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

DSS estimates that it will issue approximately \$34.5 million in additional food benefits to about 70,000 SNAP-eligible households and \$63 million in food benefits to about 80,800 households not currently enrolled in SNAP. DSS is partnering with the Connecticut State Department of Education on the plan, which was approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service. Specifically:

- Pandemic EBT SNAP benefits will be deposited in the EBT accounts of about 70,000 households currently enrolled in SNAP on or about Sunday, May 24. An additional 800 households enrolled in the Temporary Family Assistance Program, but not currently enrolled in SNAP, will also receive Pandemic EBT SNAP benefits in their EBT accounts at that time.
- DSS will mail EBT debit cards to about 80,000 households not currently enrolled in SNAP and will deposit Pandemic EBT SNAP benefits into their new EBT accounts on Sunday, June 7, for Medicaid-enrolled households and on Sunday, June 21, for all other households. These are households that do not currently have EBT cards because they are not enrolled in SNAP or cash assistance.

Benefits can be used at any location that accepts SNAP/EBT cards. This includes farmers' markets and direct market farms. Pandemic EBT participants will also have online access to eligible food purchases through delivery or

curbside pickup when it is implemented in the overall SNAP program.

Families do not need to apply for Pandemic EBT benefits, as children are automatically eligible because in-person classes are not in session. The planned one-time benefit is \$364.80 per child enrolled in the free and reduced-price meals program.

Connecticut Department of Labor notifying more than 75,000 individuals about potential eligibility for extended unemployment benefits

Leadership at the Connecticut Department of Labor today announced that the agency is planning to mail instruction letters this Friday to approximately 77,000 individuals in the state who have been identified as potentially eligible to apply for 13 weeks of emergency extended unemployment benefits. [Click Here](#) for press release.

Governor Lamont Reminds Connecticut Residents of June 1 Deadline to Apply for Home Heating Assistance

Families and Individuals Seeking Assistance Should Visit www.ct.gov/staywarm or Call 2-1-1 for Guidance [Click Here](#) for press release.

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