



[Town Website](#)

## CONGRATULATIONS VRHS 2020 GRADUATES

I encourage you to go see the Valley Regional High School Class of 2020 display on the Chester Meeting House Green to honor our high school graduates. The banners will be in Chester for about a week, and then cycle through Essex and Deep River, before settling at the high school in preparation for graduation day.

For our graduating seniors, these final months of school usually spent celebrating achievements, attending senior reception night and planning for graduation have been impacted by the global crisis. In the face of this, you have shown remarkable maturity and resilience. I am confident that each of you will not only persevere but learn from this extraordinary challenge. The future is bright. Congratulations!

Onward we go,

Norm

### COVID-19 UPDATE:

There have been [23](#) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex and one coronavirus related death.

### REOPEN CONNECTICUT REPORT

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/News/20200526-Governors-Reopen-Report.pdf?la=en>

## Department of Revenue Services continues to provide taxpayer assistance during pandemic

The Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS) is reminding residents that the agency continues to provide taxpayer assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. These include:

- **Priority One Assistance Program:** The Priority One Assistance Program offers assistance to businesses and individuals who have an existing collection matter with DRS. The new program, which was created to facilitate assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic, connects taxpayers with a DRS professional, who will assist in developing a workable solution. Taxpayers seeking assistance can call 860-541-7650 on Mondays to Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or can send an email to [DRSPriorityOne\\_CollectionsAssist@po.state.ct.us](mailto:DRSPriorityOne_CollectionsAssist@po.state.ct.us).
- **File electronically:** Filing and payment deadlines for Connecticut individual income tax returns have been extended until July 15, 2020. The easiest way to file - and the fastest way to receive a refund - is through online filing, including via the [DRS Taxpayer Service Center](#), which is easy, secure, and free to use. Since Connecticut's individual income tax return begins with federal adjusted gross income, it is often beneficial to complete one's federal income tax return first. Taxpayers who file a paper tax return will experience longer processing times for refunds. DRS strongly encourages taxpayers and tax professionals to file electronically.
- **Helpful information on the DRS website:** The DRS website - [portal.ct.gov/DRS](http://portal.ct.gov/DRS) - includes answers to many questions, and a Frequently Asked Questions page that is updated regularly. Taxpayers who need to contact DRS may email [DRS@po.state.ct.us](mailto:DRS@po.state.ct.us). To reach DRS by phone during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) call 860-297-5962 (from anywhere); 800-382-9463 (within Connecticut, outside Greater Hartford area only); or 860-297-4911 (TDD/TT users only).



**Families & Coronavirus Virtual Town Hall with U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal**

Hosted by  
Connecticut Children's

Join Connecticut Children's and U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal for a virtual town hall meeting to discuss how COVID-19 has impacted families in our state. Hear an update from Senator Blumenthal on the steps the federal government is taking to help families during this challenging time and hear from Connecticut Children's about all of our efforts to keep kids and families safe and sound. Following the speaking program, there will be a moderated Q&A session.

**Date:**

Friday, May 29th

**Time:**

1pm- 2pm

**Registration:**

This discussion is open to all but we ask that you please register in advance. Zoom call-in information will be shared upon registration.

[Click here to register.](#)



**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