



For Info on COVID-19 Call 211

[Town Website](#)

COVID-19 UPDATE:

There have been [16](#) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex and one coronavirus related death.

Some good news today. Hospitalizations continue to decline, the self-employed can now apply for unemployment, you can get tested without a doctors order, and we are hopeful that we will meet the May 20th reopen date.

The governor has set criteria that must be met in order to begin the first phase of reopening on May 20th. The Board of Selectmen meeting announced the formation of a Re-open Essex Advisory Committee. The committee is made up of representatives from Health, Police, Public Works, Social Services, the Board of Education, Harbor and Economic Development commissions, and Selectmen. This group will focus on re-opening the local economy and education system as we emerge from this public health emergency. As the governor releases more guidance to what's required, we are ready to support those measures and get things back in motion as safely as possible.

As a safety measure, the Board of Selectmen approved and recommended a borrowing resolution to the Board of Finance. The Town maintains a healthy fund balance, but local taxes and state funding may lag and impact the Town's cash flow and liquidity. The funds can only be used to meet the cash flow needs of the Town. The Board of Finance will consider the resolution at the May 11th Zoom meeting. If approved, the resolution will move to a vote at a Town meeting currently scheduled for July 1st at 4:30pm.

Hope requires commitment, action, and engagement.

Let's get this started,

Norm

During his [daily news briefing on May 7th](#), Governor Lamont announced that his administration is utilizing seven criteria in its consideration for Phase 1 of Connecticut's reopening efforts:

1. 14-day decline of hospitalizations
2. Increased testing available
3. Sufficient contact tracing capacity
4. Protect vulnerable populations
5. Adequate healthcare capacity
6. Adequate supply of PPE
7. Appropriate workplace safeguards

[Criteria for Initial Reopening Explained Here](#)

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 11th 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](#)

Governor Lamont announced the lifting of some restrictions to allow for major expansion of COVID-

19 testing in the state.

This includes the suspension of the requirement that patients receive a referral from a physician or other prescribing medical provider (such as a physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or certified nurse practitioner) prior to being administered a COVID-19 test, and the modification of state laws and regulations in order to allow these tests to be conducted by pharmacists.

The governor explained that this will help the state in its overall goal of significantly increasing the number of people who are receiving tests, particularly for those in underserved communities or who may not have a primary care physician. He also said that allowing the COVID-19 tests to be administered at pharmacies (pharmacist can order and administer test) will increase access, especially within more populated, urban areas and facilitate increased screening of essential front-line workers.

The state's COVID-19 testing sites continue to require appointments be made in advance prior to arriving. There is no cost to be tested for COVID-19. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act guarantees all Americans can receive free testing. This includes those with private insurance, government insurance (Medicare, Medicare Advantage, HUSKY, VA, FEHBP, and TRICARE), and even those with no insurance.

Both of the orders will remain in place as needed for the duration of the declared public health and civil preparedness emergency.

Self-employed residents seeking aid can now apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

The Connecticut Department of Labor today announced that it has made active the filing site so those who are self-employed can complete the necessary filing applications for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). Those seeking to apply should visit www.filectui.com and locate the red button labeled with the PUA designation. The site will accept applications from self-employed individuals, including independent contractors and "gig" workers who have already applied through the state unemployment system and have received a determination notice in the mail.

To date, more than 38,000 self-employed individuals have completed the first step of the federally-required two-step process. The first step, which requires individuals to file an application on the state unemployment system, generates a determination notice that is sent by applications via mail. The notice, also known as a UC-58, notifies those eligible to file as a self-employed person that wage data is not available

and disqualifies them for state benefits. Under guidelines set by the federal government, this two-step process ensures accurate accounting and integrity measures.

Because self-employed individuals already applied through the state unemployment system, the newly-built PUA site will have a record of a person's state benefit ineligibility status. The PUA system requires applicants to create an account with a unique password and ID. The secure site also collects the applicant's name, birthdate, and social security number, in addition to wage information.

Applicants will also be asked the date when COVID-19 impacted their employment. Federal guidelines allow this to go back to February 2, 2020. If an unemployed status goes back to retroactive weeks, the system requires applicants to provide weekly earnings through the current week filing.

For more information on how to apply for benefits under the PUA system, [Click Here](#)

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.

