



The horrific events of September 11, 2001 are forever etched in our memories and in our hearts. We remember the dead and wounded and the families that mourn them. We remember the bravery of the first responders and of those ordinary citizens who took on hijackers. We remember the disbelief and the shock. We remember the resilience of the American Spirit and optimism shown in the face of an unthinkable tragedy.

Today, we honor the victims, and thank the first responders and the military for protecting and defending the United States of America.

[Town Website](#)

Governor Ned Lamont today announced that he is directing U.S. and state flags in Connecticut to be flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset on Friday, September 11, 2020 in remembrance of the nearly 3,000 men, women, and children who were killed in the 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. Accordingly, since no flag should fly higher than the U.S. flag, all other flags - including state, municipal, corporate, or otherwise - should also be lowered during this same duration of time.

In addition, Governor Lamont announced that the state will illuminate the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge in New Haven - informally known by many residents as the Q Bridge - in red, white, and blue lights beginning at dusk on the evenings of Thursday September 10, and Friday, September 11, in recognition of the anniversary. Beacons capable of projecting light nearly six miles into the clear night sky will be lit until 1:00 a.m. during those nights.

"Tragedy not only impacted our nation on that day 19 years ago, but it affected so many families who live here in Connecticut and had loved ones taken from them all too tragically," Governor Lamont said. "We will forever remember each of those whose lives were taken all too soon, and honor the heroism of the first responders who courageously put their own lives on the line to protect complete strangers. We also pay tribute to the brave men and women of the U.S. military who serve our nation and protect our freedoms. Let's use this anniversary as a reminder that we are stronger as a nation when we unite together and remain committed to improving our world for the better."

"We will forever remember and never forget the nearly 3,000 lives taken from us so tragically and cruelly - mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, friends and coworkers," Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz said. "In the minutes, hours, and days that followed one of the darkest days in our nation's history, we saw courageous acts that reminded us of America's resiliency when we come together as one. Our first responders heroically put themselves in harm's way to save others. Ordinary people risked their lives to take on hijackers. Families turned their unimaginable loss into hope. Today and every day, we honor the memories of all those we lost on

September 11, and thank our first responders and military personnel for protecting us and defending our country."

The [State of Connecticut's official 9/11 memorial](#) honoring the victims of the attacks is located on a peninsula at [Sherwood Island State Park](#) in Westport, where on a clear day the Manhattan skyline can be viewed across the Long Island Sound. It features a stone engraved with the names of the people with ties to Connecticut who were killed in the attacks. The state park was chosen as the site for the memorial because it is the location in the immediate aftermath of the attacks where many people gathered to observe the devastation on Lower Manhattan across the sound. The site was also used by the Connecticut National Guard in the following days and weeks as a staging area for Connecticut's relief efforts to New York City.

COVID-19 Update

[COVID-19 Tests, Cases, and Deaths by Town](#)

[CT Travel Advisory Updated 9-8-2020](#)

Valley Regional High School positive cases

You may have heard that Valley Regional High School closed Sept 8th and 9th due to two positive coronavirus cases among the student body generating the need for detailed contact tracing and cleaning. The two students who tested positive had not yet attended school.

There is no need to alter any of your current plans so long as you are social distancing, wearing masks, and staying home if you are not feeling well or may have been in contact with someone who you know is positive. In other words, just be cautious and careful as usual. We will keep you posted if there are any updates.

Here is the Superintendent's message:

Valley Regional High School will be closed on Tuesday, September 8th and Wednesday, September 9th to students and all non-essential staff.

The district has become aware of two students in the school community who tested positive for COVID-19 and we are following our protocol. As soon as we were notified, we began collaborating closely with our local health departments and individual families to assess the situation. Additionally, we consulted with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health to determine the most appropriate course of action.

Our local health departments need time to conduct contact tracing and to confirm that numerous attempts are made to reach all of the people who may have been in close contact with each of the confirmed cases. During the school closure, we will implement our deep cleaning protocols at Valley Regional High School, to prepare the building for the safe return of students and staff.

All Valley students and staff will engage in distance learning for Tuesday and as scheduled on Wednesday. This closure will apply to all school day and after school/extracurricular activities.

In person classes at Valley are currently scheduled to resume on Thursday, September 10th unless otherwise notified. The staff at VRHS and district administration are working closely with affected families and individual students to develop plans and support as

needed.

Classes at John Winthrop Middle School, Chester Elementary School, Deep River Elementary School and Essex Elementary School will continue as scheduled, as those buildings are not presently impacted by this situation.

As a reminder, it is critical that parents/guardians inform their child's school immediately in the event their child tests positive for COVID-19, or if your family has been contacted by the health authority regarding a potential exposure.

Park and Rec Department

Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival Cancelled

Essex Park and Recreation 2020 has been filled with changes and challenges to our parks, programming and community. Requiring us to come up with creative ways to participate and celebrate safely and within the CDC guidelines. Many of our traditional Fall activities will not be on the calendar, however we could not let the 20th Anniversary of the Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival go unrecognized. **We will Host a Tribute Concert on Sat Oct 17th from 4-6 at the Ivoryton Village Green featuring the music of Festival Veteran's The Federation.** We also invite all attendees to come in costume. Everyone who does will receive a raffle ticket for entry into a drawing for dinner certificates to one of our local village restaurants. We will have 3 tickets drawn at random with ticket numbers posted on our Essex Park and Rec Facebook Page on Tuesday Oct 20, 2020. Yes its not the traditional Pumpkin Festival but it will be an opportunity to pay tribute to all the volunteers, vendors, Staff, community organizations and businesses who over the last 20 years have made the Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival one of our Town's most loved events.



Connecticut approved for two additional weeks of lost wages assistance; Claimant certification begins within a week

Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL) Commissioner Kurt Westby today announced that the State of Connecticut has been approved for an additional two weeks of Lost Wages Assistance supplemental benefits. Lost Wages Assistance is the new federal program funded by \$44 billion in Stafford Act disaster relief. It will provide an additional \$300 per week for any claimant who has a weekly benefit of at least \$100 (including the dependency allowance) and who has become unemployed or partially unemployed due to COVID-19.

Existing Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claimants have already self-certified and do not need to do anything to receive the

additional benefit. New unemployment claimants and existing state and extended benefits claimants who are required to self-certify are notified by letter or email that they are eligible and may self-certify when the program is open. CTDOL is currently testing self-certification and opening the program to small groups of people over the course of the next few days. Payments will be disbursed in mid-September when the self-certification testing is complete and widely available to all.

To self-certify:

- Claimants log into their unemployment account, where the account main page offers a new option in the menu "Certify for Lost Wages Assistance."
- Once a claimant has clicked on the button, a new screen will ask them to certify that their unemployment or underemployment is due to COVID-19.
- The claimant then confirms their submission and has completed the process.

Federal eligibility guidelines include:

- Recipients of at least \$100 per week, including the dependency allowance, of any of the following benefits for the week they are seeking unemployment benefits;
- Claimants receiving unemployment compensation, including state and federal workers and former service members, as well as those receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, Extended Benefits, or High Extended Benefits;
- Claimants who are part of the Shared Work Program; and
- Workers with a Trade Readjustment Allowance.

A total of five weeks of Lost Wages Assistance will be paid in addition to regular unemployment weekly benefits and will be retroactive to the claim week beginning July 26, 2020. It will also be available for claim weeks beginning August 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2020. Claimants will receive the supplemental benefit in several payments; the first payment of \$300 will be issued mid-September, with the remainder of retroactive payments following in two or three separate payments.

FEMA will terminate the program once available federal funding is exhausted or if the federal government passes legislation that replaces the program. The program is expected to provide \$375 million in additional unemployment benefits to Connecticut claimants.

CTDOL estimates that about 250,000 claimants will be eligible for the funding. The agency will continue to release updates as they become available on the [CTDOL Federal Supplements webpage](#) and send them directly to anyone who signs up for "Info to your Inbox" [on the agency's homepage](#).

Additional SNAP benefits coming September 17 to nearly 109,600 households in Connecticut

The Connecticut Department of Social Services will provide over \$16.5 million in Emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Benefits to nearly half of Connecticut's SNAP participants on Thursday, September 17, 2020 - adding to the \$100.6 million in emergency benefits disbursed in April, May, June, July, and August. Authorized by the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, the extra food benefits will go to nearly 109,600 households that are not currently receiving the maximum benefits allowed for their household size. This means that all households enrolled in SNAP will receive the maximum food benefit allowable for their household size, even if they are not usually eligible for the maximum benefit.

[Click Here](#) for more information.

LATEST COVID-19 FACTS

- [Get the Latest Guidance](#)
- [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](#)

Or call the 2-1-1 Connecticut Hotline

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Town of Essex