



**Mayor Neil M. O'Leary**

## **City of Waterbury Daily Coronavirus Update**

**March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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### **IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR CITY OF WATERBURY RESIDENTS:**

*In an effort to adhere to social distancing guidelines, and promote the safety of our residents and our city personnel, Waterbury City Hall, the Chase Municipal Building, and the Jefferson Square Office Building will be partially closed to the public beginning Monday, March 23rd.*

*Mayor O'Leary remains deeply committed to providing essential services to our residents. However, residents are encouraged to conduct city related business over the phone or internet whenever possible*

*Individuals who have questions or who are seeking information about the city's ongoing response are encouraged to call the EOC at 3-1-1.*

### **A MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR LAMONT:**

***This is Governor Ned Lamont. I'm calling to urge you personally: Stay safe, stay home. I'm not ordering you to stay home, I'm strongly urging you to stay home to make sure that you and your neighbors are much less likely to be infected by the highly contagious COVID-19 virus.***

***If you must head out to the grocery store, or pharmacy, pick up takeout from your favorite restaurant, that's fine. I'll be taking a long walk with Annie to get some fresh air, but remember to keep your distance from passerbys.***

***Seventy years or older? Stay home.***

***And for those of you who can work from home, that's best but check with your boss, first.***

***For the latest updates, follow me on Twitter or Facebook.***

***We will get through this crisis by working together.***

**Quick Resources:**

The City of Waterbury's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is open and staffed 24 hours a day. Individuals who have questions or who are seeking information about the city's ongoing response are encouraged to call the EOC at 3-1-1.

Individuals with general questions about coronavirus are encouraged to call 2-1-1 for the State of Connecticut's Coronavirus Call Center.

To visit the City of Waterbury's COVID-19 informational website, [click here](#).

**Senior citizens in need of special assistance are encouraged to call 3-1-1 for help with: Prescription pick up and/or drop off, emergency transportation, supplemental food drop off, etc.**

**Availability of drive-through testing at Saint Mary's Hospital and Waterbury Hospital:**

The City of Waterbury continues to work with our two hospitals to mitigate and respond to coronavirus. Drive-through testing is being conducted outside of Saint Mary's Hospital and Waterbury Hospital.

***\*Please note: In order for testing to occur, individuals are required to have a prescription for testing from their primary care physician***

***\*Call 3-1-1 to confirm drive-through locations are open.***

**Waterbury Public Schools:**

Mayor O'Leary and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Verna Ruffin are deeply committed to continuing the district's free breakfast and lunch program. Students are able to pick up breakfast and lunch at any one of 25 schools around the city between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Click [here](#) for a full list of locations.

Number of breakfasts distributed today: 3,684

Number of lunches distributed today: 3,732

Total student meals distributed to date: 42,127

Instructional learning packets for all students can be picked up at the 25 schools being used for breakfast and lunch pickup.

To access the district's Continued Learning Plan, click [here](#).

### **Testing Results (as of March 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM)**

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Waterbury: 27

### **Waterbury Official Announcements:**

*\*To visit Mayor O'Leary's Facebook for additional information, [click here](#).*

Wednesday, March 11: Mayor O'Leary orders the opening of the city's Emergency Operation Center.

Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>: Mayor O'Leary declares a state of emergency for the City of Waterbury.

Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>: Mayor O'Leary announces guidelines restricting public access to Waterbury City Hall, the Chase Municipal Building, and the Jefferson Square Office Building effective Monday, March 23rd.

Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>: Mayor O'Leary announces that the Board of Aldermen meeting to be held on Monday, March 23rd will take place without normal in-person public access.

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

As our city continues to prepare and respond to coronavirus, there are ways that every day citizens can directly help. Mayor O'Leary is calling on those who are healthy, able, and willing to volunteer to support the city's efforts. If you would like more information about how you can help, please call the city's Emergency Operation Center at 3-1-1 or call the Mayor's office at (203) 574-6712. Individuals answering those numbers will ask you for the information necessary to fill out the City of Waterbury Volunteer Intake Form.

In addition, recently retired medical professionals who retired in good standing with the Department of Public Health (DPH), and currently licensed medical professionals who are in good standing with DPH (physicians, physician assistants, nurses, paramedics, EMT's, and all

other certified allied health professions) are encouraged to call 3-1-1 if interested in supporting the city's response

**Executive Orders and Updates from the Desk of Governor Ned Lamont (as of March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2pm):**

*\*For a complete list of the Governor's executive orders, [click here](#).*

*\*For a complete list of the Governor's Press Releases, [click here](#).*

*\*To visit the Governor's Facebook for additional information, [click here](#).*

- Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Governor Ned Lamont issues declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies.
- Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Governor Lamont signs an executive order that:
    - Prohibits all events in the state with over 250 people;
    - Modifies the state law requiring schools to be in for 180 days;
    - Clarifies visitor restrictions at all nursing and convalescent homes;
    - Authorizes DMV to extend renewal deadlines to reduce crowds at DMV branches and relaxes attendance rules for police academy trainees.
- Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Governor Lamont signs an executive order that:
    - Revises the nursing home visitation provisions in Executive Order No. 7, prohibiting any visitation for the next 30 days effective immediately except for the following categories of individuals:
      - First responders, including emergency medical services, law enforcement, firefighting and emergency management personnel;
      - Family members, domestic partners or other persons designated by a patient only when the facility's medical director, a licensed

physician or advance practice registered nurse has determined such patient to be at the end stage of life with death being imminent;

- Any person authorized by law to oversee or investigate the provision of care and services; and
- Service providers who are required to do maintenance or repair necessary without delay for the facility's continued operation.

- Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

- Governor Lamont signs an executive order that:

- Relaxes in-person open meeting requirements to minimize large gatherings, with safeguards to provide remote public access;
- Allows pharmacists to compound and sell hand sanitizer;
- Waives requirements for pharmacists to use certain personal protective equipment when working with non-hazardous, sterile compounds;
- Authorizes refunds of liquor permit fees for special events that have since been canceled;
- Waives face-to-face interview requirements for Temporary Family Assistance;
- Authorizes the Commissioner of Early Childhood to waive certain licensing and other requirements to maintain and increase the availability of childcare; and
- Authorizes the Office of Health Strategy to waive Certificates of Need and other requirements to ensure adequate availability of healthcare resources and facilities.

- Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

- Governor Lamont signs an executive order that:

- Cancels classes at all public schools statewide effective March 17 through at least March 31.
- Provides flexibility for municipal budget deadlines and related issues.
- Authorizes the DMV commissioner to close branches to the public, conduct business remotely, and extend deadlines.
- Allows restrictions on visitor access to psychiatric facilities in order to protect vulnerable residents, patients, and staff.

- Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Governor Lamont signs an executive order that:
    - Revises the previously enacted prohibition on large gatherings to a capacity of 50 people, and adds religious gatherings to the list of activities subject to the limit.
    - Limits restaurants to non-alcoholic beverage and take-out/delivery services only, effective 8PM tonight.
    - Requires closure of on-site operations at off-track betting facility operations, effective 8PM tonight.
    - Requires closure of gyms, fitness studios, and movie theaters, effective 8PM tonight.
  
- Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Governor Lamont signs an executive order that:
    - Makes modifications to the governor's previously enacted waiver of the 180-day school year to grant broader flexibility to school districts.
    - Allows police departments to limit or eliminate fingerprinting for background checks.
    - Extends expiration dates for permits, licenses, and other credentials administered by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.
    - Suspends the requirement that public assistance benefit overpayments be immediately recouped.
    - Suspend in-person hearing attendance requirements for certain hearings conducted by the Department of Social Services.
  
- Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Governor Lamont expands Monday's order to include:
    - The closure of indoor portions of large retail shopping malls, amusement parks, and bowling alleys effective 8:00 PM Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.
  
- Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>: Governor Lamont signs an executive order that:
  - Postpones Connecticut's Presidential Primary Election from April 28<sup>th</sup> to June, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

- Suspends non-critical court operations and associated requirements, deadlines, and statutes of limitations.
  - Permits certain restaurants and other eating establishments to sell alcohol with take-out food orders and certain other licensees to sell for off-premise consumption under conditions specified in the order and implementing orders to be issued by the Department of Consumer Protection.
  - Directs the temporary closure of barbershops, hair salons, tattoo or piercing parlors, and related businesses effective at 8:00 p.m. on Friday.
  - Expands the ability of patients and doctors to use telehealth for healthcare services.
  - Temporarily suspends in-person investigation visits regarding suspected elder abuse and extends timelines for reporting investigation results
- Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>: Governor Lamont signs an executive order that:
    - All non-essential businesses and not-for-profit entities in Connecticut to prohibit all in-person functions if they are able to, effective Monday, March 23, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.
      - The governor is encouraging all businesses to employ, to the maximum extent possible, any telecommuting or work-from-home procedures that they can safely implement.
      - The order excludes any essential business or entity providing essential services or functions, such as healthcare, food service, law enforcement, and similar critical services.
      - The Office of the Governor is working in concert with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development to develop guidance for all businesses relating to this order. That guidance will be released over the weekend.
- Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Governor Lamont announces that:
    - Connecticut public schools must remain closed until at least April 20<sup>th</sup>. He originally ordered that schools stay closed through March 31<sup>st</sup>.