Mayor Neil M. O'Leary

City of Waterbury Daily Coronavirus Update

March 30th, 2020

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.

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.

****Grocery Store Safety – Customer & Employee Protection from Coronavirus****

To stop the spread of coronavirus, health officials have instructed the public to practice social distancing -- staying home, avoiding crowds and refraining from touching one another.

At the grocery store, this means being strategic, so that you minimize risk to yourself and others around you. To be safe, and to keep healthy families healthy, we strongly encourage you to do the following:

- **Limit the number of persons who shop for the family**- same family member, all the time. Try not send different family members each time, this increases risk to the household.

- **Limit the number of persons going to the grocery store**- try to send ONLY ONE PERSON, and whenever possible, leave older adults and children who can be unsupervised, at home. * many stores now have "senior hours" for vulnerable older adult populations

- **Go when you suspect fewer people will be at the store**- early morning or late at night is best, but CHECK STORE HOURS as some have reduced hours due to Coronavirus

- **Thoroughly wash all produce that you purchase**

- **Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds**, with hot soapy water after you shop, and before preparing or consuming any food products

- **If possible, order groceries online for delivery**- this process can take practice, and delivery will most likely not be same day, so order well ahead of time

For COVID + persons: STAY AT HOME. Do not go to any public areas, except for medical care.

- Have a non-quarantined support person purchase and deliver groceries to door/porch.
- Avoid exchange of money or close contact with any delivery person if possible.
- Wear a face mask if you must come into contact and/or have others wear a mask.

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.

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.
St. Mary's Hospital: Drive through Testing Every day; 9 AM-3 PM

Waterbury Hospital: Drive through Testing on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 8 AM- 4PM

****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: 4,844

Number of lunches distributed today: 4,977

Total student meals distributed to date: 74,392

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.

Waterbury Public Schools

236 Grand Street ▯ Waterbury, Connecticut 06702 ▯ (203) 574-8000 ▯ Fax (203) 574-8010

Dr. Verna D. Ruffin
Superintendent of Schools

March 29, 2020

Dear Waterbury Public School Parents, Families and Staff:

I have learned that two Waterbury Public School employees have tested positive for COVID-19, a member of the instructional staff at Gilmartin Elementary School and a member of the Food Service staff at Wilby High School. While I understand this information may cause fear and anxiety, please know that the Waterbury Department of Public Health is engaged and communicating with both individuals.

It is my understanding that both individuals began showing symptoms after schools closed on March 12. In the case of the Food Service worker, while the worker was engaged in the Food Program since the closure, the employee followed guidelines and did not report to work after feeling ill. Each employee reported their test result to their supervisor and they are receiving treatment. We hope for a speedy and complete recovery for them.

I want to assure you that all of our Food Service members practice the highest level of safe and hygienic food preparation and delivery practices. They are also abiding by social distancing guidelines. Any member of the Food Service staff who is feeling sick has been asked to stay home. The school is also being cleaned thoroughly by our custodial staff as well as a professional cleaning service.

Waterbury Public Schools is committed to sharing timely and factual information with you. We will follow the guidelines regarding reporting individuals who test positive for COVID-19 while respecting and protecting our employees' privacy in accordance with federal law.

Please continue to practice the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control, including social distancing. I encourage you to contact your physician if you have any concerns or questions.

Let us continue to support one another during this challenging and uncertain time. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Verna D. Ruffin
Superintendent of Schools

Testing Results (as of March 30th, 4:30 PM)

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Waterbury: 88

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 16th: Mayor O'Leary declares a state of emergency for the City of Waterbury.

Thursday, March 19th: 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 19th: 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.

Friday, March 27th: At the direction of Mayor O'Leary, Waterbury Food Services has begun preparing meals to be delivered to senior citizens.

Monday, March 30th: As a part of the City of Waterbury's ongoing response to Coronavirus, and pursuant to the emergency powers vested with Mayor O'Leary, the regular meetings of the below listed boards and commissions shall be suspended effective immediately. On May 1st, an assessment will be made regarding the future convening of the below listed boards and commissions.

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 18th, 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 10th
  - Governor Ned Lamont issues declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies.
- Thursday, March 12th
  - 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 13th
  - 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 14th
  - 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 15th
  - 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 16th
    - 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-side operations at off-track betting facility operations, effective 8PM tonight.
        - Requires closure of gyms, fitness studios, and movie theaters, effective 8PM tonight.

- Tuesday, March 17th
    - 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 18th
    - 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 20th.

- Thursday, March 19th: Governor Lamont signs an executive order that:
    - Postpones Connecticut's Presidential Primary Election from April 28th to June, 2nd, 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 20th: 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 23rd: Governor Lamont announces that:
  - Connecticut public schools must remain closed until at least April 20th. He originally ordered that schools stay closed through March 31st.
  - Orders the early opening of the fishing season, effective immediately
  - Suspends restrictions on the re-employment of retired municipal employees: To enable municipalities to meet critical staffing needs caused by COVID-19 with skilled and experienced employees who require little to no additional training, the order modifies state statutes to allow certain retired employees who are in the municipal retirement system to work without any hourly or durational limitation while also continuing to receive retirement allowances.
  - Exacts flexibility to maintain adequate medical marijuana access for patients: The order modifies the state's medical marijuana program to improve patient access and address staffing shortages in facilities. This includes permitting

patients to be certified via telehealth; extending expiration dates for patient and caregiver registrations; allowing dispensary facility staff to move work locations among facilities and, with approval of the state, make adjustments to staffing ratios; and waiving the fee normally charged if someone loses or misplaces their registration certificate.

- Extends the time period for nursing home transfers: The order extends the time allowed for an applicant to transfer from a nursing home where they were temporarily placed after their nursing home closed from sixty days after their arrival at the new facility to "not later than one year following the date that such applicant was transferred from the nursing home where he or she previously resided."
- Enacts flexibility in availability and registration of vital records: The order authorizes the Commissioner of Public Health to conduct birth, death and marriage registration, in order to assist local registrars of vital statistics in carrying out their duties as may be required, and to issue any implementing orders she deems necessary.
- Suspends in-person purchase of copies of vital records at the Department of Public Health: The order suspends the requirement that the purchase of vital records at the Department of Public Health be available in person, and limits those requests to online or mail.
- Modifies the requirement that marriage licenses be obtained in the town where the marriage will be celebrated: As municipal offices around the state are closed or have selective hours due to the COVID-19 crisis, the order permits those seeking a marriage license to obtain it in a different municipality than where it will be celebrated.

- Thursday, March 26th: Governor Lamont announces that:
  - Connecticut small businesses and nonprofits that have been negatively impacted by the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic can now apply for one-year, no-interest loans of up to $75,000 under the launch of a new program administered by the state's Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).
  - The **Connecticut Recovery Bridge Loan Program** will make $25 million available to Connecticut businesses and nonprofits that have 100 or fewer employees to assist with cash flow. Loan amounts are up to the lesser of either three months operating expenses and/or $75,000.

Provisions and eligibility requirements include:

- Zero percent interest rate;
- 12-month term with 6-month extension per request;

- Personal guaranty and credit score required;
- Approval contingent upon business being profitable prior to March 10, 2020 and no adverse personal credit reports 60 days past due for the last 6 months; and
- Ineligible companies include those involved in real estate, multi-level marketing, adult entertainment, cannabis, and firearms.

All eligibility and application information can be found on the state's COVID-19 website at **ct.gov/coronavirus**.

Thursday, March 26th: Governor Lamont Signs an Executive Order that:

- Restricts gatherings to no more than 5 people.
- Where reasonably practicable, requires eating establishments that remain open for off-premise consumption to limit entrance of guests to the minimum extent necessary. Also requires touchless payment if available.
- Requires all retail establishments that remain open and permit customers inside to ensure customers maintain 6 feet of distance between each other. Also requires touchless payment if available.
- Requires all retail businesses that sell firearms, ammunition, or similar components to conduct all transactions by appointment only in order to limit as much person-to-person contact as possible.
- Suspends tax on single-use plastic bags.
- Prohibits operators of grocery stores or retail businesses from forcing their employees to bag items into customer-provided reusable bags.
- Suspends 21-month limit on Temporary Family Assistance.
- Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major disruption on schools, the order waives all annual student assessment test requirements for the current school year.