



**Mayor Neil M. O'Leary**

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

**April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

---

---

### **Safe Store Rules**

#### **Protecting Employees and Customers**

*Effective April 3, 2020*

#### **Occupancy, store layout, and managing customer flow**

- Occupancy capped at 50% of store capacity. At entrance, staff will maintain a count of the number of customers entering and exiting stores.
- Clearly mark 6' spacing in lines on floor at checkout lines and other high-traffic areas and, as much as practicable, provide ways to encourage 6' spacing in lines outside the store.
- Post conspicuous signage and floor markings to direct customers and limit bottlenecks and/or encourage spacing and flow in high-density areas.
- Have aisles be one-way in stores where practicable to maximize spacing between customers. Identify the one-way aisles with conspicuous signage and/or floor markings.
- Maximize space between customers and employees at checkout lines, including, but not limited to, only using every other checkout line, where and when possible.
- Install Plexiglas shields to separate employees from customers at checkout lines and other areas in the store where practicable.

#### **General**

- Communicate with customers through in store signage, and public service announcements and advertisements, there should only be one person per household during shopping trips, whenever possible.
- Discontinue all self-serve foods (e.g., salad bar, olive bar) and product sampling.

- Allow “touchless” credit card transactions. If not possible, sanitize credit card machines (including pen) regularly and consistently.
- Cart and basket handles sanitized between uses (by staff).
- Wherever possible, employees will wear gloves and face masks at all times that they are interacting with customers and/or handling products.

---

---

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.

*\* 3,571 lunches have been delivered to 180 Waterbury’s senior citizens in need*

---

---

***\*\*\*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 Monday thru Saturday; 9 AM-3 PM

***Waterbury Hospital:*** Drive through Testing on 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: 2,159

Number of lunches distributed today: 2,164

Total student meals distributed to date: 137,686

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 April 13th, 4:30 PM)**

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Waterbury: 687

Confirmed Waterbury Resident Deaths Associated with COVID-19: 34

### **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 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 27<sup>th</sup>: At the direction of Mayor O’Leary, Waterbury Food Services has begun preparing meals to be delivered to senior citizens.

Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>: 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 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-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 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>.
  - 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.
  - Enacts 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 26<sup>th</sup>: 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](https://ct.gov/coronavirus).

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>: 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.

Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>: Governor Lamont Signs an Executive Order that builds upon his efforts to encourage mitigation strategies that slow down transmission of the virus.

- Requirement of limited group sizes in childcare: The order requires all childcare facilities to limit group sizes to no more than 10 children in one space. Any facility caring for more than 30 children must obtain approval from the Office of Early Childhood and demonstrate sufficient separation of groups within the facility. This applies to all childcare facilities, including those that are exempt from licensing requirements.
- Enhancement of health procedures for all operating childcare programs: The order requires all children and childcare staff to be checked at the entrance of childcare facilities for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress, and to confirm temperature below 100 degrees Fahrenheit. All staff must adhere to increased handwashing and health practices. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices shall be implemented. This applies to all childcare facilities, including those that are exempt from licensing requirements.
- Authorization of remote notarization: The order eliminates all existing legal requirements to have a signature on any document witnessed by a third party, except in the case of a last will and testament. With respect to last wills and testaments, documents may now be witnessed remotely under the supervision of an attorney. In addition to removing witness requirements, any document required to be filed on the land records must contain a one-page certification, completed by a notary or commissioner of the Superior Court, reciting to the fact that the underlying document was executed pursuant to the executive order. The order also requires all town and city clerks to accept those documents for recording.

Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>: Governor Lamont Signs an Executive Order that builds upon his efforts to encourage mitigation strategies that slow down transmission of the virus.

- Continuation of funding for boards of education: The order requires the Connecticut State Department of Education to continue processing appropriated state grant funds intended to support boards of education through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020,

including ECS grants, payments for special education, and Choice programming. It also requires municipalities to continue providing funding to local boards of education as set forth in the approved annual school budgets.

- Continuation of payment of public school staff: The order requires school districts to continue to employ, or restore to employment if already laid off, and pay school staff who are directly employed by the local or regional boards of education.
- Preservation of student transportation services and special education providers: The order requires local boards of education and municipalities to negotiate amendments to contracts related to student transportation and special education services with the goal of continuing to make payments to transportation and special education providers so they may compensate their active employees, sustain the continuity of service when school resumes, and require the contracted company to attest and provide reasonable documentation of the fact that it is charging only the actual and reasonable cost of sustaining wage and health insurance payments for active employees and fleet.
- Restrictions on entrance to state parks, forests, and other lands: In light of significant visitors to certain state parks in recent days, the order gives the commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection the authorization to ban visitors from entering state parks and other lands under the agency's control after the property has reached a capacity adequate to supporting implementation of social distancing policies to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- Curbside pickup of alcoholic beverages permitted: The order authorizes package stores and grocery stores to permit the sale of curbside pickup of all alcoholic beverages allowed by their permit type in any space adjacent to their permit premise and during the days and hours allowed for legal sale.

Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>: Governor Lamont Signs an Executive Order that builds upon his efforts to encourage mitigation strategies that slow down transmission of the virus.

- Safe stores mandatory statewide rules: Effective upon the opening of each retail establishment for the first time on April 3, 2020, every retail establishment in the state will be required to take additional protective measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 between and among customers, employees, and other persons such as delivery drivers and maintenance people. The order requires the commissioner of the Economic and Community Development to issue mandatory statewide rules prescribing such additional protective measures. Such rules will be mandatory throughout the state and supersede and preempt any current or contemplated municipal order.
- 60-day grace period for premium payments, policy cancellations, and non-renewals of insurance policies: Beginning on April 1, 2020 for a period of 60 days, no insurer in Connecticut – including life, health, auto property, casualty, and other types – may lapse or terminate a covered insurance policy because a policyholder does not pay a premium or

interest during this time. This grace period is not automatic. To be eligible, affected policyholders must provide additional information acceptable to their insurance carriers.

- Extension of 30-day period of credit for liquor permittees: Modifies state law to permit the maximum period of credit for liquor permittees from certain creditors, including wholesalers and manufacturers, to be 90 days after the date of delivery for all permittees prohibited from engaging in on-premise sales per Executive Order No. 7D.
- Daily payment of certain taxes changed to weekly: Modifies the tax payment requirements for Sportech, the licensee authorized to operate off-track betting in Connecticut, from daily to weekly so that its employees aren't required to appear in person daily.
- Flexibility to amend Medicaid waivers

**Safe Store Rules**  
**Protecting Employees and Customers**  
***Effective April 3, 2020***

**Occupancy, store layout, and managing customer flow**

- Occupancy capped at 50% of store capacity. At entrance, staff will maintain a count of the number of customers entering and exiting stores.
- Clearly mark 6' spacing in lines on floor at checkout lines and other high-traffic areas and, as much as practicable, provide ways to encourage 6' spacing in lines outside the store.
- Post conspicuous signage and floor markings to direct customers and limit bottlenecks and/or encourage spacing and flow in high-density areas.
- Have aisles be one-way in stores where practicable to maximize spacing between customers. Identify the one-way aisles with conspicuous signage and/or floor markings.
- Maximize space between customers and employees at checkout lines, including, but not limited to, only using every other checkout line, where and when possible.
- Install Plexiglas shields to separate employees from customers at checkout lines and other areas in the store where practicable.

**General**

- Communicate with customers through in store signage, and public service announcements and advertisements, there should only be one person per household during shopping trips, whenever possible.
- Discontinue all self-serve foods (e.g., salad bar, olive bar) and product sampling.

- Allow “touchless” credit card transactions. If not possible, sanitize credit card machines (including pen) regularly and consistently.
- Cart and basket handles sanitized between uses (by staff).
- Wherever possible, employees will wear gloves and face masks at all times that they are interacting with customers and/or handling products.

Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Governor Lamont Signs an Executive Order that builds upon his efforts to encourage mitigation strategies that slow down transmission of the virus.

- Prohibition on non-essential lodging: Prohibits all hotels, motels, inns, bed and breakfasts, and short-term residential rentals (including those arranged through online hosting platforms such as Airbnb and Vrbo) from renting to customers for leisure or vacation purposes. Instead, lodging at these facilities must be limited to:
  - Health care workers, first responders, and other essential workers;
  - Workers engaged in transporting critical materials to hospitals;
  - Vulnerable populations, including those who are homeless;
  - Connecticut residents who need a place to self-quarantine away from family or roommates;
  - Those receiving long-term care or specialized medical treatment;
  - Connecticut residents in need of housing as a result of property damage, such as a fire;
  - Persons unable to return home because of constraints on travel; and
  - Persons engaged in providing or servicing lodging.
- Further clarification of limits on restaurants, bars, and private clubs: Permits, under certain conditions, food establishments and liquor manufacturers to deliver alcoholic liquor and allows additional manufacturers to sell alcoholic liquor for pick-up and delivery. This will provide additional opportunities for these businesses to safely deliver their products directly to customers and reduce travel outside the home.
- Suspension of notarization requirement related to Connecticut Recovery Bridge Loan Program: Suspends the notarization requirement for certifying compliance with nondiscrimination laws for applicants seeking assistance through the recently created Connecticut Recovery Bridge Loan Program for small businesses in order to ensure that applications can be completed and processed in an efficient manner.
- Flexibility to maintain adequate child care infrastructure: Provides the commissioner of Early Childhood with the authority to implement a financial package to compensate

emergency child care and stabilize the child care field to support providers through the emergency response.

- Suspension of rehearing rights for temporary rate increases for certain health care providers: Enables the Department of Social Services to provide relief to various providers, including nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the intellectually disabled, and residential care homes, by way of a temporary rate increase to address the COVID-19 public health emergency without being subject to rehearings challenging the overall magnitude and methodology of the rate increases that can, in some case, take years to come to a conclusion and expose the state to increased costs beyond those necessary to pay the temporary rate increases.
- Alternative to affidavits in relation to orders of protection and relief: Suspends the requirement that victims of domestic abuse sign an application for an order of protection under oath before a notary or attorney. Instead, the order enables them to sign an application outside the presence of a third party under the penalty of false statement. Governor Lamont thanks the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Judicial Branch for their input and coordination on this important matter. This order, along with additional changes the Judicial Branch intends to make to its Rules of Civil Procedure, will ensure victims of domestic abuse continue to have access to our courts during the COVID-19 pandemic

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>: Governor Lamont Signs an Executive Order that builds upon his efforts to encourage mitigation strategies that slow down transmission of the virus

- Protection from civil liability for actions or omissions in support of the state's COVID-19 response: Protects health care professionals and health care facilities, including nursing homes and field hospitals, from lawsuits for acts or omissions undertaken in good faith in support of the state's COVID-19 response. State statutes already provide similar protections for other first responders, including police, firefighters, and EMS.
- Financial protections for the uninsured and people covered by insurance who receive out-of-network health care services during the public health emergency: Protects those who are uninsured and those who are insured and are treated by an out-of-network emergency services health care provider from surprise bills and other significant costs. This will ensure that individuals receiving care are not being financially burdened.

Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>: Governor Lamont Signs an Executive Order that builds upon his efforts to encourage mitigation strategies that slow down transmission of the virus

- Safe workplaces in essential businesses: Requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to work in consultation with the Department of Public Health on

the development of legally binding statewide rules prescribing additional protective measures that every workplace in Connecticut deemed essential – and any other business or nonprofit allowed to remain open – must follow. Such rules will be mandatory throughout the state.

- Immediately upon Governor Lamont’s signing of this executive order, the Department of Economic and Community Development published the Safe Workplaces Rules for Essential Employers on its website, outlining guidance for these businesses. These rules go into effect immediately.
- Temporary permits for certain health care providers extended and fees waived: Waives the application fees for temporary permits for each of the health care professions that are administered by the Department of Public Health. It also extends the duration of the temporary permits for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, unless otherwise modified.
- Practice before licensure for certain health care profession applicants and graduates: Allows certain recent health care profession graduates who are not yet licensed to participate in the state’s COVID-19 response for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency. This is necessary during the emergency period because the ability to take the required exams or other steps to receive a license have been suspended.
- Practice before licensure for marital and family therapy associates: Allows those who have recently completed an accredited graduate degree program in marital and family therapy offered by a postgraduate clinical training program to practice without a license for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency.
- Practice before licensure for professional counselor associates: Allows recent graduates with a degree in clinical mental health counseling who are not yet licensed to practice as a professional counselor associate without obtaining a license for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency.
- Protection from civil liability for actions or omissions in support of the state’s COVID-19 response: Replaces the section of Executive Order No. 7U concerning protection from civil liability for actions or omissions in support of the state’s COVID-19 response with new language, which adds protection from liability for common law claims – in addition to the previously enacted protection from liability for statutory claims – for healthcare workers and providers.

Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>: Governor Lamont Signs an Executive Order that builds upon his efforts to encourage mitigation strategies that slow down transmission of the virus



- Suspension and modification of tax deadlines and collection efforts pursuant to Executive Order No. 7S, Section 6: Modifies Executive Order No. 7S, Section 6 regarding to maketax deferral and interest-rate reduction programs for eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents who have been economically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic also apply to taxes and utility charges from quasi-municipal corporations. It also clarifies the time periods for which this applies.
- No increased experience rating based on COVID-19 unemployment claims: Modifies state laws surrounding the requirement for employers to be charged an “experience rating” so their unemployment premiums are not unduly increased because of the high number of claims caused by COVID-19.
- Coil cleaning requirements modified: Modifies state regulations so that bars, restaurants, breweries, and wineries that normally sell beer or wine for on-premises consumption and remain closed for on premises consumption pursuant to Executive Order No. 7D are not required to clean beer or wine pipe lines on a weekly basis, unless growlers, crowlers, or cans for off-premise consumption are sold pursuant to Executive Orders No. 7G or 7T. Any premise that is not cleaning lines on a weekly basis will not be permitted to begin serving draught beer or wine after Executive Order No. 7D is lifted until a coil and line cleaning occurs.
- Delivery signature requirement suspended: Modifies state statutes so that consumers do not need to provide a signature for delivery or curb-side pickup of alcoholic beverages, provided that the seller verifies that the consumer receiving the alcoholic beverages is twenty-one or older and is not intoxicated.
- Return of permit not necessary for temporary closures pursuant to Executive Order No. 7D: Waives the requirement that businesses with certain permits that have closed for sixty days or less notify the Department of Consumer Protection of the closure, so long as the closure is the result of Executive Order No. 7D. It also waives the requirement that businesses return their permits to the state if the business is closed for more than 60 days if the closure is the result of Executive Order No. 7D, as long as it intends to open following the termination of the executive order.
- Ninety-day provisional permits: Modifies state statutes to authorize the commissioner of Consumer Protection to review and approve the issuance of provisional permits and their renewal, which would have otherwise been reviewed and approved by the Liquor Control Commission.
- Renewal date for on-premise liquor permits to be extended: Modifies state statutes to provide that all on-premise liquor permits in active status when Executive Order No. 7D went into effect on March 16, 2020 shall be extended by four months, including any business whose permit expired between March 16 and April 9.
- Permit need not be recorded with town clerk: Suspends state statutes and regulations in all towns where the town clerk’s office is closed or so reduced in hours that it makes it unreasonable to have permits recorded. Permits shall be recorded as soon as the relevant town clerk’s office is reopened and staffed for routine business.

Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>: Governor Lamont signs an executive order that:

- All landlords are prohibited from issuing a notice to quit or beginning eviction proceedings before July 1, 2020, except for serious nuisance, such as physically harming another tenant or the landlord.
- For rent due in April 2020, landlords must grant tenants an automatic, 60-day grace period for payment, instead of the existing 9-day grace period.
- For rent due in May 2020, landlords must grant a 60-day grace period for payment upon the request of tenants. Under this provision, a tenant must to notify the landlord that they have lost a job, lost hours, or otherwise lost revenue or faced significant increased expenses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- If a tenant has a paid security deposit of more than one month's rent, the tenant can apply all or part of that excess to April, May, or June rent. Under this provision, the tenant must notify the landlord that they have lost a job, lost hours, or otherwise lost revenue or faced significant increased expenses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“During this crisis, these protections will allow residents to stay safe at home, while prohibiting landlords from charging late fees or interest for nonpayment and provide a buffer for the next couple of months,” **Governor Lamont said**. “Residential renters need to have added safeguards during times of emergency like this – they have rights and we will see to it that they are protected.”

Last week, Governor Lamont [announced](#) that his administration reached an agreement with over 50 credit unions and banks in Connecticut to offer mortgage relief to homeowners during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in [Executive Order No. 7S](#), provided temporary relief regarding upcoming municipal tax payments. Homeowners should contact their lender to discuss accessing mortgage forbearance.

### **Extension of all previously enacted closures, distancing, and safety measures through May 20**

Also under today's executive order, the deadlines for all closure, distancing, and safety measures enacted to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 that are contained within previously enacted executive orders are extended through at least May 20. This applies to the following provisions:

- Executive Order No. 7D, Section 2, imposing limits on restaurant, bar, and private club operations
- Executive Order No. 7D, Section 3, closing on-site operations at off-track betting facilities
- Executive Order No. 7D, Section 4, closing operations at gyms, sports, fitness, and recreation facilities and movie theaters
- Executive Order No. 7F, Section 1, closing large shopping malls
- Executive Order No. 7F, Section 2, closing places of public amusement

- Executive Order No. 7H, Section 1, imposing safety and distancing measures for workplaces and non-essential businesses
- Executive Order No. 7N, Section 1, prohibiting social and recreational gatherings of more than five people
- Executive Order No. 7N, Section 3, restricting retail operations

### **Food trucks permitted to operate at certain rest areas to provide meals to truck drivers and other essential workers**

In addition, today's executive order lifts restrictions on commercial activity in Connecticut highway rest areas and permits food trucks to set up in these locations with the goal of feeding hungry truckers and other essential workers during the pandemic. The directive comes in the wake of recently rescinded federal prohibitions against the commercialization of rest areas nationwide, freeing the states to provide additional necessities.

Governor Lamont reiterated his directive that everyone should "Stay Safe, Stay Home" and restrict themselves to essential travel only. Truck drivers, he said, have no choice but to be out on the road making critical deliveries and pick-ups.

"These truck drivers are keeping Connecticut moving and are providing critical necessities to our state during this national crisis," **Governor Lamont said**. "We need to make it as easy as possible to keep them fed around the clock."

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) maintains seven rest areas on Interstates 84, 91, and 95. They are open 24/7, year round. They have food and beverage vending machines and restrooms, but no other travel services. They are distinct from the service plazas on I-95, 91, 395, and Route 15, which have gasoline, restaurants, convenience stores, and other amenities. The rest areas accepting food trucks are located in Danbury on I-84; Wallingford and Middletown on I-91; and North Stonington on I-95.

Food truck operators interested in participating [must obtain a permit from the CTDOT](#), which requires a valid license issued by a local health department or health district to serve food in Connecticut. Measures to limit COVID-19 exposure, including the public health and safety directives for food service previously ordered by the governor, including social distancing will be required.

### **Modifications made to educator certification testing**

Finally, today's executive order also modifies state statutes to authorize the commissioner of the Department of Education to temporarily defer any requirements regarding certification testing for educators as he deems necessary to address the impact of COVID-19 risks.

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>: Governor Lamont signs executive order establishing COVID-19 recovery centers for nursing home residents

Governor Lamont today signed an executive order implementing the medical surge plan for long-term care facilities he announced on Wednesday, which will establish COVID-19 recovery centers in certain nursing homes throughout the state that will accept patients who can be discharged from acute care hospitals but are still impacted by COVID-19 infection.

The order establishes the first two COVID-19 recovery centers at Sharon Health Care Center in Sharon and Northbridge Healthcare Center in Bridgeport, and gives authority to Department of Public Health (DPH) Commissioner Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell to create additional centers at other locations throughout the state as needed. Commissioner Coleman-Mitchell said that she intends to authorize the formation of an additional recovery center at Torrington Health and Rehabilitation Center in Torrington, and is in the process of finalizing details for more recovery centers in other locations to be announced in the coming days.

“People who live in nursing homes are among the most vulnerable, and this plan is needed in order to protect those who are negative for the virus while providing adequate areas of recovery for those who have tested positive and can be discharged from hospitals,” Governor Lamont. “We are grateful for the nursing homes that are partnering with us in this critical effort – their staff is providing an invaluable service to the people of our state and we cannot thank them enough.”

“Residents of long-term care facilities represent our most vulnerable population during this pandemic, as the virus can spread quickly within the enclosed environment such as a nursing home,” Public Health Commissioner Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell said. “We are committed to doing everything we can to make sure our nursing home residents get the care they need and that nursing home staff are protected with enough equipment. These new COVID-19 recovery centers will provide hundreds of new beds for COVID-19 care all over the state, and this will help to make hospital beds available to absorb the surge of hospitalizations we anticipate in the next couple of weeks.”

The Connecticut Department of Social Services and the Office of Policy and Management have determined a specific payment rate of \$600 per day for the COVID-19 recovery centers, and additional payments of 10 percent across the board for all nursing homes in Connecticut during the course of the pandemic.

“This plan will assist our long-term care facilities and dedicated staff in their continuing efforts to protect residents and themselves from the spread of COVID-19,” Social Services Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford said. “By establishing facilities with a special focus on the care of individuals with COVID-19 and providing necessary funding, we will support the state’s overall medical surge response. This recognizes the additional costs being experienced by the

industry at large. DSS is proud to support the Governor Lamont, our fellow state agencies, and key partners in this crucial initiative.”

Athena Health Care systems is one of the first private Connecticut nursing home providers to partner with the state on the effort to open up COVID-19 recovery centers.

Larry Santilli, president and CEO of Athena Health Care Systems, said, “The COVID-19 pandemic has presented incredible and unprecedented challenges to the state. I am glad that Athena Health Care Systems is in a position to answer the state’s call for assistance at this critical time. Our history, experience, the expertise of our incredible team, and more than 35 years as Connecticut’s leader in senior care, make us well-suited to help the state and to help those afflicted with COVID-19. The true heroes in this battle are the amazing teams at Sharon and Northbridge Health Care Centers, as well as the new teams assembling in Torrington and Meriden. I believe that their work will help in the state’s goal to mitigate this pandemic as much as possible and as quickly as possible. These centers can provide nearly 500 beds of post-acute care, providing much needed support to our state’s acute care hospitals during the impending surge. Since the beginning of this pandemic, our leadership team in Farmington has been available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide counsel and management to every Athena center – and will now provide that expertise to new teams in Torrington and Meriden.”

Connecticut Long-Term Care Ombudsman Mairead Painter said, “Throughout this pandemic the governor, in consultation with the Department of Public Health, has had to make difficult decisions. I am thankful that they have kept the rights of residents, including the right to appropriate medical care, at the forefront of this decision making.”

Executive Order No. 7Y is the 26<sup>th</sup> executive order Governor Lamont has signed since enacting the emergency declarations last month.