



**Mayor Neil M. O’Leary**

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

**May 17th, 2020**

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**Governor Lamont Announces Classes at K-12 Public Schools Will Remain Canceled for the Rest of the Academic Year**

**Schools to Continue Providing Distance Learning and Meals Programs**

(HARTFORD, CT) – Governor Ned Lamont today announced that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, he is ordering in-person classes at all K-12 public school facilities in Connecticut to remain canceled for the rest of the 2019-2020 academic year and continue providing distance learning during this period. Schools will also be required to continue providing meals to children under the school lunch and breakfast programs for consumption at home, as they have been throughout this emergency.

The governor is consulting with state and local education officials regarding whether summer school programming should commence as scheduled. He anticipates having guidance on that matter toward the end of this month.

Governor Lamont, State Department of Education Commissioner Miguel Cardona, and Office of Early Childhood Commissioner Beth Bye will discuss these issues during the governor’s 4:00 p.m. news briefing this afternoon.

“I know how important it is for so many students and teachers to finish out the school year, and I was holding out hope – particularly for high school seniors – that we’d at least be able to complete the final few weeks, but given the current circumstances and to protect everyone’s safety, it has become clear that it’s just not possible,” **Governor Lamont said.** “I want to thank the many educators across our state who have stepped up to provide remote learning during this time, as well as the many staff members who’ve been putting thousands of meals together for students each and every day.”

During the initial outbreak, Governor Lamont signed an executive order directing in-person classes at all K-12 public school facilities to be canceled effective March 17. That order was initially set to expire on March 31 but then was extended twice, most recently to May 20.

Upon the cancellation, the Connecticut State Department of Education immediately began working with every school district in the state to assess distance learning needs. A state team was formed to support districts that indicated having high or moderate needs in the area of distance learning. These teams have been in frequent communication with district leaders to offer and provide support and technical assistance. The state continues to provide vetted resources, guidance, and answers to questions on issues such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, attendance, grading, special education, and social emotional learning.

“The difficult decision to cancel classes for the remainder of the year is based on the health and safety of our students, their families, and our Connecticut communities,” **Education Commissioner Miguel Cardona said**. “While technology and remote learning will never replace the experience of our students in their school community, we are committed to constantly improving access to high-quality materials and connectivity for our students. Districts are working hard to find creative ways to celebrate the success of our seniors, as well as students who are transitioning from fifth and eighth grade. With the Reopen Connecticut Education Team, we are committed to preparing re-opening plans for summer school, as well as fall classes. While we do this, we also thank our dedicated educators today for their service to their students’ academic and social emotional needs.”

Governor Lamont will soon sign an executive order regarding today’s announcement. It will be publicly noticed and [published on the governor’s website](#) shortly after he signs it.

### **Distribution of donated laptops and Scholastic books**

The State Department of Education and the Governor’s Learn from Home Task Force have been continuing to coordinate the distribution of remote learning resources that have been donated to Connecticut, including 60,000 Dell laptops from the Partnership for Connecticut, and more than 185,000 high-quality Scholastic book packs for prekindergarten to eighth grade students from the Nooyi family. Due to global supply chain shortages during the pandemic, the laptops and book packs are arriving to Connecticut in staggered waves.

The task force has implemented a [tiered shipment plan](#) for the laptops in three rounds of delivery using a formula-based approach prioritizing equity, student need, and safe distribution. The first round of nearly 17,000 laptops, targeted for delivery around May 25, will be delivered to 19 districts where fewer than 60 percent of students have one-to-one device access at the school level. The staggered shipment plans are focused on connecting students who have been identified as in greatest need as soon as possible. Initial eligibility for the donated laptops was limited to high schools across the state’s Alliance District program. Once the needs were identified for those schools, eligibility expanded to include high schools beyond Alliance Districts where more than 40 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

The majority of the Scholastic book packs are expected to begin arriving from the manufacturer this week. Last week, the first shipments of 340 book packs arrived in Bridgeport schools, and 119 arrived at Bristol's Early Childhood Center. Additional shipments to sites in Hartford and Norwalk are expected today and will continue over the next several days.

### **Connecticut schools have served four million meals under emergency meals programs**

Throughout the emergency, Connecticut's public schools have served more than four million meals to students under the emergency meals programs. A total of 130 school districts are currently serving meals at 458 locations statewide. In accordance with federal requirements, the state is operating two emergency meals programs:

- [Under one program](#), certain school districts are authorized to serve meals only to students who attend their schools or any other child 18 years of age and younger residing in the same household.
- [Under the other program](#), certain school districts are authorized to serve meals to any child 18 years of age and younger, regardless of which town or city the child lives or what school they attend.

Households should check with the individual school districts for information on the time and location the meals are being served, and further guidance regarding their distribution.

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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.

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### **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](#).

### **EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER DATA (opened on March 11<sup>th</sup>):**

- **Total calls into the EOC:** 6,322
- **Total COVID-19 screening forms completed:** 410
  - These forms are filled out when a resident calls and states that they have symptoms associated with COVID-19

### **Basic Needs Response Data (as of 5/11/20):**

- **Total Case Managers: 12**
  - There are 12 case managers actively handling individual and family cases.
  
- **Total Case Referrals to date: 271**
  - This is the total number of case referrals to date for anyone who has called asking for a support or service. Examples include:
    - delivery of an important item such as a thermometer
    - Ongoing case manager services and support for the 2+ weeks that the person/family is under quarantine.
  
- **Total individuals served : 805**
  - This is the total number of persons that have been helped in any way.
  
- **Total PAL Support requests: 215**
  - This number represents the total assistance that our police/PAL partners have given, such as a delivery of some sort- (i.e. medication or diapers). PAL's efforts have also included locating and purchasing disinfecting products, putting together care bags, and delivering these to households via the Knock and Drop.

### **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 Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 8 AM- 4PM

***\*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:

Number of lunches distributed today:

Number of suppers distributed today:

Total student meals distributed to date: 278,015

### **Student Chromebook Distribution:**

- To date, a total of **7,356 chromebooks** have been distributed to our students for distance learning

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 May 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM)**

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Waterbury: 1,707

Confirmed Waterbury Resident Deaths Associated with COVID-19: 155

### **Senior Lunches Distributed (as of May 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM)**

Number of Meals Delivered to seniors in Waterbury: 11,106

### **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.

Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>: By way of Emergency Order, Mayor O'Leary institutes a hiring freeze and spending freeze for city government.

### **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](#).*