

# COVID-19 Alert

CORONAVIRUS & STATE INITIATIVES

MARCH 2020

## COVID-19 CONNECTICUT INITIATIVES

In the midst of self-quarantines and work-from-home policies, the State of Connecticut continues to work diligently to address public health concerns as well as to mitigate the financial impact of COVID-19. Thus far, the following actions have been initiated by the state in addition to those imposed by the federal government:

### GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS (UPDATED 3.20.20)

[Link to Executive Orders](#)

- [Executive Order No. 7](#): Takes several emergency actions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and the governor's civil preparedness and public health declarations, including limiting the size of gatherings to 250 people, waiving the 180-day school year requirement, clarifying nursing home visitation restrictions, authorizing DMV to extend renewal deadlines, and relaxing attendance rules for police academy trainees.
- Executive Order No. 7A: Grants the commissioner of the Department of Public Health the authority to restrict visitation at nursing homes and similar facilities in response to the civic preparedness and public health emergencies declared due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Executive Order No. 7B: Suspends in-person open meeting requirements; Waives manufacturer registration requirement for hand sanitizer; Suspends garbing requirements for non-hazardous compounding of sterile pharmaceuticals; Refunds certain liquor license application fees; Waives face-to-face interview requirements for temporary family assistance; Modifies requirements for maintaining adequate childcare resources; Modifies requirements for adequate healthcare resources and facilities.
- Executive Order No. 7C: Cancels school classes; Provides flexibility for graduation requirements, prescribed courses of study, educator prep programs, educator certified timelines, educator evaluations, and school in-services; Extends municipal budget adoption deadlines; Extends regional board of education budget adoption deadlines; Provides for remote conduct of DMV operations; Imposes limitation on visitors to facilities that treat persons with psychiatric disabilities and to the Southbury training school.
- Executive Order No. 7D: Further reduces large crowds and social gatherings of 250 people or more to 50 people or more; Restaurant, bar, and private club operations shall only serve food or liquor for off-premises consumption; Closes off-track betting facility operations; Restricts gyms, sports, fitness and recreation facility and movie theater operations.
- Executive Order No. 7E: Waives 180-day school year; Suspends required fingerprinting availability; Extends time period for permits; Suspends immediate recoupment of public assistance benefit overpayments; Suspends in-person hearing attendance at DSS fair hearings.

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- Executive order No. 7F: Closes large shopping malls; Closes places of public amusement; Expands Medicaid telehealth coverage to audio-only telephone; Waives in-person service, hearing and screening requirements for facilities that have issued orders limiting visitor access to protect the public health; Continues classes and programming at certain state-operated schools.
- Executive order No. 7G: Postpones presidential primary to June 2nd; Suspends non-critical court operations; Further clarifies limits on restaurants, bars, and private clubs; Restricts operation of barbershops, hair salons, tattoo or piercing parlors, and related public businesses; Provides flexibility for Medicaid enrolled providers and in-network providers for commercial fully insured health insurance to perform telehealth through additional methods.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (UPDATED 3.16.20)

- DECD is working with small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Specifically, the agency will defer loan payments for all Small Business Express loans for three months. Additional details include:
  - The Small Business Express program has approximately 800 outstanding loans with an aggregate loan balance of approximately \$110 million.
  - The average loan has a five-year remaining term.
  - Approximately \$5 million in loan payments will be deferred.
- In addition, the agency is making efforts to accommodate other affected businesses with DECD loans.

#### CONNECTICUT PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY (UPDATED 3.16.20)

- The Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) has ordered the gas, electric, and water public service companies it regulates to implement a shut-off moratorium and refrain from terminating utility service to residential customers, except for reasons of public safety, for a 30-day period subject to renewal to ensure all residents may safely remain home during the epidemic.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (UPDATED 3.16.20)

- DEEP is closing all visitor centers and facilities associated with state parks that are open to the public and receive significant visitor traffic throughout the day. Examples include the visitor center at Dinosaur State Park and the Meigs Point Nature Center at Hammonasset State Park. The closures are effective immediately.
- DEEP is also immediately suspending large gatherings at all of their facilities and parks. These include, for example, weddings that are held at Harkness Memorial State Park. The agency is typically required to provide custodial and other facilities support for these kinds of events. DEEP is sending cancellation notices to the groups that made reservations for these large gatherings through at least the end of April.

#### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (UPDATED 3.16.20)

- Agency guidance for employers and employees across a range of issues, including unemployment compensation, wage and hour, paid sick leave and other absences, family and medical leave, and more.
- Suspension of DOL's RESEA Program: The state Department of Labor is suspending the federal Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment work-search program effective immediately.
- This program involves a more intensive process that mandates recipients of unemployment insurance go to the American Job Centers in person and receive one-on-one help.

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- The agency anticipated serving 9,030 people this year. Suspending this program will reduce traffic in the centers and help limit in-person contact with the public. The agency still anticipates reaching its goal of serving 9,030 people this year.

#### DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SERVICES (UPDATED 3.18.20)

- Effective 3.18.20, the Department of Revenue Services will be suspending walk-in services at its four branch office locations in Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury, and Norwich. All business with DRS can be conducted electronically, by telephone, or by written correspondence.
- Effective immediately, the filing deadlines for certain annual tax returns due on or after March 15, 2020, and before June 1, 2020, are extended by at least 30 days.
- In addition, the payments associated with these returns are also extended to the corresponding due date in June.
- The impacted returns and the associated filing dates and payment deadlines are set forth below:
  - 2019 Form CT-1065/CT-1120 SI Connecticut Pass-Through Entity Tax Return: Filing date extended to April 15, 2020; payment deadline extended to June 15, 2020
  - 2019 Form CT-990T Connecticut Unrelated Business Income Tax Return: Filing date extended to June 15, 2020; payment deadline extended to June 15, 2020
  - 2019 Form CT-1120 and CT-1120CU Connecticut Corporation Business Return: Filing date extended to June 15, 2020; payment deadline extended to June 15, 2020
- Individuals in the process of preparing their Connecticut income tax (Form CT-1040) returns due April 15, should be advised that DRS will adjust due dates for filing and payment of state income taxes to align with any specific, actionable announcement from the Internal Revenue Service regarding due dates for the filing and payment of federal income taxes.
- Taxpayers are encouraged to visit the [DRS website](#) for updates.
- Those who need to contact DRS regarding their specific situation may email the agency or call:
  - (860) 297-5962 (from anywhere)
  - (800) 382-9463 (within Connecticut, outside Greater Hartford area only)
  - (860) 297-4911 (hearing impaired, TDD/TT users only)

#### DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES (UPDATED 3.18.20)

- Effective 3.18.20, the DMV will close all branch offices to the public for the transaction of business. Employees will continue to assist in transactions that are completed online, through the mail, and by phone.
- DMV partners, including AAA and Nutmeg State Financial Credit Union will make independent determinations of whether to conduct license transactions.
- The DMV will also be offering a 90-day extension to Connecticut residents with expiring driver's licenses, identification cards, and learner's permits. There will be no late fees. This applies to credentials that expire between March 10, 2020 and June 8, 2020.

#### OHS GUIDANCE RE: CERTIFICATE OF NEED

##### PROCESS

[Quick Link](#)

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