



COVID19 UPDATE

Good Afternoon,

As we continue to move through the COVID19 pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of our residents, staff and families is our primary mission. We are actively engaged in regular, frequent communications with local and state health officials, our town legal advisors, and our legislators.

As you know, Governor Lamont issued a third Executive Order last evening. Executive Orders provide flexibility to better enable municipal government to protect its citizens during times of emergencies. Here are some of the more salient provisions Executive Order 7B:

- Relaxes in-person open meeting requirements to minimize large gatherings, with safeguards to provide remote access;
- Allows pharmacists to compound and sell hand sanitizer and waives requirements for pharmacists to use certain personal protective equipment when working with non-hazardous, sterile compounds;
- 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.

[click to read the full Executive Order 7B](#)

Town of Kent Update:

Below are updates to municipal programs and local organizations. All information is considered interim and is all subject to change with short or no notice.

Kent Center School: KCS is closed, and the students already enrolled in the meal program continue to get those needed services.

Transfer Station: We are only accepting household garbage and single-stream recycling, and encouraging residents to self-toss - everything else is suspended, including The Swap Shed and Ed Epstein's returnables. The Transfer Station Team reported that residents were happily taking their returnables back home to hold onto until we can start accepting them again, rather than opting to put them into the single-stream. Kudos to our residents!

Senior Center, Park & Recreation Programs: All programs are suspended at this time.

Food Bank: The Food Bank remains open with a modified protocol in place for use. Please note you must be enrolled in Social Service in order to use the Food Bank.

Community House & Swift House: Not accepting bookings at this time.

Emergency Operations: We have partially activated the Emergency Operations Center, which has been moved from the Firehouse to the ancillary office in the Town Clerk's Office. It will be manned from 1300-1600 every day. An Incident Action Plan is in development and a Unified Command team is being assembled.

Kent Volunteer Fire Department: All outside events are suspended.

Town Hall Building and Staff:

It is critical to ensure continuity of operations for core government functions. The Town Hall was disinfected this weekend and we remain open for business, with the following modifications:

- *All visitors are required to sign in when they arrive at the individual department.*
- *If you are sick, please do not come to town hall.*
- *Staff have been instructed to ask visitors to wash their hands before conducting business. Please accommodate their request if you are asked.*
- *Please consider postponing a trip to Town Hall. If you're not sure, call first.*

Communications: This list-serv will be the primary means of communicating information to our citizens. Please share this communication widely and encourage citizens to subscribe.

We will continually re-evaluate how we push messaging out the public. If you know a Kent resident who does not have access to the internet, please provide their name, address and phone number via email to COVID19Info@townofkentct.org, or phone by calling the first selectman's office at 860.927.4627.

We are all on the front lines of slowing Community Transmission.

What we know -

- COVID19 is Novel - this means it is a virus we have not seen before - scientists are fighting the virus at the same time they are trying to learn about it.
- State officials confirm widespread community transmission and predict 20% to 30% infection rates across the state in the coming weeks.
- There is no vaccine or antiviral for COVID19, so NPIs (Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions) are our only tools to decrease community transmission. Those tools continue to be:
 - **Good Handwashing practices** - Washing your hands is still the best way to slow the spread of the virus. In addition to singing "Happy Birthday To You" twice, which is the CDC recommendation, [here's a playlist of songs to sing while you wash your hands.](#)
 - **Social Distancing** - stay home. If you can't stay home, keep a 6 ft. distance from others. If you are sick, please stay home.
 - **Good Respiratory Etiquette** - cough/sneeze into a tissue or paper towel and throw the tissue in the garbage (when possible do not cough/sneeze around others). Don't forget to wash your hands after!
 - **Household disinfection** -
 - follow manufacturer recommended guidance on all disinfecting products - most require a wait time before wiping
 - disinfect counters frequently throughout the day;
 - disinfect phones, keyboards, remotes and other high-touch surfaces frequently throughout the day;
 - wash your hands after!

This is an extremely unique, dynamic and developing emergency. As you can see in the progression of the Governor's Executive Orders, changes continue and we need to recognize there are more to come, including the possibility of town hall closure, and we are developing a plan for this.

Coming into this week, it's important that we're kind to each other - whether it's at church, town hall or the IGA. With the focus on social distancing, reaching out on the phone to those you know may feel isolated is critical.

People's worry is valid; we all have families and loved ones that we're concerned about, and planning and sharing of verified information is important.

We will continue to provide updates on this evolving situation.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping Kent safe and healthy.

click to receive these notices

visit our website: www.townofkentct.org