

## Amid Closures and Talk of Closures, Darien Senior Center Remains Open

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Darien Senior Center remains open and as of now plans to stay open, Senior Programs Director Elizabeth Paris says, although she adds that the program is following directives from local and state authorities.

Darien Library announced today (Tuesday) that its events have been cancelled, and Darien Public Schools are opening two hours late on Wednesday as teachers prepare for the possibility they'll be doing some teaching online if schools are closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Health authorities have said the novel coronavirus spreading across the world and the country is particularly dangerous for elderly people — those over age 60 — and those with certain health conditions.

"We're following everything the CDC [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] suggests, and we're following everything the state suggests," Paris said. The Senior Center is also getting direction from First Selectman Jayme Stevenson and Health Director David Knauf, she said.

Gov. Ned Lamont recently asked nursing homes to not accept visitors, other than family members for dying residents.

Page said participants in Senior Center events, unlike many nursing home residents, "are able to make decisions and self-determine how they want to act, so we're leaving the decision up to people themselves."

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The Senior Center has "sanitation stations everywhere" and just had an education program for seniors with Knauf discussing COVID-19.

The Senior Center, located in Mather Community Center in the Town Hall complex at 2 Renshaw Road, does have one restriction in connection with the COVID-19 outbreak, Paris said: It's limiting events to 100 people. A number of events at the center have had 120 and up to 150 participants, she said, but that won't be happening for the foreseeable future.