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News for Darien

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LATEST DARIEN COVID-19 NEWS: Continual Updates: June 29 to July 5

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This week's news and links on the COVID-19 pandemic for Darien, as they come in:

LATEST UPDATES: Governor's Monday COVID-19 update: More protections for renters, plan for returning to in-school, full-time instruction

|| State assistance program for renters, some landlords hurt by pandemic

See also:

LATEST DARIEN COVID-19 NEWS: Continual Updates:

June 22 to 28 ||

[June 15 to 21](#) || [June 7 to 14](#) || [June 1 to 7](#) || [May 25 to 31](#) || [May 18 to 24](#) || [May 11 to 17](#) || [May 3 to 10](#) || [April 27 to May 3](#) || [April 20 to 26](#) || [April 13 to 19](#) || [April 5 to 12](#) || [March 30 to April 5](#)

MONDAY: Governor's COVID-19 Briefing

Monday, June 29 — Gov. Ned Lamont provided [the following updates](#) as of 6 p.m.:

Data updates on testing in Connecticut

The following is a summary of the day-to-day newly reported data on cases, deaths, and tests in Connecticut. It is important to note that these newly reported updates include data that occurred over the last several days to a week. All data in this report are preliminary, and data for previous dates will be updated as new reports are received and data errors are corrected.

Overall Summary	Statewide Total (includes confirmed and probable cases)	Change Since Yesterday
COVID-19 Cases	46,362	+59
COVID-19-Associated Deaths	4,320	+4
Patients Currently Hospitalized with COVID-19	99	-4
COVID-19 PCR Tests Reported	442,998	+6,354

County-by-county breakdown:

County	COVID-19 Cases		COVID-19 Deaths		COVID-19 Hospitalizations
	Confirmed	Probable	Confirmed	Probable	
Fairfield County	16,025	639	1,070	306	32
Hartford County	10,950	673	1,057	313	26
Litchfield County	1,424	63	116	20	0
Middlesex County	1,235	60	144	39	6
New Haven County	11,924	394	925	150	33
New London County	1,193	62	76	26	2
Tolland County	839	70	50	14	0

Windham County	599	7	13	1	0
Pending address validation	195	10	0	0	0
Total	44,384	1,978	3,451	869	99

For several additional graphs and tables containing more data, including a list of cases in every municipality, visit ct.gov/coronavirus and click the link that is labeled, “COVID-19 Data Tracker.”

Lamont signs 57th executive order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19

Governor Lamont today signed another executive order – the 57th since he enacted the emergency declarations – that builds upon his efforts to encourage mitigation strategies that slow down transmission of the virus. [Executive Order No. 7DDD](#) enacts the following provisions:

- **Extended protections for residential renters affected by COVID-19:** Extends the moratorium on residential evictions to August 22, and extends opportunities for residential renters to apply money from their security deposits to payment of rent.
- **Authority to extend statutory and regulatory administrative deadlines by an additional 90 days:** Expands by an additional 90 days the ability for state agencies to extend any statutory or regulatory deadlines for filings, decisions, and notice in the many permitting and other applications and administrative hearings under their purview, and requires agencies to post any changes on their respective web sites. This is an extension of the order originally issued in Executive Order No. 7M.

**Download: Governor Lamont’s Executive Order No. 7DDD

State Department of Education releases comprehensive plan for returning to in-school, full-time instruction for the 2020-21 academic year

The Connecticut State Department of Education today released “[Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut’s Plan to Learn and Grow Together](#),” a comprehensive plan that will serve as a roadmap for districts as they plan to reopen schools at the beginning of the 2020-21 academic year. The release of the document follows the [announcement](#) last week of a framework to allow all students – in all districts statewide – the opportunity to have access to in-school, full-time instruction in the fall as long as public health data continues to support this model.

To read the full plan, [click here](#).

For more information, [read the press release issued today by the State Department of Education](#).

Governor Lamont encourages residents to sign up for the state's CTAlert notification system

Governor Lamont is encouraging Connecticut residents to sign up for CTAlert, the state's emergency alert system, which provides text message notifications to users. To subscribe, text the keyword **COVIDCT** to **888-777**.

Providing information to Connecticut residents

For the most up-to-date information from the State of Connecticut on COVID-19, including an FAQ and other guidance and resources, residents are encouraged to visit ct.gov/coronavirus.

Individuals who have general questions that are not answered on the website can also call 2-1-1 for assistance. The hotline is available 24 hours a day and has multilingual assistance. Relay services can be accessed by calling 7-1-1.

Anyone who is out-of-state or using Relay can connect to Connecticut 2-1-1 toll free by dialing 1-800-203-1234. The hotline is intended to be used by individuals who are not experiencing symptoms but may have general questions related to COVID-19. Anyone who is experiencing symptoms are strongly urged to contact their medical provider.

State Announces Assistance Program for Renters

Monday, June 29 —[An announcement](#) from the Governor's Office:

Gov. Lamont announced today a comprehensive plan to put more than \$33 million in state and federal resources to work providing emergency assistance to renters, homeowners, and residential landlords impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Elements of this plan include:

- \$10 million rental assistance program for Connecticut residents impacted by COVID-19, administered through the Department of Housing, which will provide payments to landlords on behalf of approved tenant applicants, with a priority on lower-income households who have been denied unemployment insurance;
- \$5 million for eviction prevention to help renters who were in the process of eviction before the declaration of the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- \$10 million to provide mortgage relief to homeowners who have suffered impacts from COVID-19 and whose mortgages are not federally insured, administered by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA);
- \$4 million in rapid rehousing funds to help people pay costs like security deposits and initial rent to exit homelessness to housing, administered by the Department of Housing;
- \$2.5 million rental assistance program for those who are ineligible for emergency assistance through

the federal CARES Act, including those who are undocumented, administered by the Department of Housing;

- \$1.8 million in funding for reentry and rehousing assistance for people exiting incarceration, administered by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness;
- Extending the residential eviction moratorium to August 25, bringing Connecticut's measures in line with federal measures (the CARES Act prevents evictions from most properties until late summer); and
- Extending the opportunity to apply a portion of any security deposit worth more than one month's rent toward rental payments.

All housing assistance programs administered through the state and through CHFA will include housing counseling to help renters and homeowners problem solve and develop plans to pay housing costs going forward.

In addition to this assistance through the state, large Connecticut cities received \$10 million under the CARES Act Emergency Solution Grants program to prevent homelessness and support homeless populations. The Connecticut Department of Housing is encouraging those municipalities to allocate some of that funding to provide rent arrearage assistance for low and very low-income families that are struggling to make ends meet.

Governor Lamont previously allowed and encouraged municipalities to provide homeowners a 90-day grace period on any property taxes due through July 1. His administration also partnered with local financial institutions to provide mortgagors financially impacted by COVID-19 more time to make their payments.

Governor Lamont said, "The COVID crisis has taken a toll on many Connecticut families. We know that some renters and homeowners are having a hard time paying the costs of their housing. It's critical that we provide emergency help so that they can stay housed, and to support residential landlords, many of who are mom-and-pop small businesses themselves."

Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz said, "During the COVID-19 public health emergency, housing hardships have reached unprecedented heights. Too many families across our state have had difficulty paying their rent or mortgage due to job loss or decreases in wages. We need to do all that we can to ensure families have the assistance they need to stay in their homes. By working with multiple partners to launch this emergency housing assistance package, we can help relieve some of the financial burden our families have faced during this pandemic."

Housing Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno said, "Housing stability is critical to the health and wellbeing of Connecticut residents, and COVID has had a significant impact on the ability of many of our families to pay the costs of their housing and maintain that stability. These initiatives, working in coordination with our partners across the housing industry, including legal services, developers, landlords, lenders and our social service providers, will provide a great opportunity to promote stability, and help our families to weather this epidemic."

Nandini Natarajan, CEO of CHFA, said, “There are many low and moderate-income homeowners with mortgages not covered by CARES Act protections, who need some assistance to meet their mortgage payments. This emergency funding will provide vital assistance, helping them to remain in their homes as they work to regain their financial stability.”

Social Services Commissioner and Acting Public Health Commissioner Deidre Gifford said, “When people lose their housing, they may be forced to resort to living in doubled-up situations or to enter homeless shelters. Science is clear that denser housing conditions and less ability to socially distance mean a greater risk to these individuals and families, and to their communities, of catching and spreading the COVID virus. Helping Connecticut residents stay housed is an important part of our public health response.”

Kiley Gosselin, Executive Director of the Partnership for Strong Communities, said, “We welcome the governor’s action to extend the eviction moratorium and put in place this package of housing assistance. Housing is a necessity under any circumstances and helping the estimated 230,000 Connecticut renter households at risk of losing their housing to remain housed during this public health emergency is a particularly urgent issue.”

Cecil J. Thomas, an attorney at Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc., speaking on behalf of Connecticut’s three legal services programs (Connecticut Legal Services, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, and Greater Hartford Legal Aid) said, “We are very pleased that the governor has ordered extension of the eviction moratorium in tandem with the introduction of these new programs to offer rental assistance to low-income tenants. In light of the enormity of the pandemic crisis for both landlords and tenants, we hope that the governor will take additional steps as the need arises.”

Richard Cho, CEO of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, said, “We’ve long known that a stable home is critical to success in reentry. We now know how critical it is to health and to life. We are grateful to the Connecticut state government for ensuring that vulnerable people are not discharged from prison to the streets during this public health emergency, but to a safe and stable home.”

For more information on the resources, please see the following websites:

- Connecticut Department of Housing: portal.ct.gov/doh
- Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA): www.chfa.org
- Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH): cceh.org

About the Photo

It's from the U.S. Embassy in Fiji [website](#):

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