



Dear Residents,

I would like to provide an update on Fairfield's response to COVID-19, share additional information with residents and answer some commonly asked questions. As I stated in my last update, the Town has activated the Emergency Operations Center and we have been meeting daily with our emergency response professionals and our Health Director.



*3.13.20 Emergency Operation Meeting*

### **A Message from our Emergency Management Director, Fire Chief Denis McCarthy, about what it means to activate an Emergency Operation Center:**

The Town Emergency Management is responsible for coordinating the various municipal, non-governmental, volunteer and private sector resources to address the pandemic.

Our organization is battle tested having worked collaboratively in response to natural disasters, threats of violence, planned events as well as

The pace of widespread impacts and the community response has accelerated in the past two weeks. Our Emergency Management Team began to focus on COVID19 in late January. The first cases were reported in Wuhan China in late December 2019. As is our practice, we identified threats and began our deliberate and measured response as early as possible to make appropriate, reasoned and well planned decisions. We continue to be flexible and adjust our response priorities as circumstances dictate.

At the direction of First Selectwoman Brenda Kupchick we have activated our Emergency Operations Center. This step is a natural extension of the aggressive planning and response activities that have been well underway for weeks.

The Emergency Operations Center will have five major activities each focused on the community priorities which include but are not limited to:

### **Incident Objectives**

- Provide care and support to those in need
- Containment of the virus to Non Pharmaceutical Interventions
- Provide timely information
- Maintain essential public services included emergency response

To meet these objectives the Emergency Management system has activated the following sections:

**Command:** this is the decision making body for the Town led by the First Selectwoman and includes all major Town department heads.

**Planning:** the planning section is responsible to develop strategies and tactics from the priorities developed by Command

**Operations:** is responsible for response coordination for all departments that have responsibilities for emergency as well as support services.

**Finance:** will track all municipal expenses to insure proper accounting and position the community for Federal Disaster assistance should it become available.

---

to keep the community informed.

**Liaison:** provides two way communication between all community, state and federal partners as well as impacted sectors of the community.

Lastly and most importantly our system relies on an actively engaged and informed community. Observance of official directions and warnings is key to our community response and ultimate recovery from this pandemic. This is a civic responsibility and while we recognize the hardships our long term success will be measured by our ability to minimize the spread of disease. Town of Fairfield residents, employees and businesses are the most important part of our incident response plans.

---

**Some questions we have received from residents include:**

***"Can our children get together with our neighbors and friends?"*** We are encouraging everyone to practice social distancing and limiting social interactions both indoors and outdoors as much as possible to slow the spread of the virus and to #flattenthecurve. It is recommended that people take extra measures to put distance between themselves and others.

We understand that in some circumstances this may not always be possible, that parents have to work or shop for needed items and they have to ensure their children are properly supervised. In those instances you want to ensure that everyone is following the CDC guidance on [How to Protect Yourself](#). We know that social distancing can present many challenges for families. Please see the [Fairfield Health Department Coronavirus page](#) for activities to do with your family.

Another question that has come up to our health director is ***"Can we go out to eat?"*** While neither our state or federal authorities have advised against routine activities for those who are healthy like eating out or going to the grocery store, it is important to understand that the more interaction we have with other people the greater the risk is of getting COVID-19 and

as possible and practice the COVID prevention measures described below.

Many of our local businesses are also residents in our community and I know we want to support them. A number of Fairfield shops and restaurants are posting on social media that they have implemented advanced cleaning protocols in an effort to protect the health and safety of their customers. Many are also offering curbside pick-up, free local delivery and free shipping.

Another option for residents who want to support local businesses is to purchase gift cards that can be used at another time.

Additionally, Fairfield's Social Services has started to collect shelf-ready foods for families who participate in the free and reduced lunch program, and in partnership with Operation Hope. The Bigelow Center for Senior Activities and our Social Service Departments are continuing to provide transportation for seniors to doctors appointments and other necessary activities. Both groups have been overwhelmed with generosity of our community.

As for town government, in an effort to reduce mass gatherings at public meetings, we have introduced a process for our budget meetings to operate online and through teleconference. Board members and the public will still be able to participate without being in the same room. Residents can listen to the meetings either by tuning into FairTV on channel 79 or streaming through [this link](#).

I want to again emphasize the importance that our residents follow the CDC guidelines listed below that include washing your hands, covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing and to practice social distancing. **MOST IMPORTANTLY**, if you or a member of your family are sick, please stay home and contact your medical provider.

Superintendent and a video from our Health Department.

Please know that the safety of our community remains our top priority and that I'm doing everything in my power to protect our residents.

Sincerely,



Brenda L. Kupchick  
First Selectwoman

---

**CLICK BELOW TO HEAR AN UPDATE FROM OUR HEALTH DIRECTOR:**



---

## **COVID-19 Prevention Measures:**

- Practice social distancing
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick

---

hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue immediately away
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects (including your cell phone and computer keyboard) and surfaces using regular household cleaning spray or wipe
- Face masks are recommended for use for only people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.

---

### **Latest Message from the Superintendent:**

Beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020, Fairfield Public Schools will be offering breakfast and lunch at no charge to all household members, aged 18 and younger, as long as one child in the household is enrolled in any Fairfield Public School. The meals will be available, Monday through Friday, in the cafeterias of Roger Ludlowe Middle School and McKinley Elementary School. Breakfast will be served 8:00-9:00 am and lunch will be served 11:30-1:00 pm at the two schools. Please follow the red signs posted at both sites, which will direct you to the meal service area.

The menus for breakfast and lunch are being developed and will be available next week on the FPS website. Starting next week, please visit the Food Services webpage and select the FD MealPlanner and choose either Roger Ludlowe MS or McKinley ES to view the menus. Allergy information for food products will be available on the FD MealPlanner website and will also be available on-site.

## Current Data:

[Click here for the Governor's Saturday update on COVID-19](#)

For the latest numbers of cases, deaths and those recovered [click here](#)

For additional data and graphs of activity [click here](#)

For guidance and updates on Connecticut's coronavirus preparedness efforts, visit: [ct.gov/coronavirus](http://ct.gov/coronavirus)

---

## Contact Information:

For general questions you can call [211](#)

[Hartford HealthCare's](#) COVID-19 Clinical Command Center hotline, staffed by healthcare professionals, is now available to the community. To reach the 24-hour hotline, call [860.972.8100](tel:860.972.8100) or (toll-free) [833.621.0600](tel:833.621.0600).

Yale New Haven Health, includes Bridgeport and Greenwich: 203-688-1700.

For additional information and prevention tips, refer to the Health Department website at: [www.fairfieldct.org/health](http://www.fairfieldct.org/health) or the Fairfield homepage under news at [www.fairfieldct.org](http://www.fairfieldct.org).

---

---

[March 10](#)

---

*Copyright © 2020 Town of Fairfield, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

