

Town of Fairfield News

1/22/2021 - 1.22 TOWN UPDATE



Dear Fairfielders,

On Monday night, January 25th, I will deliver my second State of the Town address before the Representative Town Meeting, which will be broadcast live on FairTV at 8 PM. I will be sharing my reflections, accomplishments and goals for Fairfield's future with residents and town governing bodies. If you would like to, you can watch it live streaming [here](#), on Fairfield Cablevision Channel 79 and/or Frontier Cablevision Channel 6010.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Vaccine Information: On Thursday, the Fairfield state delegation held a very productive and informative COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A. This informational forum allowed an expert panel from Governor Lamont's Covid-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force to update and address some of the concerns, uncertainties and frustrations about the shifting and changing eligibility questions Connecticut residents have raised. You can watch [here](#).



As we end week four of our vaccine clinic, our Health Department has administered 3,846 vaccines to those groups who have been approved by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and registered in the federal VAMS system. Many residents have called with complaints about the VAMS system but unfortunately because it is a nationwide system, the town can't assist in troubleshooting.

If you are having difficulty scheduling your appointment through VAMS, please see these helpful links: [VAMS Navigation Instructions](#) and How to [Create your VAMS Account and Schedule Your First Appointment](#).

The Fairfield Health Department's vaccine clinic continues to fill up their appointments. We can only schedule as many appointments as vaccines are provided by the state. Please keep in mind Fairfield residents are able to book appointments at clinics throughout the state.

In addition to the Fairfield Health Department there are other vaccination locations nearby.

- Yale New Haven Health - If your Doctor is affiliated with Yale New Haven Health you can create an appointment through [MyChart](#).
- Hartford HealthCare - Hartford HealthCare is taking vaccination appointments for their location at St. Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport. For more information, you can find it [here](#).

While I know many of you are watching the news and seeing information put out by the CDC, the Town cannot act on their guidance without authorization from the Connecticut Department of Public Health. We will continue to post the latest information on the Town website, and the social media pages for the Health

Department, the Town of Fairfield and my office. For a full listing of those social media pages, [click here](#).

Eligible residents for the COVID-19 vaccinations include all Phase 1a individuals and only those Phase 1b individuals who are 75 years of age and older.

Phase 1a individuals include:

- * Healthcare Personnel: all paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials.
- * Long Term Care Facility Residents: adults who reside in facilities that provide a range of services, including medical and personal care, to persons who are unable to live independently.
- * First Responders at risk of exposure to COVID-19 through their responses to medical emergencies such as Emergency Medical Technicians, Police, and Fire.

Phase 1b individuals eligible at this time include:

- *Those who are 75 years old and older. Proof of age will be required at the clinic.

The tiered approach to Phase 1b is as follows:

- *Scheduling now:** Individuals over the age of 75
- *Scheduling next (likely early February):** Individuals between the ages of 65 and 74
- *Scheduling soon (likely late February or early March):** Frontline essential workers and individuals with underlying medical conditions who have an increased risk for severe illness

If you fall under Phase 1a, you should register through your employer. For those in the Phase 1B category of 75 and older, you must complete the State form below:

State Form - 75 & Older

CT Vaccination Phases & Eligibility

Those without internet access can call Connecticut's COVID Vaccine

Appointment Assistance Line at 877-918-2224. The phone system was created in partnership with the Department of Public Health and United Way of Connecticut and is specifically targeted to provide support for eligible vaccine recipients who have limited technology access, or who have language, disability, or other barriers that could prevent them from using existing self-scheduling options successfully. The line will take calls on Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will offer a call-back option when all contact specialists are busy serving other callers. The team will aim to return calls as soon as possible, with the goal of same-day response.

Town Data: The Town of Fairfield has had 3,516 cases to date, and 188 of Fairfield residents have sadly lost their lives. Charts and data on Fairfield cases, including daily & weekly changes, age, gender, nursing home statistics, testing results, different trends, and university statistics, can be found at www.fairfieldct.org/covid19data. The Health Department updates this page daily.

The Health Department also updates the COVID-19 [School Data page](#), which details the school-related metrics and is updated each week as the State releases the data. The Fairfield Board of Education also has a dashboard on their homepage at <https://www.fairfieldschools.org>.

Travel Advisory Guidance

Testing Locations

COMMUNITY NEWS

Police Chief Chris Lyddy:

Thursday, January 21, 2021, by town proclamation, will be known as *Police Chief Chris Lyddy Day*, as he signed off for the last time in a small ceremony honoring his 38 years of outstanding service to the Fairfield Police Department and to the town of Fairfield. Chief Lyddy's start with the police department began at 16 when he joined the Fairfield Police Explorer Program and joined the force a week following his college graduation.

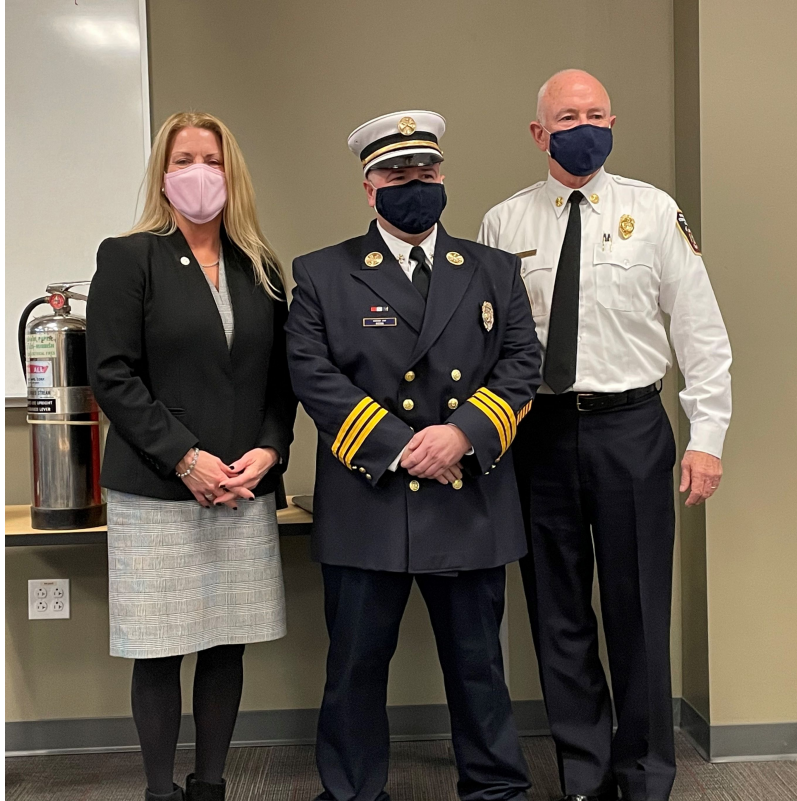


As family, colleagues, and coworkers alike flooded Chief Lyddy with stories, praise, and well wishes, you couldn't help but feel the magnitude of his love for the people and Fairfield. It is this love that moved him through these numerous promotions and special opportunities, like attending the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. We are grateful for all the hard work and sacrifices Chief Lyddy and his wife Kathy have given this community, and wish them well on this next chapter of life. To read more about Chief Lyddy's career check out Fairfield Citizen's article [here](#).



Fire Department: This week alongside Fire Chief Denis McCarthy, I had the honor of presenting the Fairfield Fire Department Chief's Award to Assistant Chief Scott Bisson. Chief Bisson is a Fire Service Leader and he has exemplified the very best

of his profession. In his 30-year fire service career, Scott has served in many capacities, most recently working as the COVID Pandemic Operations Section Chief for the Town of Fairfield. In this role and as the Department COVID Safety Officer he has worked tirelessly to insure the safety of the community and every member of the department. We are so proud to recognize and thank Chief Bisson for his service and contributions.



Harbor Management Plan: The Harbor Management Commission is seeking public input to help with its efforts to update the Harbor Management Plan. Adopted by the RTM and the State of Connecticut in 1995, the plan guides beneficial use of Southport Harbor and protection of its coastal resources. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions available at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/SouthportHarbor

FAIRFIELD TOWN GOVERNMENT

Fairfield Revaluation: Residents can apply for a formal appeal before the [Board of Assessment Appeals](#) (BAA). The applications to do so are posted online at the link provided below. **Appeal applications must be received in the Assessor's Office no later than Friday, February 19th**, post marks cannot be accepted. Everyone

who files an appeal by February 19th will be granted a hearing with the BAA. Visit fairfieldct.org/assessmentappeals for more information.

I have hosted public information sessions with Municipal Valuations and the Town Tax Assessor, to give residents the opportunity to ask questions about the process and methodology. For those who were unable to attend, you can watch the meeting with beach area residents [here](#) and the secondary meeting held for all Fairfield residents [here](#).

Check back for updates and information posted at fairfieldct.org/taxassessor.

Assessment Appeals Information

Budget Process: I met with the Superintendent, his team, the Chairwoman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Education and my administration to discuss with them my concerns with the Board of Education budget proposal that includes nearly a \$10 million increase. I look forward to continuing to have open discussions on cost saving measures with Superintendent and BOE leadership. The Board of Education will conduct budget meetings throughout this month and will vote on their budget at their January 28th meeting. If you would like to reach out to the Board of Education members, they can be contacted at boemembers@fairfieldschools.org.

I hope you will take some time to review helpful information and resources below.

I hope you have a safe weekend.



Brenda L. Kupchick
Fairfield First Selectwoman

2021 BEACH STICKERS

The 2020 Beach/ Transfer Station Sticker expired 12/31/20. Don't wait to buy your 2021 Sticker. [RENEW](#) your sticker online for 2021. You can also renew by fax, mail or in person at Parks & Recreation.



ITS A NEW YEAR WITH FAIRFIELD PARKS & RECREATION

TIME TO RENEW!

2021 BEACH STICKERS!

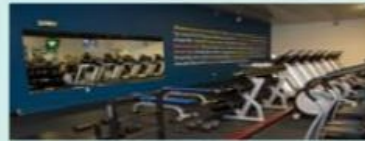


RENEW YOUR GOLF ID!



*H. Smith Richardson
Golf Course*
TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, CT

**RENEW YOUR FITNESS
MEMBERSHIP!**



WWW.FAIRFIELDRECREATION.COM

TAX DEFERMENT

Governor Lamont's recently signed [Executive Order No. 9R](#) allows towns to again offer deferment for property tax payments. This past spring the Town of Fairfield approved a tax deferment program (for taxes due April 1st and July 1st) that Governor Lamont authorized in response to the pandemic. The new Executive Order allows towns to offer deferment for taxes due January 1. The extension will be for a total of 90 days, (an additional 60 days beyond the normal grace period). The revised due date is April 1. Anyone who fails to pay by the new April 1 deadline would have to pay three months of interest added along with his or her existing bill. Escrow accounts are still ineligible for deferment. For more information and eligibility for commercial landlords, visit fairfieldct.org/taxcollector.

A graphic for the Fairfield Tax Deferment Program. It features a background image of a large, light-colored building with a dome, possibly a government or institutional building, with trees in the foreground. Overlaid on this is a white rectangular box containing the title and text.

FAIRFIELD TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAM

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More information & eligibility for commercial landlords at:

www.fairfieldct.org/taxcollector

BLACK ROCK CHURCH HOT MEAL DRIVE-THRU

Black Rock Church will resume its Hot Meal Drive-thru beginning Tuesday, January 12. Each Tuesday through March, between 5:00 - 5:30 PM, individuals and families can receive up to six hot meals for their families, along with a bag of groceries for the rest of the week. Reservations are not required, and the dinners and groceries are free. Black Rock Church is located at 3685 Black Rock Turnpike in Fairfield. For more information please call the church at 203-255-3401.

WINTER WEATHER

Per Town ordinance, Fairfield property owners are responsible for removing snow and ice from the sidewalk along their property line within 24 hours after the storm and keeping the sidewalk clear of snow and ice. Heavily used sidewalks near schools and public buildings, and the commercial areas are particularly important. Property owners may be fined and/or charged the cost of removal if the property owners do not comply. Please remember to shovel around fire hydrants.



If you have snow removal concerns or would like to request a street be re-plowed, please enter a [Citizen Service Request](#) and select 'Snow Removal Issues' or call the Town Garage at 203-256-3177. For more information on Fairfield plowing and snow

removal policies, [click here](#).

It is also state law in Connecticut to remove snow and ice from your vehicle before driving on roads. When you fail to remove snow and ice from your vehicle you are putting yourself and others at risk. Penalties can be as much as \$120 fine.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FAIRFIELD?

How well do you know Fairfield? Find out by playing this fun crossword puzzle about the town! Find out more at <https://www.experiencefairfieldct.org/crossword>



CROSSWORD PUZZLE Contest

Enter for your chance to win a \$25 gift card!
Visit [experiencefairfieldct.org/crossword](https://www.experiencefairfieldct.org/crossword)



GET INVOLVED! TOWN BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

Interested in giving back to our community? Want to have a voice in shaping Fairfield? The Town relies on the hard work of citizen volunteers who are appointed to provide guidance and governance on various Boards and Commissions. The list of vacancies for Boards and Commissions are on the Town Website. Be sure to check back often as the list is updated as positions become available. <https://fairfieldct.org/vacancies>

You can also visit our Boards and Commissions page to learn more about roles and responsibilities: <https://fairfieldct.org/boards>

To learn about the application process click here: <https://fairfieldct.org/appointmentprocess>

EMERGENCY ALERTS | WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

Get alerted about emergencies and other important community news from the Town of Fairfield, CT, by signing up for the Fairfield Alert system. This system enables us to quickly provide you with critical information in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons, evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods and other emergency situations.

You will receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages and more. You pick where, you pick how!

If you were previously registered with us on the CodeRed system, you must sign-up again by following the instructions below, in order to continue receiving Emergency and Community alerts from the Town of Fairfield.

[How to sign up? Click here.](#)

FEELING IN CRISIS?

When you're feeling overwhelmed, know that there are free options to help you talk through your crisis--and to send help when necessary. Fairfield Social Services is here to help. Call 203-256-3170 for more information.

Being a parent or caregiver during COVID can be extremely stressful. It is perfectly normal to be experiencing varying emotions and feel overwhelmed. No matter what you're feeling, we're here to listen. Parents and caregivers can call the toll-free Talk It Out line to discuss their feelings in a judgement-free environment. Call: 1-833-258-5011 or Visit: www.talkitoutct.com

Resources for Mental Health:

If you or a loved one is struggling:

- **CT Information Hotline** 211 or go to www.211ct.org for mobile crisis support for individuals and/or children.

- **The Hub CT** is Southwest Connecticut's Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization. Check their website for useful resources for mental health, prevention and wellness. <https://www.thehubct.org/>
 - **Mental Health Crisis Text Line** - Text "SHARE" to 741741
 - **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**: 800-273-TALK (8255)
 - **Kids in Crisis** also has a 24-hour hotline for assistance 203-661-1911.
 - **NAMI** (National Alliance on Mental Health): If you need to talk to someone, text NAMI to 741741 or call the NAMI Helpline at 1-800-950-NAMI (6264).
 - **Alcoholics Anonymous** - Please contact your site to see if meetings are continuing in your neighborhood.
 - **Bridgeport Hospital's REACH Program** is an intensive outpatient program (IOP) for children, adolescents, adults and seniors. REACH is accessible to anyone, and covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and most commercial insurance programs. Please [click this link](#) to learn more about the extensive range of treatment options available
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Help for Domestic Violence Victims

The Center for Family Justice has hotline numbers to those who are in crisis and need our free and confidential services

The hotline numbers are:

Domestic Violence: 203-384-9559

Sexual Violence: 203-333-2233



BIGELOW CENTER AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Transportation services to medical appointments and shopping have been suspended. We will reassess in the New Year when it is safe to allow passengers on the buses. If you are unable to get to the market, the Mobile Food Pantry is available every other week and lunch delivery is available for those who are homebound. Please call Social Services for more information about the Mobile Food Pantry or Dial-a-Ride services through Greater Bridgeport Transit: 203-256-3170.

Our Snow Shoveling for Seniors program is not accepting registrations at this time for residents who need assistance. When we have volunteers for shoveling, we will let you know how to register. If you are a student and would like to volunteer to shovel snow for seniors and people with disabilities, please contact Social Services by calling 203-256-3170 or sending an email to socialservices@fairfieldct.org.

NEW INTERNET PROVIDER

GoNetspeed has announced their intention to expand to Fairfield in the first half of 2021. This is welcome news for residents who have struggled with internet interruptions. You can read more information [here](#).

BUSINESSES

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has now re-opened the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to all participating lenders. The SBA has revised the [PPP website](#) with updated forms, guidance and general information. If you plan on applying for a forgivable PPP loan, the Department of Economic and Community Development encourages you to review this new information and begin working with a lender as soon as possible.

5 Top Tips on PPP and its Re-Opening

SBA has re-opened the Paycheck Protection Program loan portal to ?????? participating PPP lenders. The Paycheck Protection Program provides loans to help businesses keep their workforce employed during the COVID-19 crisis. As of January 19, the SBA is accepting applications from all participating lenders. Learn about who qualifies for First and Second Draw loans, what the terms are, and how to apply.

- **Small Businesses can begin to submit applications** - borrowers can apply for a First Draw PPP Loan until March 31, 2021. [Lender Match](#) can help businesses find a participating lender.
- **If a Small Business didn't access a PPP loan prior to 12/27/2020, they may be eligible for a First Draw PPP loan.** See [First Draw PPP Loan Overview](#) for more details.
- **SBA will ensure increased access to capital.** The Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Non-Profits, and Venues Act (Economic Aid Act), includes set asides for new and smaller borrowers, for borrowers in low and moderate income communities and for community and smaller lenders ([Guidance](#)).
- **Second Draw PPP Loans are available.** Second Draw PPP Loan Overview for more details. Translations available in [Spanish](#) and [16 other languages](#).

- FREE Business Resources. For a complete list see Connecticut's SBA [Resource Guide](#).

First Draw PPP Loan eligibility now includes additional types of entities and covered eligible expenses have been expanded. Additionally, organizations may qualify for a Second Draw PPP Loan if they can demonstrate at least a 25% reduction in gross receipts between comparable quarters in 2019 and 2020.

Learn more about eligibility and covered expenses [here](#).

As a reminder, The Fairfield Chamber of Commerce office is open. You can reach them at 203.255.1011 or by emailing beverly@fairfieldctchamber.com.

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



What's your story? What's your reason?
DO YOUR PART...Wear a mask!

[Download the video here](#) so you can upload it to social media to continue to remind our residents that part of our civic responsibility to each other is to wear a mask.

APPLY FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program is for families in need of energy assistance, Fairfield Social Services coordinates with Alliance For Community Empowerment to help to obtain necessary energy services for Fairfield residents in need. **To make an appointment to see if you're eligible, or if you have questions, please call Social Services 203-256-3170.**



FAIRFIELD BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE:

The [Town of Fairfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee](#) has been working to encourage walking and biking for transportation, recreation, exercise and quality of life.



Working with multiple town departments we have established [bicycle routes](#), installed [bicycle repair stations](#), worked to improve pedestrian infrastructure, and authored the [Town of Fairfield Complete Streets Policy](#) (approved by the Board of Selectman in 2018).

With more and more of our citizens using our roads, we would like to provide you with some important safety reminders for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. [View the document here.](#)

TOWN GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Sullivan Independence Hall and Old Town Hall are open to the public by appointment only for the safety of employees and residents. Please visit this summary page for an overview and follow links to specific departments for more information.



Fairfield's Operations During COVID-19

FAIRFIELD COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Help is available to Fairfield small businesses that are struggling due to the pandemic. The Fairfield COVID-19 Small Business Assistance Program was established to provide limited, one time direct financial assistance to eligible Fairfield small businesses that have no more than five full-time employees and that have been adversely affected by the public health emergency. Applications are still being accepted by the Office of Community & Economic Development. To learn more or to apply, please visit the website: www.fairfieldct.org/covidsbr.

Eligibility & Application

COVID-19 RELIEF FUND



The Fairfield COVID-19 Relief Fund was established to provide limited, one-time assistance to Fairfield residents who have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Use of the funds must be directly related to the effects of the virus. Donate to the fund or apply for relief by clicking below.

Donate or Apply to the Fairfield COVID-19 Relief Fund

COVID-19 TESTING

Testing capacity has increased in our area. To view locations where to get tested, please visit fairfieldct.org/covid19testing.

Contact Tracing

One of the key tools we have to contain the spread of COVID-19 is Contact Tracing. For this initiative to be successful, the Health Department needs the cooperation of residents who test positive for COVID-19. Both Universities were trained and assisted by our Health Department to manage their own contact tracing for their respective campuses.

The primary purpose of contact tracing is to identify and notify direct contacts of confirmed cases as quickly as possible and to ensure those exposed are self-quarantining. The information provided in the interviews with confirmed cases helps reduce the potential spread of the virus in our community.

Any Fairfield resident who tests positive for COVID-19 and has not received a phone call from the Fairfield Health Department or the Connecticut COVID Tracing system within 24 hours of receiving their result is urged to contact the Fairfield Health Department at 203-256-3022. Calls received after hours or on weekends, will be returned by the next business day.

When to Isolate & Quarantine

OPERATION HOPE FOOD PANTRY

Operation Hope wants to make sure residents of Fairfield are aware that the food pantry remains open and is ready to help by providing food and other basic needs to community residents, as they have for nearly 35 years.

Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10:00-12:00; Thursday from 4:00 -6:00. Visit operationhopect.org.

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Fairfield Public Main Library is open for quick browsing and checkout Monday-Saturday afternoons 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm and Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5:00pm – 7:00pm. Learn more about [Library Express](#) service.



Please visit fairfieldpubliclibrary.org for full details regarding [Curbside Pickup](#) at the Main Library and Woods Branch Library. Fairfield Public Library continues to offer

24/7 access to their digital collection of books, music, magazines, movies and databases. Visit the [Library Event Calendar](#) to find a wide and varied assortment of Virtual Programs.

Need a library card? Follow this link fairfieldpubliclibrary.org/my-fpl/library-cards/ and get started today! Sign up for the library newsletter [here](#).

PEQUOT LIBRARY: WE'RE HERE, WE CARE

Pequot Library offers curbside pickup and limited browsing hours from 3-6pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; and from 2-4pm on Saturdays. During browsing hours visit us to check out a book or view our display *John James Audubon's Birds of America: A Return to Pequot Library*, on view from February 4 - May 2.



PEQUOT
LIBRARY

Outside of browsing hours, enjoy digital programs like story times, author talks, book clubs, and more! Get details on our [website](#) and social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#). Sign up for Pequot Library's [Digital Digest eNewsletter](#) or contact our [Chief Librarian](#) for personalized book recommendations.

Important COVID-19 Links:

Fairfield Health Department coronavirus website: fairfieldct.org/covid19

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

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).

YNHH has a call center number it's 1-833-ASK YNHH that's open from 7am - 7pm.

PREVIOUS UPDATES:

January 15	July 2
January 8	June 26
December 23	June 19
December 18	June 12
December 12	June 4
December 4	May 28
November 25	May 22
November 20	May 14
November 13	May 7
November 6	May 4
October 30	April 23
October 15	April 18
October 9	April 14
October 2	April 10
September 25	April 7
September 18	April 3
September 11	April 1
September 2	March 30
August 26	March 27
August 20	March 25
August 12	March 23
August 7	March 21
August 5	March 19
July 31	March 18
July 24	March 17
July 17	March 14
July 10	March 12
	March 10

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