Town of Fairfield News

2/12/2021 - 2.12 TOWN UPDATE



Dear Fairfielders,

The COVID data for Fairfield is trending in a positive direction and in Connecticut we are seeing less hospitalizations and deaths. Public health officials are hopeful the second peak is behind us, but it is unclear what the impact will be of the new COVID-19 variants. It is reported the new variants are more easily transmitted and could potentially cause another spike in cases.

I was advised today that one of our Fairfield COVID-19 cases reported in late January has been identified as the B117 (UK) variant. This case was a student in the Fairfield Public Schools. Contact tracing was completed, all contacts were quarantined at that time, and the student has already completed their isolation period. The Health Department has consulted with the CT Department of Public Health and no further actions are required at this point. The Connecticut Department of Public Health is reporting that 42 individuals have tested positive for the B117 variant in Connecticut.

Certainly, vaccinations are making a difference, and the State will be able to vaccinate citizens more quickly with the increased availability of vaccines through participating pharmacies and hospitals. While the news of positive cases going down is hopeful, I want to remind our residents to remain cautious, especially since the COVID-19 B117 (UK) variant has been identified in Connecticut. It is important for everyone to continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, and keep a safe distance from those outside of your household.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

For the most up-to-date information from the State of Connecticut on COVID-19, residents can visit ct.gov/coronavirus. You can also subscribe to text message alerts from the state by texting the keyword **COVIDCT** to **888-777**.

Vaccine Information:

As of the end of today, the Fairfield Health Department administered 6,958 vaccines to those eligible and they have an additional 4,700 appointments scheduled this month.

The Fairfield Health Department's vaccine clinic continues to fill up their appointments. They 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.

If you are having difficulty scheduling your appointment through VAMS, here are some links that may be helpful: <u>VAMS Navigation Instructions</u> and How to <u>Create</u> your VAMS Account and Schedule Your First Appointment.

- 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.
- Stamford Hospital You can check your eligibility and schedule an appointment with Stamford Hospital. For more information, you can find it <u>here</u>.
- While there are no locations in the direct Fairfield area, there are currently 12
 Walgreens pharmacies in CT who are accepting COVID-19 vaccination
 appointments. For more information and a list of their locations please see
 their website.

Eligible residents for the COVID-19 vaccinations include all Phase 1a individuals and only those Phase 1b individuals who are 65 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:

- *Those who are 65 years old. Proof of age will be required at the clinic.
- *Residents and staff of select congregate settings.

If you fall under Phase 1a, you should register through your employer. For those in the Phase 1b category of 65 and older, you should complete the State form below:

State Form - 65 & Older

CT Vaccination Phases & Eligibility

Fairfield's COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center at 203-256-3082.

If you are a Fairfield resident who is currently eligible but does not have the ability to schedule an appointment via the computer, you can call our COVID-19 Vaccination Call Center where a volunteer will assist you in obtaining an appointment.



With thanks to our new Director of the Bigelow Center for Senior Services, Brenda Steele, and the <u>CERT</u> volunteers staffing it each day, the phone line is targeted to provide support and guidance for eligible vaccine recipients. **The call center is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** and voicemails will be returned when calls come in outside the operating hours.

CERT has gone above and beyond throughout the pandemic to respond to the needs of our Town, through volunteering at the outdoor food pantry, grocery bag pick up, PPE pick up, contact tracing, and now the call center. I hope you'll join me in thanking our Community Emergency Response Team volunteers for putting in 4,090 hours of service in 2020, and for their continued efforts this year on the behalf of our

community.





The State Appointment Assistance Hotline is 1-877-918-2224 is available for assistance. Click here for the State Fact Sheet about the vaccine.

We will continue to post the latest information on the <u>Town website</u>, 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, <u>click here</u>.

Town Data: The Town of Fairfield has had 3,942 cases to date, and 194 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 <u>School Data page</u>, 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.

Drive-Through Testing Location: Fairfield will have a drive-through COVID-19 testing location thanks to a partnership with Yale New Haven Health. The location will be open for testing seven days a week at the Mill Plain Road Commuter Parking Lot, with an anticipated March 1st opening. You can view other COVID testing locations by clicking the "Testing Locations" button below.

Testing Locations

FAIRFIELD TOWN GOVERNMENT

Assessment Appeals – Appeals must be received in the Assessor's Office by Friday, February 19, 2021 no later than 4:30 PM, and postmarks can not be accepted. Appeals can also be received in-person at the Town Assessor's office located in Old Town Hall at 625 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT. 06824.

Residents who feel that their revaluation value needs to be adjusted can apply for a formal appeal with the <u>Board of Assessment Appeals</u> (BAA). Applications to appeal can be accessed through the blue "Assessment Appeal Information" box below. Everyone who files an appeal by February 19th will be granted a hearing with the BAA.

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

Assessment Appeals Information

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sustainable Fairfield Task Force: This month, Fairfield earned new honors, for our community sustainability efforts. This recognition is an outstanding achievement for Fairfield, demonstrating that the Town is keeping pace with and even surpassing the

efforts of many of the nation's largest communities when it comes to supporting the adoption of environmentally friendly energy sources. I would like to sincerely thank the



good work of the Task Force for all they do to make Fairfield a better place. To read more, click <u>here</u>.

As a town, state and nation, we are still dealing with the challenges of living life during a pandemic and its impact on our town services, the schools, and the economy. I will continue to include helpful resources for our residents and businesses. I hope you will take some time to review them below.

I hope you have a safe and good weekend.

Brenda L. Kupchick

Fairfield First Selectwoman

LOVE LOCAL E-GIFT CARD PROGRAM

The Town of Fairfield and the Chamber of Commerce are continuing our buy local initiative with the Fairfield Community e-Gift Card program, which is exclusive to Fairfield businesses only. This is a great gift for Fairfield residents for both holidays and special occasions. More information https://example.com/here/bases/b



It's Game ON To Help Bring Even More Love to our Small Businesses this February!

Introducing our Love Local Bingo Contest for the month of February! It's easy to play: make BINGO on one of two game cards by visiting and making

purchases at one of 47 participating
Fairfield businesses during the month of
February. Once you have BINGO, take and
upload a picture of your winning game card
and fill out an entry form

at ExperienceFairfieldCT.org/Bingo. You will also need to upload an image of your dated stamped receipts via the link provided as proof of purchases in order to have a chance to win a \$250 shopping spree and other great prizes. For a complete list of



contest rules and to download your game board, go to ExperienceFairfieldCT.org/Bingo.

Elderly and Disabled Homeowners Program Update:

The Governor recently issued Executive Order <u>10</u>, which includes a provision to eliminate the refiling requirement for those applicants due to refile this year.

If you are due to refile this year, you will not need to reapply and your benefits will continue at the same level. The Tax Assessor's office will be sending you a postcard to confirm this the week of February 8th.

If you are seeking the benefit for the first time you will need to apply, please contact the <u>Tax Assessor's office</u> at 203-256-3110 and the office will work with you on the process.

The Executive Order did not extend the final date to apply of May 14, 2021. If you cannot apply by this date you will need to request an extension from the Office of Policy and Management by August 13, 2021. The Tax Assessor's office will be able to provide residents the instructions on how to request an extension.

For more information, visit here: <u>fairfieldct.org/taxrelief</u>

WINTER WEATHER

Resident Snow Shoveling: 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.

I have received calls from residents concerned about sidewalks that are not shoveled. In many instances, those sidewalks are in front of elderly or



disabled resident's homes. The town will continue to do our best to remind residents of their responsibility while taking into consideration that it may not always be possible for all residents to shovel within the 24 hour time period.

If you have snow removal concerns or would like to request a street be re-plowed, please enter a <u>Citizen Service Request</u> and select 'Snow Removal Issues' or call the Town Garage at 203-256-3177. For more information on Fairfield plowing and snow removal policies, <u>click here</u>.

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.

TREES IN WIRES

If a tree is in contact or close proximity to wires. What do you do?

United Illuminating is responsible for clearing trees or limbs in wires. Please contact United Illuminating at: **1-800-722-5534.**

Please have the following information available:

- Your contact information
- Address of tree problem
- Cross street
- Landmark
- Pole number

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.



FAIRFIELD PARKS & RECREACTION 2021 SPRING BROCHURE

Check out some of the programs and events coming up this Spring... HERE!



BEACH BUNNY 5K: A Virtual Event

March 27, 20121-April 3, 2021. Registration opens 1/1/21, More information can be found here.



STRATFIELD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION BRICK CAMPAIGN

The Stratfield Village Association (SVA) is a certified 501 c3 non-profit organization, which aims to preserve, protect and improve the character of the Stratfield Village neighborhood in Fairfield. On January 13th they announced the launch of a brick fundraising campaign to supplement funding to the Four Corners renovation project. Individuals and businesses will be able to purchase a brick with a customized

engraving to be included in the new brick sidewalks that are part of the project.

The engraved bricks will be made available for purchase during two, five-week periods – the first starting Friday, January 15, and the second starting Monday, April 19. There are a limited number of bricks available because of space constraints.



The SVA's personalized sales page is

at <u>bricksrus.com/donorsite/stratfieldvillageassociation</u>. Bricks can be purchased in two sizes – 4"x 8" for \$100 with up to three lines of text, or 8"x 8" for \$200 with up to 6 lines of text. Lastly, a corporate sponsor may purchase an 8"x 8" brick with 3 lines of text and include a company logo.

The SVA has raised \$900,000 of its \$1 million goal for the project to date.

TAX DEFERMENT

Governor Lamont's recently signed <u>Executive Order No. 9R</u> which allows towns to again offer deferment for property tax payments. 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 <u>fairfieldct.org/taxcollector</u>. **Please be advised that People's Bank is unable to accept payments at their branch location for this deferment during the 60 day extension of February 2nd to April 1st. We apologize for any inconvenience.**



BUSINESSESS

Women's Business Development Council Offers Grants of up to \$10,000 to Qualified Small Business Owners Who Live in Connecticut

Grants are available to women–owned and/or minority–owned businesses in Connecticut and are designed to help these businesses pivot, expand or restructure during pandemic times and beyond. **The application deadline is February 15, so** apply now.

FOR QUALIFICATIONS, INFORMATION, APPLICATION AND ASSISTANCE:

Visit https://ctwbdc.org/equity-match-grant-program/

Email microgrants@ctwbdc.org

Call 203-914-4217 to book an appointment with a WBDC Business Advisor.

Women's Business Development Council Forum Feb 16

Reps. Laura Devlin, Cristin McCarthy Vahey and Jenn Leeper will be co-hosting WBDC CT for a Women-Owned Small Business Round Table Event on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 5:00pm. This is an opportunity for small business owners to get a greater understanding of resources available to them and how WBDC can help. Register by clicking the image below.

Women-Owned Small Business Round Table

Join Representatives Leeper, McCarthy Vahey, and Devlin in a round table discussion with Women's Business Development Council CEO, Fran Pastore, and WBDC Business Advisor, Sherry Konwerski.



FEB. 16 AT 5 PM Register at https://bit.ly/3a1NPhA



On February 8th, the governor announced new features and tools on business.ct.gov, making it easier to find the information and services needed for businesses to launch or continue to grow.

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

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.

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 <u>click this link</u> to learn more about the extensive range of treatment options available

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:

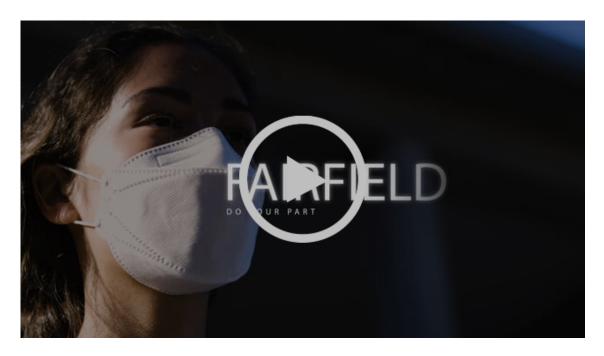
Transportation services to medical appointments and shopping have been suspended. We will reassess in the New Year when it is safe to allow passengers on the buses. If you are unable to get to the market, the Mobile Food Pantry is available every other week and lunch delivery is available for those who 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.

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



What's your story? What's your reason? **DO YOUR PART**...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



FAIRFIELD BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE:

The <u>Town of Fairfield Bicycle and Pedestrian</u>

<u>Committee</u> has been working to encourage walking and biking for transportation, recreation, exercise and quality of life.



Working with multiple town departments we have established <u>bicycle</u> <u>routes</u>, installed <u>bicycle repair stations</u>, worked to improve pedestrian infrastructure, and authored the <u>Town of Fairfield Complete Streets Policy</u> (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. <u>View the document here.</u>

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



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



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 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.

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 <u>Library Express</u> service.



Please visit <u>fairfieldpubliclibrary.org</u> for full details regarding <u>Curbside Pickup</u> 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 <u>Library Event Calendar</u> to find a wide and varied assortment of Virtual Programs.

Need a library card? Follow this link <u>fairfieldpubliclibrary.org/my-fpl/library-cards/</u> and get started today! Sign up for the library newsletter <u>here</u>.

We are excited to announce that **Punching the Air** by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam is our One Book One Town pick for 2021. Please check library website for all the OBOT events.



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.



Outside of browsing hours, enjoy digital programs like story times, author talks, book clubs, and more! Get details on our <u>website</u> and social media: <u>Facebook, Instagram, Twitter</u>, and <u>YouTube</u>. Sign up for Pequot Library's <u>Digital Digest eNewsletter</u> or contact our <u>Chief Librarian</u> 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 <u>click here</u>

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

<u>Hartford HealthCare's</u> COVID-19 Clinical Command Center hotline, staffed by healthcare professionals, is now available to the community. To reach the 24-hour hotline, call <u>860.972.8100</u> or (toll-free) <u>833.621.0600</u>.

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

PREVIOUS UPDATES:

February 5

January 29

January 22

January 15

January 8

2020 Archives

Did someone forward you this email? Sign up to receive my update directly here.

Archives