



TOWN OF GREENWICH

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Fred Camillo
First Selectman

March 19, 2020

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID Test Results in Greenwich; Update on Changes in Town Operations

Here is the daily update from First Selectman Fred Camillo on the Town's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the needs of our residents.

To lead by example for social distancing, we are issuing electronic press updates every afternoon which will be followed with a teleconferencing opportunity for the media. The updates also will be posted on the Town website's [dedicated page \(www.greenwichct.gov/covid19\)](http://www.greenwichct.gov/covid19) for COVID-19 information. This page also includes links for residents to subscribe for emergency alerts.

As of Thursday morning, Greenwich Hospital has tested a total of 250 people in the garage site. Of those, 44 have returned positive. It is not known how many of those positive results involve Greenwich residents, as the Hospital draws many patients from Westchester County. Currently, there are three patients in the hospital and due to HIPAA regulations, the Hospital is prohibited from identifying hometowns. As a reminder, Yale New Haven Health has established a call center, staffed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., to answer any questions on coronavirus: 1-833 ASK YNHH.

For those who want to be tested, they must call their doctor's office and get a physician order, then they will be instructed as to how to make an appointment.

Leaf Blower Ban

To protect the quality of life for residents who are maintaining social distancing at home, effective 6 p.m. today, Thursday, March 19, 2020, until further notice, premises located in the Town of Greenwich may only be serviced by one (1) gasoline-powered leaf blower, at any given time. This order modifies Town Ordinance Chapter 6b. Noise. Section 6b-6. – Prohibited noise activities. Currently, the restriction begins Memorial Day and continues through Labor Day.

For those residents experiencing challenges with food, finances, and living arrangements, please call the Department of Human Services at 203-622-3800.

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The Greenwich Police Department is altering how non-emergency calls for service are handled in response to the COVID-19 crisis. These temporary measures are designed to minimize exposure to our officers while trying to maintain our standard of high quality service to the Greenwich community.

Nothing will change in our response to emergency or 911 calls for service. The Greenwich Police Department will continue to provide the same professional and expert response the residents of Greenwich have come to expect.

A police officer may not be sent to your location to take a complaint about a non-emergency, non-violent, or past event. Instead, a Public Safety Dispatcher will gather basic information from you when you call and then advise you that a police officer will shortly call you back for follow up investigation. If the officer needs to come to your location, we will be attempting to have all contact outside while we try to maintain proper social distancing.

When within close social distances with an officer, the officer may be wearing a face mask and or eye protection.

We are not reducing the number of officers patrolling the Town of Greenwich. However, the officers assigned to traffic direction on Greenwich Avenue will be re-deployed to headquarters to handle the non-emergency calls for service, to provide a marked patrol in the central Greenwich business district and to backfill other requirements.

As residents adhere to health officials' guidance of cleaning and sanitizing surfaces to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, please, do NOT flush disposable wipes in the toilet. Put them in the trash. Disposable wipes can clog your sewer lines, the Town sewage system, and can cause sewer backups and damage equipment.

Here are other updates from our Department of Public Works regarding the submission of various applications.

Building Inspection Division

The Building Inspection Division is accepting inspection requests for any inspection that does not require interaction with numerous persons. Outdoor inspections are being scheduled. Those inspections that require an inspector to enter a building or home will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The initial screening of an application will be completed via email. [Click here](#) for the forms/applications. Please forward your original permit application, all necessary forms and any plans to bldginsp@greenwichct.org or call (203) 992-8910 with questions. Inspections should still be scheduled as described on your permit. **Click Here for a detailed instruction sheet on the remote permitting process.**

Highway, Sewer, and Engineering Divisions

To submit permit applications or schedule an appointment, please contact publicworks@greenwichct.org or call 203-618-3001. [Click here](#) for the Sewer permit application form and instructions. The Highway permit application form and additional information may be found [here](#). Excavation and fill permits can be applied for through Engineering. [Click here](#) for the application and more information.

The Parks & Recreation Department will be deploying staff to monitor the parks and beaches. “Many people are home because of the closure of libraries, schools and businesses, providing them the opportunity to use our parks system. I cannot stress strongly enough that while it is advantageous and uplifting to experience nature, this is not an opportunity to gather with family and friends in public spaces,” Mr. Camillo said. “If there continues to be an issue with groups gathering in the parks and beaches, I will be forced to make the decision to close all of those facilities as well.”

The Department of Parking Services, with approval from First Selectman Camillo, is suspending enforcement of parking meters, daily parking fees at commuter lots, two-hour timed and 24-hour parking restrictions. We will continue to enforce all posted No Parking zones and remind drivers to be sure to keep crosswalks and fire hydrants clear. It is our hope that this small measure, which will remain in effect until further notice, will ease some of the burden Town residents and visitors are currently enduring.

In response to COVID-19, Access Health CT announced a new Special Enrollment Period for these exceptional circumstances available from March 19 through April 2, 2020 for qualified uninsured Connecticut residents. For more information, visit: <https://learn.accesshealthct.com/>

“With these uncertain times, Greenwich is demonstrating that we are members of a community that supports one another. We are resilient and making every effort to maintain the health and safety of our residents to ensure the spread of the virus is minimized by our collective and collaborative safety precautions,” Mr. Camillo said.

The next press update will be released at 3:30 p.m., Friday, March 20, 2020.

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For media inquiries, please contact Executive Assistant to the First Selectman Barbara Heins at barbara.heins@greenwichct.org.