

Eastern Highlands Health District  
Board of Directors Regular Meeting  
Agenda  
Thursday October 15, 2020, 4:30 PM  
Via Zoom

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes (August 20 2020)

Public Comments

Old Business – None

New Business

1. Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement Funding Application-Ratification
2. Proposed 2021 Regular Meeting Schedule

Subcommittees

3. Personnel Committee – Director of Health performance evaluation (no attachment)

Town Reports

Directors Report

4. COVID-19 Response Activity Update, 10-8-20
5. Radon testing initiative

Communications/other

6. DPH re: FY 2021 Per Capita Grant approval
7. L Swanson re: COVID-19 letter to Storrs area food establishments
8. R Miller & E Eror re: Oaks UConn Students quarantine notice
9. Mansfield, EHHD, UConn re: Oaks outbreak statement
10. Chronicle re: Starting school safely
11. Chronicle re: UC gets input on COVID concerns
12. Journal Inquirer re: Storrs restaurant and bar cited for COVID-19 violations
13. Chronicle re: Huskies cited for COVID-19 violations
14. Journal Inquirer re: Schools aim for 'safety first'
15. Journal Inquirer re: Employee at Coventry school test positive for COVID-19
16. Daily Campus re: Mansfield offering free COVID-19 testing to residents this week
17. Journal Inquirer re: Staffer at Coventry Grammar School tests positive for COVID-19
18. Journal Inquirer re: UConn order students in apartment complex to quarantine
19. Hartford Courant re: Coronavirus cases at UConn, other college campuses driving increase in Connecticut COVID number
20. Hartford Courant re: UConn quarantines another dorm after 12 new coronavirus cases reported Saturday
21. Journal Inquirer re: Coventry students to return to in-person learning full time on Monday
22. Journal Inquirer re: No mask? Some consequences, maybe: What happens if you're not wearing one in public and someone complains
23. Journal Inquirer re: K-5 students in Tolland to return to fulltime classroom learning Oct. 5
24. Chronicle re: COVID case confirmed at day care
25. Journal Inquirer re: Coventry schools moving to normalcy
26. Chronicle re: Two COVID-19 cases reported at E.O. Smith
27. Press Release: Governor Lamont Announces Membership of the COVID-19 Advisory Group

*Executive Session – Personnel in accordance with CGS 1-200(6)(a), Director of Health Performance Review*

28. Director of Health compensation (no attachment)

Adjournment

*Next Board Meeting – December 10, 2019 (FY 21/22 budget presentation)*

*\*In accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7B and social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC to slow community spread of COVID-19, this meeting is physically closed to the public. The public may join the meeting via telephone. If*

*you plan to join the meeting via phone, please email Millie Brosseau at [mbrosseau@ehhd.org](mailto:mbrosseau@ehhd.org) or call 860-429-3325 for the call in information.*



Eastern Highlands Health District Board of Directors

Regular Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Virtual meeting Via  
Zoom\*

Thursday August 20, 2020

**Members present:** E. Anderson (Andover), J. Carrington (Mansfield), J. Kelly (Bolton), T. Nuccio (Tolland), E. Paterson (Mansfield), M. Rosen (Tolland), D. Walsh (Coventry), M. Walter (Columbia), E. Wiczenski (Willington)

**Staff present:** R. Miller, M. Brosseau, K. Dardick, C. Trahan, A. Gonzalez

E. Paterson called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

**Public Comments**

Outreach was done per Executive order. No comments were received.

**Approval of minutes**

D. Walsh made a MOTION seconded by E. Wiczenski to approve the minutes of the 4/23/2020 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**Per Capita Grant in Aid Funding Application for SFY 2021**

R. Miller presented an overview of the grant.

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by E. Wiczenski to authorize the execution and submittal of the Eastern Highlands Health District's Fiscal Year 2020/2021 State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Per Capita Funding Application as presented August 20, 2020. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**Subcommittee Reports**

**Finance Committee – Financial report, period ending 6/30/2020**

R. Miller presented to the board an overview of the financial report for the period ending 6/30/2020.

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by J. Kelly, to accept the financial report as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously

**Director's Report**

**COVID-19 Response Activities - Update**

R. Miller provided an update on some of the activities with which the health district is involved. R. Miller informed the board that the health district has been awarded funding for pandemic response activities. This funding will cover a 30 month period.

There was discussion regarding the way cases of UConn students are reported. A news article stated that cases of students living off campus are being reported in the town that is their permanent address. R. Miller determined that the article is incorrect.

### **EHHD Isaias Response**

R. Miller reported on the efforts of the Health District in supporting citizens and businesses during wide spread power outages.

### **Quarterly Activity Report for the periods ending 6/30/2020**

R. Miller presented an overview of the quarterly activity report, noting that efforts for the next quarter will include the implementation of the state EEE plan that outlines thresholds for response at the state and local level.

### **Town Reports**

#### **Willington**

E. Wiczenski informed the board that the Willington Town Offices are closed to the public. Services are available by appointment. Concerts in the park have been successful. Basketball courts have been reopened with signage to "Play at your own Risk". The Willington Parks and Recreation director is working with other towns to investigate implementing a basketball program.

#### **Tolland**

M. Rosen reported that the Town hall is fully open to the public and they have had no issues so far. People are wearing masks and being respectful. M. Rosen thanked the health district for the assistance provided during the tropical storm. M. Rosen informed the board that the recreation program has been "guttled". Additionally, the town investigated providing a child care program for parents returning to work. At this time, the town is unable to offer that service.

#### **Columbia**

M. Walter reported that the parks and rec department will be offering childcare for up to 14 children. This will be run similar to a camp program. The Columbia town hall remains closed to the public. Services are available by appointment. M. Walter informed the board that the town was able to provide potable water and charging stations during the power outages following the tropical storm. M. Walter noted that the beaches have remained open all summer with spacing in place to protect the lifeguards. And The Main Moose is booming!

#### **Mansfield**

J. Carrington reported that the Mansfield Town Hall remains closed to the public, with services available by appointment. He is considering bringing employees back to work at the town hall. J. Carrington informed the board that the mayor will be holding a press conference Friday regarding reducing the size of gatherings. J. Carrington noted that the Mansfield Community Center provided showers and charging stations during the power outages following the tropical storm. Additionally, non-potable water was available at MCC and the town hall. J. Carrington informed the board that C. Trahan will be retiring and Charmain Bradshaw-Hill will be the new Director of Finance. Additionally, the Town Council is interviewing for the Town Manager position.

#### **Coventry**

D. Walsh informed the board that hydrilla treatments of the lake have been completed. D. Walsh reported that the farmer's market is trying to reopen in a new way by allowing people to shop by appointment. D. Walsh noted that the Town hall is open and only a limited number of people are allowed in the building at any one time. D. Walsh initiated discussion regarding recruitment of primary care physicians. Dr. Dardick noted that there are very few private practices and they must do their own recruiting.

### **Andover**

E. Anderson reported that the town hall is open by appointment only. E. Anderson informed the board that youth athletics have been allowed to continue and they have had no issues yet. Teams are required to have a COVID safety plan. E. Anderson noted that Andover lake has remained open to members only. And, the farmers market has been running smoothly with entrance and exit monitored by CERT members. E. Anderson reported that the senior transportation program for medical appointments and food shopping continues. The senior center meals are occurring with proper social distancing. .

### **Adjournment**

MOTION made by D. Walsh, seconded by E. Anderson to adjourn at 6:11 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Miller  
Secretary



## Eastern Highlands Health District

4 South Eagleville Road ♦ Mansfield CT 06268 ♦ Tel: (860) 429-3325 ♦ Fax: (860) 429-3321 ♦ Web: www.EHHD.org

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### Memo

To: Board of Directors

From: Robert Miller, Director of Health

Date: 8/17/2020

Re: Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement Funding Application for the Enhanced Detection, Response, Surveillance and Preventions of COVID-19

Attached for your review is a copy of the above referenced grant application. As you may recall from the last board meeting, this grant represents a primary funding mechanism for supporting the enhancement of the local health department response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The total award for the period starting May 19, 2020 through November 17, 2022 is \$384,489.

This grant will fund an increase in staffing that includes 1 full-time Public Health Nurse, a part-time Public Health Project Specialist, an increase in the hours of our existing part-time Community Health and Wellness Coordinator, over-time costs for existing environmental health field staff, and other supplies and equipment. (The submitted budget for the *first year* can be found on pages 5 to 7 of the attached application.)

The work plan submitted includes, but is not limited to the following salient activities:

- Expansion of our contract tracing capacity
- COVID-19 and seasonal flu vaccination preparedness and administration
- COVID-19 data collection, analysis, and reporting
- Staff and volunteer training
- Coordination and engagement activities with community partners
- Technical assistance and enforcement of sector rules
- Collaboration and support of Board of Education with infection control, and contact tracing
- Health promotion and education

(The entire work plan details can be found on pages 9 to 12 of the attached application.)

I respectfully recommend the Board ratify the submittal of the grant application as presented.

*Recommended motion: Move, to ratify the submittal of the Eastern Highlands Health District's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement Funding Application for the Enhanced Detection, Response, Surveillance and Preventions of COVID-19 to the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, as presented on October 15, 2020.*

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

**Please make sure the following items are signed and submitted with your ELC Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement funding application:**

- Signed and completed Application including:
- Budget
- Work Plan
- Signed Invoice

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:** [LHD-ELCinbox@ct.gov](mailto:LHD-ELCinbox@ct.gov)  
In the subject line please include the following: ELC Enhancing Detection – Name of Local Health Department/District



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner

Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

### EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY CAPACITY (ELC) ENHANCING DETECTION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FUNDING APPLICATION FOR THE ENHANCED DETECTION, RESPONSE, SURVEILLANCE AND PREVENTION OF COVID-19

Robert L. Miller, Director of Health  
Eastern Highlands Health District  
4 South Eagleville Road  
Mansfield, CT 06268

**ELC Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement Project Period: May 19, 2020 through November 17, 2022**

**ELC Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement LHD Total Allocation (30 months): \$384,489**

Year One, May 19, 2020 – May 17, 2021	Annual Allocation: <u>\$153,795</u>
Year Two, May 18, 2021 – May 17, 2022	Annual Allocation: <u>\$153,795</u>
Year Three (six months), May 18, 2022 – November 17, 2022	Annual Allocation: <u>\$76,898</u>

This application certifies that the LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT/DISTRICT is in compliance with the following conditions of receipt of ELC Enhancing Detection funding.

Resources provided via this mechanism should support necessary expenses to:

- (1) Enhance Laboratory Detection, Surveillance (contact tracing), Response, Informatics and Other Workforce Capacity.
- (2) Strengthen Laboratory Testing Volume and Capacity.
- (3) Coordinate and Engage with Partners as needed to respond to and prevent COVID-19.
- (4) Prevent and Minimize Transmission of COVID-19.
- (5) Conduct Health Promotion Activities associated with each category (1-4) as detailed below.

**(1) Enhance Laboratory Detection, Surveillance (contact tracing), Response, Informatics and Other Workforce Capacity**

- a. Build expertise for healthcare and community outbreak response within the local health department/health district (LHDs).
- b. Build infection prevention and control and healthcare outbreak response expertise in LHDs.
- c. Train and hire staff to improve the capacities of the epidemiology and informatics workforce.
- d. Conduct surveillance and response of COVID-19 (including contact tracing) and other conditions of public health significance; engage with community resources coordinators to support self-quarantine of impacted residents
  - i. Hire temporary contact tracing staff
  - ii. Hire local epidemiologist
  - iii. Hire public health nurse
  - iv. Hire infection prevention staff

- e. Build expertise to support management of the COVID-19 related activities within the jurisdiction and integrate into the broader portfolio of activities, (e.g., COVID program and project manager, budget staff).
  - i. Utilize existing PHEP-funded staff (public health preparedness coordinator) to support management of the COVID-19 related activities within the jurisdiction
  - ii. Hire temporary accounting/fiscal staff to manage funding sources and maintain fiscal and programmatic tracking records for reporting to DPH, including crisis response and FEMA reimbursements
- f. Build expertise and conduct mass vaccination campaign
  - i. Utilize epidemiologist or public health nurse hired under funding to plan for critical workforce and mass vaccination campaigns for influenza and COVID-19
  - ii. Update or refine infectious disease plans
- g. Increase capacity for timely data management, analysis, and reporting for COVID-19 and other conditions of public health significance.
  - i. Ensure epidemiologist, contact tracers, and staff utilize ContaCT system for contact tracing activities
  - ii. Train staff on CTEDSS, ContaCT and other new technology modules and data elements due to COVID-19

## **(2) Strengthen Laboratory Testing Volume and Capacity**

- a. Support testing partners with local coordination for testing of COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 including contacts of COVID-19 positive cases, within high-risk settings or in vulnerable populations that reside in their communities.
  - i. Work with community-based groups to coordinate and promote testing at non-traditional sites (e.g., retail sites, community centers, faith-based organizations)
  - ii. Support testing partners with information and coordination in the community to identify and test at-risk populations including contacts of COVID-19 positive cases, elderly, disabled, racial and ethnic minorities, and other groups at risk due to high frequency of occupational or non-occupational contacts
  - iii. Purchase supplies or engage in vendor contracts to enable testing of populations where needed

## **(3) Coordinate and Engage with Partners**

- a. Build essential partnerships with federally qualified health centers, faith-based organizations, community-based partners, universities, and other congregate healthcare settings within the jurisdiction to ensure testing of community members and minimize the spread of COVID-19.
- b. In collaboration with state partners, coordinate and engage in agreements with academic, hospital, and private/commercial laboratories to successfully meet testing demands and minimize the spread of COVID-19.
- c. Participate in ESF8 regional meetings and share resources as needed within the region and statewide to support COVID-19 response efforts throughout Connecticut.
- d. Communicate and engage with regional community resource coordinators to support individual's with self-quarantine needs.

## **(4) Prevent and Minimize Transmission of COVID-19**

- a. Provide guidance and training to industry.
- b. Provide input and guidance to schools and camps.
- c. Consult with businesses, schools and congregate housing on response to any increase in cases and efforts to mitigate transmission.



- d. Ensure adequate staffing and expertise to promote and enforce Reopen Connecticut Governor Orders, DPH Commissioner Orders, and other COVID-19 control and prevention measures as needed under local authority.

**(5) Conduct Health Promotion Activities associated with (1) – (4) above**

- a. Develop and implement a health promotion program to Enhance Laboratory Detection, Surveillance (contact tracing), Response, Informatics and other Workforce Capacity; Strengthen Laboratory Testing Volume and Capacity; Coordinate and Engage with Partners; and Prevent Disease Transmission through educating and enforcing Reopening Connecticut Efforts.

**Allowable expenses:**

- Hire local epidemiologist
- Hire temporary contact tracing staff
- Hire public health nurse
- Hire infection prevention staff
- Hire temporary accounting/fiscal staff
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for workers collecting samples (stockpiling not allowable),
- Testing campaign supplies
- Health promotion and Reopen Connecticut education
- Mass vaccination campaign supplies
- Costs associated with testing and monitoring isolated individuals to prevent spread of infection, including homeless, shelter operations, and essential municipal staff

**Requirements as condition of funding:**

1. Utilize funding to support COVID-19 response efforts and ELC enhancing detection activities outlined in 1-5 above and any additional guidance provided by CDC.
2. Must utilize the DPH ContaCT system and CTEDSS to identify and isolate new cases of COVID-19 among symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals.
3. Follow-up and report on new COVID-19 positive test results within 24 hours of receipt of confirmed case as long as data is available and received timely.
4. Use of the telephony system (or provide acceptable equivalent).
5. Identify a point of contact at the LHD for contact tracing.
6. Arrange for and promote COVID-19 testing in non-traditional sites for individuals, including vulnerable populations in accordance with CDC and DPH testing guidelines
7. Provide guidance and training to industry according to Reopen Connecticut sector guidelines, including but not limited to:
  - i. Restaurants/food service establishments
  - ii. Personal service establishments (nail salons, tattoo parlors)
  - iii. Hair salons and barbershops
  - iv. Sports and fitness facilities
  - v. Outdoor recreational activities and outdoor event venues
  - vi. Pools
  - vii. Hotels and lodging
  - viii. Private clubs
8. Provide input and guidance to schools and youth camps for their opening plans. Support schools, camps, childcare, assisted living centers, and colleges to respond to resurgence of cases/outbreaks.
9. Completion of a budget, budget justification, and work plan proposal utilizing the forms contained herein.



10. Submit quarterly financial, programmatic and metric reports as determined by the DPH that correspond with activities outlined in the DPH-approved work plan and budget. These reports shall be due to the DPH as follows:

Quarterly Report Period	Quarterly Programmatic and Fiscal Report Due Dates
<b>Year One</b>	
May 19, 2020 – August 17, 2020	September 17, 2020
August 18, 2020 – November 17, 2020	December 17, 2020
November 18, 2020 – February 17, 2021	March 17, 2021
February 18, 2021 – May 17, 2021	June 17, 2021
<b>Year Two</b>	
May 18, 2021 – August 17, 2021	September 17, 2021
August 18, 2021 – November 17, 2021	December 17, 2021
November 18, 2021 – February 17, 2022	March 17, 2022
February 18, 2022 – May 17, 2022	June 17, 2022
<b>Year Three (6 months)</b>	
May 18, 2022 – August 17, 2022	September 17, 2022
August 18, 2022 – November 17, 2022	December 17, 2022

11. Submit an annual ELC Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement Funding Application for review and approval by the DPH. The annual funding application shall include a budget, budget justification and work plan proposal utilizing the forms provided by the DPH. Each annual allocation will be paid in full by the DPH at the beginning of its respective funding period based upon receipt and approval of the annual funding application. Any funds unexpended in Year One of the project period will be carried over to Year Two. Any funds unexpended in Year Two will be carried over to Year Three (six-month period). Any funds remaining unspent at the end of Year Three shall be returned to the Department of Public Health by December 17, 2022.

If this application is approved, monies granted will not be used to substitute for funds budgeted for the Local Health Department/District under the normal budgetary process.

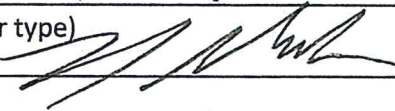
The information provided on behalf of the Local Health Department/District in this application and attachments is true and correct.

**Name of Individual  
Submitting Application:**

Robert Miller

(Please print or type)

Signature:

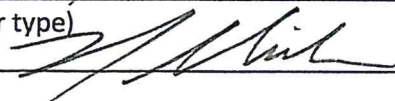


**Director of Health:**

Robert Miller

(Please print or type)

Signature:

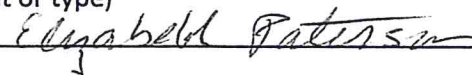


**Board Chair or  
Chief Elected Official:**

Elizabeth Paterson

(Please print or type)

Signature:



**BUDGET PROPOSAL (Revised)**  
**ELC Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement**

**Project Period: May 19, 2020 – November 17, 2022 (30 Months)**  
**Budget Period: May 19, 2020 – May 17, 2021**

Health Department/District Robert Miller  
 DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

SIGNATURE of DOH [Signature]

BUDGET LINE ITEMS	Year 1	Carryover From Prior Year	Total Award
1. Salary and Wages*	109214		
2. Fringe Benefits* 30 %	33676		
3. Office Supplies	300		
4. Contractual **			
5. Equipment	2680		
6. Other			
a. over-time	7805		
b. mileage reimbursement	120		
c.			
d.			
e.			
f.			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>153795</b>		

- \*Complete the salary/fringe position schedule.
- \*\*Complete the Subcontractor detail information for each subcontractor

**BUDGET JUSTIFICATION**  
**ELC Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement**

**Project Period: May 19, 2020 – November 17, 2022 (30 Months)**  
**Budget Period: May 19, 2020 – May 17, 2021**

Please complete a justification for each line item in your ELC Enhancing Detection budget proposal. Funding used to hire staff position(s), must include a justification of staff activities that support the ELC Enhancing Detection work plan. If your LHD is subcontracting services or using a consultant, please provide a justification for the services and/or activities that the consultant will perform that support the ELC Enhancing Detection work plan. The subcontractor detail form must be completed indicating the name of consultant/agency, rate of pay and/or funding detail for the services being provided. All other budget line items should include a justification with a detailed breakdown of costs if applicable.

BUDGET LINE ITEM	JUSTIFICATION
Salary and Wages	<p>To hire 1 full-time Public Health Nurse to engage in CV19 Contact Tracing, infection prevention &amp; plan and conduct mass vaccination campaign for flu and COVID. (see salary/fringe schedule)</p> <p>We recently hired 1 part-time Public Health Project Specialist in anticipation of this grant on 8/31/20: Ande Bloom, Public Health Project Specialist, 33 hours/wk at \$28/hr to engage in Health Promotion, vaccine promotion, build epidemiology and reporting capacity, provide guidance to schools to mitigate transmission, and support contact tracing. (see salary/fringe schedule)</p> <p>Expand hours of current part-time Community Health and Wellness Coordinator effective 8/31/20: Cecile Serazo – 7.0 hrs/wk currently, increased by 23 hours to 30/wk at \$32.51/hr to support contact tracing, infection prevention &amp; mass vaccination campaign planning, preparedness and implementation. (see salary/fringe schedule)</p>
Fringe Benefits	<p>FICA \$5637 Medicare \$1381 Life Insurance \$574 Health Insurance \$26084</p>
Office supplies	<p>Ink &amp; paper copies for vaccine promotion print materials: 7500 copies @ .04 per copy - \$300</p>
Equipment	<p>2 lap tops for two new staff person hired 2 x \$1100 = \$2200 Cell phone minutes &amp; data for one new employee \$40/month x 12 months = \$480</p>
Other (Over-time)	<p>Provide over-time hours effective 8/31/20 for Environmental Health Inspector for enforcement of sector rules and</p>



	executive orders: Zach Jezek, 5hrs/wk x \$33.75/hr x 37wks = \$6244 x 1.25(fringe)=\$7805 to Provide technical assistance to industry on sector rules and Respond to complaints and enforce Reopen CT guidelines in concert with the chief elected official's designee in town.
Other (mileage reimbursement)	For travel by Environmental health inspector: 207miles @ .58/mile - \$120

**SALARY/FRINGE POSITION SCHEDULE**  
**ELC Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement**

**Project Period: May 19, 2020 – November 17, 2022 (30 Months)**  
**Budget Period: May 19, 2020 – May 17, 2021**

Position Detail	Site/ Location	Hours wk/wks per Year	Hourly Rate	Total Salary Charged	Fringe Benefit Rate %	Total Fringe Benefits
1.Position: Public Health Nurse Name: TBD	EHHD/ Telework	40hrs x 32wks = 1280	\$37.00	\$47360	40 %	\$18944
2.Position: Public Health Project Specialists Name: Ande Bloom	EHHD/ Telework	33hrs x 37wks = 1221	\$28.00	\$34188	35%	\$11966
3.Position: Community Health & Wellness Coordinator Name: Cecile Serazo, BSN, RN	EHHD/ Telework	23hrs x 37wks = 851	\$32.51	\$27666	10 %	\$2766
4.Position: Name:		/			%	
5.Position: Name:		/			%	
<b>Totals</b>				109214		33676

Please provide an LHD ELC Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement work plan based on the five ELC Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement categories. Activities in your work plan should include proposed outputs/outcomes. Note that some LHDs may have activities under 1 or all 5 categories depending on the work the LHD will be conducting. The proposed budget should relate to the work plan activities identified below.

### **1. Enhance Laboratory Detection, Surveillance (contact tracing), Response, Informatics and Other Workforce Capacity**

List Work Plan Activities:

**Activity 1:** Utilize the ContaCT system to conduct case investigation and contact tracing for all COVID-19 cases identified and reported to the Eastern Highlands Health District

**Activity 2:** Promote and host mass vaccination clinics for seasonal influenza and COVID-19

**Activity 3:** Update the COVID -19 Mass vaccination Plan for the Eastern Highlands Health District

**Activity 5:** Engage with CRC to support quarantine/isolation of impacted residents.

**Activity 6:** Enroll in CoVP.

**Activity 8:** Create data tables or standardized summary report of current disease rates for COVID-19 within the jurisdiction on a weekly basis.

**Activity 9:** Share the data analysis/reports on the town website and distribute to chief elected officials, emergency managers, other relevant town officials and partner organizations

**Activity 10:** Extract and utilize disease surveillance data to deliver de-identified summary reports to municipal leaders and community partners

**Activity 11:** Train staff and MRC volunteers for mass vaccination clinics for COVID-19

**Activity 12:** Collect and evaluate data to identify high-need communities and neighborhoods within the jurisdiction for targeting additional outreach and testing initiatives.

List Proposed Outputs/Outcomes:

**Output 1:** Metrics associated with activity 1 will be captured in the ContaCT system.

**Output 2a:** Number of influenza clinics hosted or arranged by EHHD

**Output 2b:** Number of COVID19 vaccine clinics hosted or arranged by EHHD

**Output 2c:** Number of people vaccinated for influenza

**Output 2d:** Number of people that received two doses, or as appropriate per the manufacturer, of COVID-19 vaccine

**Output 3:** # of staff that receive the updated Infectious Disease Protocols/Plans, etc... (e.g., local health department staff, elected officials, and emergency manager).

**Output 5:** # of families/individuals served by CRC referrals made by EHHD

**Output 6:** Signed agreements with DPH demonstrating vaccine readiness for COVID-19 (CoVP).

**Output 8:** # of reports developed and posted on town website

**Output 9:** # of people who receive weekly town-specific summary disease reports

**Output 10:** # of weekly reports sent, and # of partners by type who receive the information

**Output 11:** Number of people and volunteers trained on conducting mass vaccination clinics

**Output 12:** # of targeted communities identified through data analysis.

### **2. Strengthen Laboratory Testing Volume and Capacity**



List Work Plan Activities:

**Activity 1:** Identify at-risk community members

**Activity 2:** Work with community-based groups to coordinate and promote testing.

**Activity 3:** Coordinate testing clinics in Eastern Highlands Health District with area providers at non-traditional through existing partnerships

**Activity 5:** Promote testing with identified at-risk community members and connect them with testing clinics/resources

List Proposed Outputs/Outcomes:

**Output 1:** Number and type of community members identified as being at-risk

**Output 2:** List of community partners/organizations, and # of meetings held with community partners/organizations

**Output 3:** # of testing clinics at non-tradition sites that were hosted/arranged

**Output 5a:** # of testing clinics hosted/arranged in high risk locations

**Output 5b:** # of at-risk and other community members tested for COVID19 through clinics hosted by Eastern Highlands Health District

### 3. Coordinate and Engage with Partners

List Work Plan Activities:

**Activity 1:** Strengthen existing partnerships with medical partners, University of Connecticut, CRC, and other community partners.

**Activity 2:** During contact tracing interview, conduct intake of needs identified by those who must remain in isolation and quarantine and connect them with the regional CRC

**Activity 3:** New Public Health Nurse will participate in the ESF-8 regional meetings and share resources within the region and statewide in relation to COVID19 response efforts as PHEP funding is currently allocated for this activity for current employees

List Proposed Outputs/Outcomes:

**Output 1a:** Number of meetings held with partners.

**Output 1b:** A listing of the type of joint work products conducted by health department in collaboration with new or existing partners, e.g testing event, quarantine interventions, messaging, data analysis, etc.

**Output 2a:** # of individuals/families identified as having unmet needs during isolation/quarantine periods, as identified during contact tracing interview

**Output 2b:** # of individuals/families successfully connected with CRC for unmet needs

**Output 3a:** The new hire will adapt best practice examples from Region for use in the EHHD relating to contact tracing, promoting testing and mass vaccination clinics, etc.

**Output 3b:** The new hire will contribute to the meetings with input for COVID19 response planning, Regional testing initiatives, Regional COVID19 mass vaccination, Regional influenza campaigns, etc.

#### 4. Prevent and Minimize Disease Transmission of COVID-19

List Work Plan Activities:

**Activity 1:** Provide technical assistance to industry on sector rules.

**Activity 3:** Respond to complaints and enforce Reopen CT guidelines in concert with the chief elected official's designee in town.

**Activity 5:** Provide guidance to school systems and review standardized operating procedures (SOP) for safe re-opening.

**Activity 7:** Work with schools to develop contact tracing and exposure plans, utilizing the current metrics and addenda from the SDE to develop the school district-specific plan

**Activity 9:** Ensure that all schools are trained and updated with current information regarding COVID-19 to make well-informed decisions

**Activity 10:** In collaboration with the Board of Education's medical advisor and school nurse, respond to public school cases as soon as they arise

List Proposed Outputs/Outcomes:

**Output 1:** # of technical assistance discussions had with industry relating to sector rules

**Output 3a:** # of complaints responded to by facility type

**Output 3b:** # of complaints referred to municipal designee for 'other' facility types

**Output 3c:** # of notices of violation issued

**Outcome 5a:** SOPs were updated.

**Outcome 5b:** # of meetings held (dates, with whom, purpose/title of meeting)

**Output 7:** Finalization and publication of School System contact tracing plan and exposure plan

**Output 9a:** # of technical advisory and training meetings held with school district official (topics, and dates)

**Output 10a:** # of school-related cases that the health department responded to in concert with school medical advisor and nurse

**Output 10b:** # of hours or days from identification of school-related case to follow-up conducted by school and local health personnel

#### 5. Conduct Health Promotion Activities associated with #1-4 above.

List Work Plan Activities:

**Activity 1:** Update health department website with latest information on topics such as disease rates, COVID-19 health and safety practices, and availability of testing and vaccination clinics.

**Activity 2:** Promote COVID-19 testing, prevention, and vaccination for EHHH population through print material, social media, and LHD and town websites regularly.

List Proposed Outputs/Outcomes:

**Output 1a:** Frequency the websites were updated

**Output 2a:** Number of posters or other print materials distributed

**Output 2b:** List of the establishments and facility type the materials were distributed and posted

**Output 2c:** Languages of publications designed (CLAS standards)

**Output 2d:** Frequency of social media posts and number of likes/hits

**Output 2f:** Frequency the websites were updated



<b>VENDOR INVOICE FOR GOODS OR SERVICES          RENDERED TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT</b> CO-17 Rev 7/03 <b>VENDOR:</b> Please complete this form and send it to the <b>DEPARTMENT BILLING ADDRESS SHOWN ON PURCHASE ORDER</b>	<b>STATE OF CONNECTICUT          OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER          CENTRAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DIVISION</b>
---	---

(1) Business Unit Name	(1) Business Unit Number	(2) Invoice Number	(3) Invoice Amount <div style="text-align: right;">\$153,795</div>
(4) Document Date	(5) Invoice Date	(6) Accounting Date	(7) Rpt. Type T
(8) . VENDOR FEIN/SSN – SUFFIX 00000-418			


VENDOR/PAYEE: FIELDS 9, 10 14 and 18 ARE MANDATORY FOR PAYMENT

(9) PAYEE: Eastern Highlands Health District  ADDRESS: 4 South Eagleville Road Mansfield, CT 06268	(10) Voucher Number  (11) Voucher Date: _____ Prepared by: _____
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(12) VENDOR BILLING COMMENTS  
 ELC Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement – COVID-19 Surveillance and Response

(13) Give a full description of goods or services completed	(14) Quantity	(15) Units	(16) Unit Price	(17) Amount
ELC Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement Funding for the period May 19, 2020 through May 17, 2021 to support COVID-19 Surveillance and Response activities in Connecticut.				\$153,795

I certify below that the above is a valid claim and has not been paid.

XX   
 (Contractor) Signature of Authorized Person  
 Robert Miller, Director of Health  
 (Name & Title)

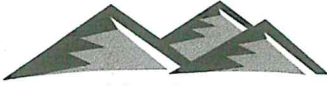
**BUSINESS UNIT USE ONLY**

REQUIRED							OPTIONAL		REQ
Amount	FUND	Department	SID	Program	Account	Project	Activity	Agency Chart	Budget Ref
\$153,795	12060	DPH48557	29582	42003	51131	DPH29582PPPHC	N/A	N/A	2020

(32) DEPARTMENT NAME AND ADDRESS: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH 410 CAPITOL AVENUE, MS# 13LOC PO BOX 340308 HARTFORD, CT. 06134-0308	(32) PO NO.	(33) COMMODITIES RECEIVED or SERVICES RENDERED- Signature  <div style="text-align: center;"><b>(DPH AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE)</b></div>
	(34) PO BUS UNIT	(35) Receiving Report No.
		(36) Date of Receipt

SHIPPING INFORMATION

(37) Date shipped	(38) From City/State	(39) Via Carrier	(40) F.O.B.
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Eastern Highlands Health District

4 South Eagleville Road ♦ Mansfield CT 06268 ♦ Tel: (860) 429-3325 ♦ Fax: (860) 429-3321 ♦ Web: www.EHHD.org

**Memo**

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Robert L Miller, Director of Health  
**Date:** 10/9/2020  
**Re:** Proposed 2021 Regular Meeting Schedule

Respectfully submitted for your review and approval is the proposed regular meeting schedule for 2021 calendar year:

- January 21 (Typically, Budget Public Hearing)
- February 18
- April 15
- June 17
- August 19
- October 21
- December 9

The time of each meeting will be scheduled for 4:30 pm. The Coventry Town Hall Annex will be booked as the physical location for these meetings, with the understanding that alternatively these meetings will be held virtually until such time board leadership determines it is appropriate and safe to go back to in-person meetings. (With the exceptions of December 9, all dates fall on the third Thursday of the Month.)

*Recommended Motion: Move to adopt the Eastern Highlands Health District Board of Directors 2021 regular meeting schedule as presented.*





## Eastern Highlands Health District

4 South Eagleville Road • Mansfield CT 06268 • Tel: (860) 429-3325 • Fax: (860) 429-3321 • Web: [www.EHHD.org](http://www.EHHD.org)

### Eastern Highlands Health District COVID-19 Response Activity Update October 8, 2020

#### **Activation of Public Health Emergency Response Plan**

We continue to implement a bi-weekly planning cycle with a bi-weekly staff zoom meeting. An Incident Action Plan is updated every two weeks. We participate in weekly local public health virtual meetings with DPH.

#### **Public Health Surveillance**

Since our last report of August 17<sup>th</sup> we have made the following salient observations in the EHHD population from available public health data through October 8th:

- A significant surge in cases was observed during the period 8/9 to 8/22 due to universal testing of UConn students returning to the Storrs campus area.
- An upwards trend of cases from 8/23 to 9/12 is likely due to an increase in transmission rates among the UConn student population.
- A downwards trend of cases from 9/13 to 10/2 is likely due to a decrease in transmission rates among UConn students as a result of the implementation of public health interventions.
- The rate of transmission among the non-student community population during this period has remained relatively flat.

The EHHD continues to provide weekly case counts, and report on trends to member towns and other community partners. The DPH secure surveillance tracking system is regularly updated by staff with local case information. State data regarding testing, hospitalizations, positivity, new cases, and deaths for state, region, and local area is reviewed daily (See latest weekly EHHD report attached).

Weekly state and county leading and secondary indicators for public schools, in addition to local data, are part of a weekly monitoring of metric reports in support of area public school decision making. These weekly metric reports are issued by DPH in support of schools decision making regarding learning models. (See the latest EHHD COVID-19 report attached.)

#### **The Oaks outbreak response**

On or about 9/1 UConn SHaW reported a cluster of cases 6 cases in the Oaks apartments off campus in the Storrs downtown area. In response, this office and the Town of Mansfield, with support from the Governor's office coordinated, operationalized, and promoted two pop up COVID testing event in the downtown square on 9/7 & 9/9. 796 specimens were collected from the two events of which 45 were positive (5.6% positivity). At this point the Oaks outbreak increased to 21 cases. All cases were isolated, and contacts quarantined. In response to the outbreak and in partnership with UConn SHaW a quarantine notice was sent to all UConn students residing in the Oaks on 9/11. Enforcement of COVID

precautions in area businesses was enhanced, and UConn initiated an aggressive outbreak suppression testing initiative with the goal of testing 100% of the Oaks students in two weeks. Over the next two weeks UConn tested 809 students (72% of Oaks student residents). Of these 37 were positive. Of the last 264 specimens collected 2 were positive (<1 % positivity). The quarantine was lifted on 9/25.

### **Mansfield Senior Center Testing**

In response to concerns with the reopening of UConn – Storrs and its impact on the Mansfield community, Generation Family Health Center hosted a pop-up testing event on 9/8 at the Mansfield Senior Center. 81 specimens were collected with 1 positive in a Windham resident. Subsequently, and with the Oaks outbreak growing this office coordinated additional surveillance testing events for the Mansfield area. Four weekly pop up testing events at the senior center were scheduled. As of the date of this report 3 events were held collecting 176 specimens with 3 positive results (1.7% positivity).

### **Contact Tracing**

We are investigating all laboratory confirmed and probable cases within our Jurisdiction that are not UConn students. We have fully transitioned to the new state-wide web based contact tracing system called *ContaCT*. Below are updates to the contact tracing program that represent, in part, our efforts to respond to this pandemic:

- As of the date of this report there have been approximately 320 cases investigated by the EHHD.
- As of the date of this report the EHHD has conducted 7 case contact investigations within a school setting.
- SHaW is tracing all positive UConn students. EHHD is tracing all staff and faculty, and non-student residents. UConn-Storrs has investigated approximately 300 student cases to date. Not all reside within the EHHD.
- The EHHD has 5 regular health district staff persons and 3 MRC volunteers trained on the ContaCT software for a total team of eight (8) persons available if needed.
- Of the EHHD regular staff, we have 4 individuals qualified to lead a case contact investigation in a public school setting.

### **University of Connecticut Storrs Re-population Plan**

This office participated as an active member of the University's workgroup on contact tracing. The workgroup was tasked with developing a contract tracing plan for the Storrs and regional campuses. This office is also in regular communication with the Director of Medicine at UConn Student Health and Wellness. This agency continues to work in close partnership with UConn Student Health and Wellness to identify, and stand up the staffing and resources needed to meet this joint community challenge. The EHHD deployed 20 EHHD MRC volunteers in support of the reopen UConn student testing program.

### **Public School Reopening Plans**

This office has taken a number of steps in an effort to support area schools plans to reopen safely. These include but are not limited to:



- Development and distribution of template plans for health monitoring, infection containment, contact tracing in school setting, and return to work/school criteria.
- Hosted two virtual planning and preparedness meetings of area school superintendents (see attached presentation.)
- Developed and distributed symptom screening guidance for school nurses and parents.
- Hosted a virtual preparedness meeting for school nurses on Friday September 21, 2020.
- This office supports school review of weekly metric reports on the risk of community spread to assist with informed decisions on learning models.
- As reported earlier we've conducted seven case investigations in schools.

### **School is Now Open**

As of the date of this report all 27 public schools within the EHHD are now open either full in-person, or under the hybrid learning model. In the period leading up to school reopening and since, this agency continues to respond to questions from school nurses, principals, and superintendents. The topics include but are not limited to contact tracing, student and staff exclusion guidance, travel advisory guidance, symptom screening criteria, isolation room criteria, case communications and notifications, confidentiality, interpretation and implementation of SDE mitigation guidance, and many other COVID related matters. We provide thoughtful, researched responses to 2 to 5 questions per day for an *estimated 180 inquiries to date.*

### **PPE Distribution**

CT DPH tasked local health departments with distributing PPE to local area private healthcare providers. We no longer receive allocations from the DEMHS Region 4 distribution site. However still have a relatively large inventory. To date, we have distributed approximately 70,000 items to 46 area healthcare, and personal care providers in our jurisdiction. We continue to provide PPE regularly to area providers upon request.

### **Kinsa Thermometers**

We are participating in a DPH initiative to distribute 85,000 "smart thermometers" state-wide. The thermometers are Bluetooth enabled linking to an app on your phone. Temperature and location data is anonymously uploaded to a cloud based database. This provides another tool for the DPH to monitor population health. The thermometers are free of charge, and downloading the app to your phone is voluntary. Our allocation of 200, was distributed among area families as part of the food share programs in Coventry, Mansfield, and Tolland.

### **Reopen CT Sector Rules**

In an effort to support our local businesses a tremendous amount of staff time is expended working with area businesses providing guidance and support on the application and interpretation of Reopen CT, both phase 1, phase 2, and now phase 3 of the business sector rules; providing modified inspections and infection control guidance for food service establishments (Approximately 168 are currently open,

with 48 closed). Since March we have responded to 95 complaints regarding violations of the sector rules, or the Governors executive orders.

This office issued a cease and desist order on 9/28 to Huskies Restaurant and Tavern for violations of the Governors executive orders regarding masks, social distancing and other sector rules. The establishment reopened on 9/31 subsequent to an approval of a COVID plan, and pre-operational inspection.

### **Governors Executive Orders and other state guidance - Application and Interpretation**

We continue to track and review executive orders and state guidelines as they are issued, providing consultation and interpretation support to recreation departments, first responder agencies, youth services agencies, boards of education, town leadership, and other entities as requested. In addition to numerous phone consultations, and emails, this office and staff participates in regular COVID response staff meetings with a number of member towns.

### **Public Health Education, Communications, Messaging**

EHHD is aligned with the Governors and CDC Messaging; providing regular public information updates to website, and social media (FB & Twitter).

We push out information and updates on access to testing of general public and first responders.

Agency updates routinely provided to community partners.

We continue to provide consultation regarding the travel advisory to a number of public sector employers.

### **Medical Reserve Corps retention and recruitment**

We have a total of 96 on our volunteer roster, at this point in time. We recently deployed 20 MRC volunteers to support UConn's efforts to test approximately 6000 residential students. Three volunteers are currently trained in contact tracing. MRC volunteers will also be supporting our three seasonal flu clinics schedules for late October and November.

### **COVID-19 Crisis Response Funding for State and Local Health Departments (COVID grant #1)**

Local public health departments are receiving COVID-19 Crisis Response Funding from the CDC. We have been allocated \$29,596 to be expended by March 2021. Currently, the funding is reimbursing 100% for over-time, response supplies, and communications. Most of the staff time expended on the response is regular-time, and not covered for re-imbusement. Consequently, our reimbursable expenses are relatively small at this time. Despite this, *the crisis funding allocation will be spent down near the beginning of November at our current monthly expenditure rate.* We are nonetheless tracking all COVID related expenses.

We have created an account in the FEMA Grants Portal as a second funding option, in the event health district expenses are reimbursable and the "squeeze is worth the juice".

### **Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection grant (COVID grant #2)**

The EHHD has been awarded \$384,489 through November 17, 2022 to enhance health district capacity to detect, respond, and prevent COVID-19 illness in the community. This grant is funding additional

For the first time in the history of the EHHD we have received approval from DPH as a vaccine storage site, procured seasonal flu vaccine, and scheduled three flu clinics in the coming weeks:

- October 19, 2020, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Tolland Fire Department. The target group is area first responders and their families. No insurance required, all vaccine is free of charge.
- October 21, 2020 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the North Coventry Fire Department. The target group is area first responders and their families. No insurance required, all vaccine is free of charge.
- November 7, 2020 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Mansfield Middle School. This clinic is open to all persons. No insurance required, all vaccine is free of charge. More information forthcoming in the days leading up to this event.





## Eastern Highlands Health District COVID-19 Update

DATE: 10/7/2020

TIME: 10:00AM

COMPLETED BY: A. Bloom

	Total CASES	Total DEATHS	HOSPITALIZATIONS
<b>US</b>	7,436,278	209,560	NA
<b>CT</b>	59,120	4,517	129*
<b>EHHD</b>	612	11	40

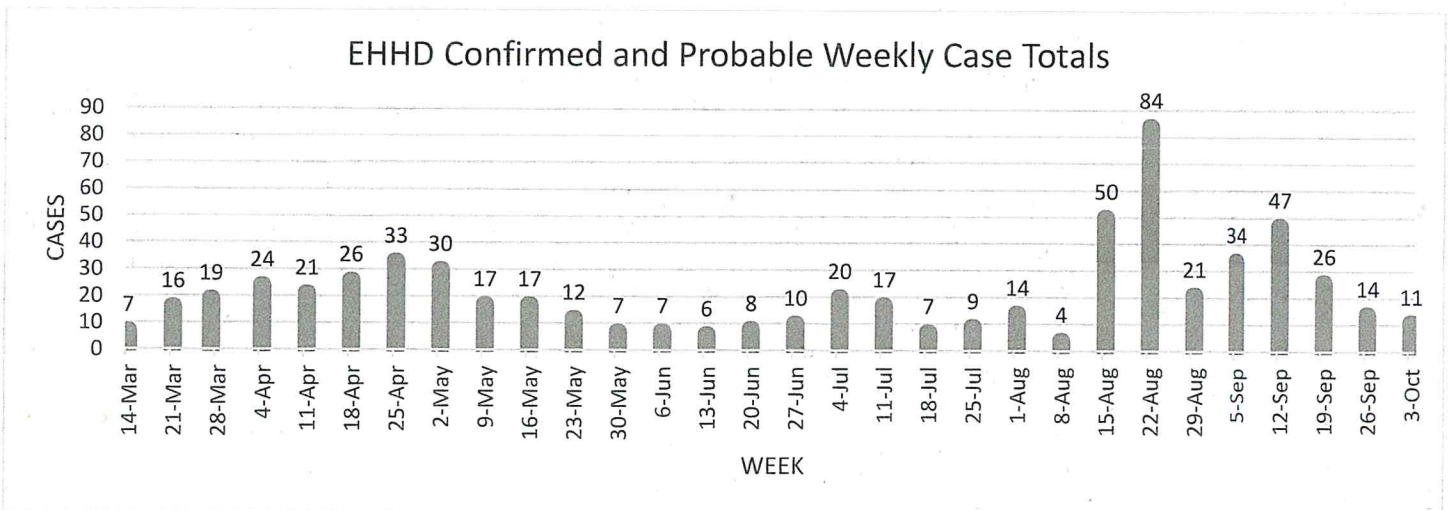
\*This is the current (net) number of hospitalizations. It is not a cumulative count.

TOWN	CASES	HOSP	DEATHS	TOWN	CASES	HOSP.	DEATHS
Andover	12	1	0	Coventry	75	4	1
Ashford	25	4	0	Mansfield	332	4	3
Bolton	34	6	3	Scotland	0	0	0
Chaplin	9	1	0	Tolland	70	14	3
Columbia	30	5	1	Willington	25	1	0

NOTE: All counts by town are cumulative and include confirmed and probable cases; also, counts can go down from previous weeks due to the state reassigning a case to a different town once further information is gathered on the case.

### Recent EHHD News:

- While we continue to see positive cases occurring in the Health District, follow-up contact tracing indicates that by and large, community members are following social distancing guidelines limiting the number 'close contacts'
- We investigated 1 confirmed case in a school setting in the past week.
- The chart below indicates a downward trend in cases within the EHHD population over the past 4 weeks. This downward trend is driven by a reduction in case prevalence among the UConn student population.



NOTE: Counts can change from week to week due to the state reassigning a case to a different town once further information is gathered on the case.



**2020 - 2021 CT DPH Radon Program Partnership Request Form**  
*(Deadline of Oct 5, 2020 via email to DPH.RadonReports@ct.gov)*

**Date of Request:** 10/12/2020

**Health Department/District:** Eastern Highlands Health District

**Director of Health (Print & Sign Name):** Director of Health, Robert Miller \_\_\_\_\_

**Email of Director of Health:** millerr1@ehhd.org

**Name of LHD Partnership contact:** Cecile Serazo

**Email of LHD Partnership contact:** serazocc@ehhd.org

**Have you partnered in the past?**  YES  NO

**If yes, how many years?** 3 years

**As a previous partner, what changes are you to last year's project plan to increase radon test kit return rates?**

To increase rates of return we will be using text messaging as well as phone calls. Our social media campaign will also be essential to increasing the number of kits provided and returned.

**Are you willing to speak about your efforts at the half day radon conference?**  YES  NO

**Please provide a description of your Radon Program Partnership Project Plan:**

*(Include how you will comply with required tracking of test kits and required follow-up with your residents. Tests kits given in person with a quick explanation of how to do the test has been proven to be the most effective way for a successful campaign. Include an estimate of the number of test kits needed and duration of your project proposal. Please fill out a separate form for each project if you are proposing more than one.)*

The Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD) requests 50 radon test kits. EHHD staff will distribute the test kits to individuals and will collect contact information including: name, home address, home phone number, cellphone number, and email for follow-up. For EHHD residents who have not sent the kit in yet, there will be education provided about the importance of completing the test in a timely manner and a second follow-up will be performed within in a week of the first follow-up. This year EHHD will be using more test messaging to illicit more timely responses. EHHD will also increase the social media campaign to encourage and educate residents to participate in the program. Along with the kits, EHHD staff will provide basic radon facts and will track each kit distributed and provide follow-up correspondence within one week of the date of distribution and a second time if the kit has not been used.

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2020

Eastern Highlands  
Health District

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner

Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

## Office of Local Health Administration

September 2, 2020

Robert Miller, Director of Health  
Eastern Highlands Health District  
4 South Eagleville Road  
Mansfield, CT 06475

RE: SFY 2021 Per Capita Funding Application

Dear Mr. Miller:

The Office of Local Health Administration is in receipt of your Per Capita Application for SFY 2021. The application has been approved and the invoice payment of **\$136,253.08** is being processed. You should expect to receive payment in approximately one week.

Please contact Sue Walden at (860) 509-7706 if you have any questions regarding the Per Capita Application process.

Sincerely,

Francesca Provenzano  
Chief, Public Health Preparedness and Local Health Section

cc: Sue Walden



Phone: (860) 509-7660 • Fax: (860) 509-7160  
Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1  
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## Eastern Highlands Health District

4 South Eagleville Road ♦ Mansfield CT 06268 ♦ Tel: (860) 429-3325 ♦ Fax: (860) 429-3321 ♦ Web: [www.EHHD.org](http://www.EHHD.org)

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7

September 14, 2020

**TO:** FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS AROUND UCONN CAMPUS

**FROM:** Lynette Swanson, RS  
Chief Sanitarian 

**SUBJECT: COVID-19 AMONG UCONN STUDENTS**

On Friday, September 11, 2020, the Town of Mansfield, the Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD), the University of Connecticut (UCONN) and local school officials issued a joint statement that they were collaborating on measures to contain and reverse the potential spread of COVID-19 among UCONN students living in an apartment complex adjacent to campus.

In view of this, EHHD would like to remind all food service establishments that you must comply with Sector Rules for restaurants and outdoor dining to do your part to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19.

Be sure to clean and disinfect common areas, high transit areas, and frequently touched surfaces on an ongoing basis (at least daily) and more frequently if used more often. Clean and disinfect shared objects after each use (e.g. PIN pads at payment); disinfect seating area, tables and common items after each seating; sanitize kitchen and kitchen equipment on an ongoing basis. Remember, all food contact surfaces are to be sanitized, not disinfected. Maintain a log of employees on premise; stagger shifts; employees and customers must wear face mask or other cloth covering; tables spaced at least 6 feet apart; hand sanitizer made available at entrance points and common areas; ensure employees wash their hands routinely using soap and water for at least 20 seconds; have signage posted; social distancing markers; proper ventilation; disposable menus (if no-touch or disposable options are not utilized, businesses must sanitize menus between uses); condiments should only be provided upon request and sanitized between uses; bathrooms to be cleaned frequently and implement use of a cleaning log for tracking - clean multiple times a day and hourly during busy times; you want to allow for one-way traffic in your establishment.

**You are required to have ample staffing during peak periods to assure customers are wearing masks and staying socially distant while inside and outside your establishment.** There must be social distancing markers to encourage customers to remain 6 feet apart both inside and outside your establishment; make sure the appropriate social distancing is occurring when payment is made and when food is picked up.

If not complied with, these conditions are a public health nuisance. Spot inspections will be conducted by this office to confirm compliance with the ReOpen CT Sector Rules for restaurants and outdoor dining.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sept. 11, 2020

Dear UConn Residents of the Oaks,

As we monitor the presence of the COVID-19 virus in our area, we continue to see increasing numbers of positive cases from residents of the Oaks apartment complex. Between the data shared by Student Health and Wellness and Eastern Highlands Health District, we believe it appropriate to characterize this as an outbreak warranting increased medical intervention. To help halt the spread of the virus at this location, all UConn Storrs students residing in the Oaks apartment complex must observe a self-quarantine period until we can document a decrease in the rate of transmission. We anticipate this period to last for the next 14 days and will help control the spread of the virus.

We believe these cases resulted from close contacts, less than 6 feet, with or without a mask. As you know, close contacts can occur both within a household and when spending time with others. While we understand the deeply seated need for human connection and the excitement of spending time with friends, during a pandemic those interactions come with significant risk.

As a student in self-quarantine, in person classes will need to be virtual. Students are not permitted to attend in-person classes until SHaW has released the individual from self-quarantine. The Dean of Students office will be in contact and is available to assist you in providing for academic accommodation during this time.

You are permitted to leave your apartment for solitary activity or to obtain groceries or take-out. Masks or face coverings must be worn and physical distancing observed at all times when not in your quarantine space.

Student Health and Wellness will serve as the primary medical provider for enrolled students of the Oaks and will provide more explicit directions on quarantine.

If you are currently under the care of Student Health and Wellness - Medical Care, that care and oversight will continue. Please continue to follow the medical direction of the SHaW medical team.

We encourage anyone who is experiencing symptoms to be medically evaluated and tested. We will also reach out with increased surveillance testing opportunities over the next two weeks.

UConn students who are symptomatic should call 860-486-4700 to speak with an advice nurse. Non-UConn students may seek testing and medical care at [UConn Health Urgent Care](#), or call Hartford Healthcare at 1-833-621-0600.

Please help us keep you and your community safe.

Yours in health,

Robert Miller  
Health Director  
Eastern Highlands Health District

Ellyssa Eror, MD  
Medical Director  
Student Health and Wellness



*Joint Statement from the Town of Mansfield, Eastern Highlands Health District and UConn*

Friday, Sept. 11, 2020

The Town of Mansfield, the Eastern Highlands Health District, University of Connecticut and local school officials are collaborating on measures to contain and reverse the potential spread of COVID-19 among UConn students living in an apartment complex adjacent to campus.

With support from the Town and Health District, UConn on Friday directed student residents of The Oaks on the Square apartments to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days, similar to the quarantine that had been in place earlier this month on campus at Garrigus Suites.

The new quarantine guidance issued Friday is a precautionary measure that applies to all UConn students living in the complex, in addition to those who tested positive and are in isolation there.

As of Friday, student residents of The Oaks accounted for a notable number of the positive COVID-19 tests conducted on off-campus students. Those cases generally comprise roommate groups in which one person contracted the virus and passed it to other close contacts. Those with positive tests already were required to isolate and must be medically cleared before they can return to in-person classes or campus activities.

UConn, the Town of Mansfield and the Health District also urges student residents of The Oaks to continue to be tested and re-tested as a way to measure whether other infections are present, and to contain the virus to prevent further spread inside the complex, on campus and in the community.

Non-student residents of The Oaks are not being asked to quarantine at this time. Public health data suggests that students have been the primary group at risk of contracting and spreading the virus.

“I would like to thank the University for their cooperation in this matter, and to reassure members of the Mansfield community that transmission of the virus does not appear to be expanding into the greater Mansfield community,” Mansfield Mayor Toni Moran said. “We are coordinating our response to this situation with our local school superintendents. We urge residents to use all appropriate cautions — hand washing, wearing a face covering, social distancing, avoiding large gatherings, and getting tested if they feel the need. The Town will be working with UConn, the Health District and the State of Connecticut to make additional testing available.”

The quarantine guidance does not represent or suggest a public health emergency, nor have the cases emerged by surprise. Leaders from the Health District, UConn and Town have been closely monitoring trends there – along with other on- and off-campus locations – and determined that in the case of The Oaks, directing student residents to self-quarantine represents an appropriate public health measure.

“Given the guidance we’ve received from the Health District and our own medical staff, we are comfortable that this is the right degree of intervention,” said Eleanor JB Daugherty, UConn’s dean of students and associate vice president for student affairs.

UConn will work with the students to assist them with remote learning options and other academic accommodations needed to avoid interruptions in their coursework while quarantined.

Because they are not in isolation – a stricter no-contact condition than quarantine – they can leave their apartment for necessities such as purchasing food during low peak hours, as long as they exercise the necessary precautions of wearing masks, staying physically distant from others, and similar measures.

Downtown Storrs businesses, offices and other organizations remain on their regular operating schedules, and recent case contact investigations have found nothing to indicate the presence or spread of COVID-19 among those entities or their employees.

August 21, 2020

An Open Letter to the Town of Mansfield:

A few weeks ago, UConn partnered with the Town of Mansfield to conduct a Thoughtexchange to understand the questions and concerns that Mansfield residents, local business owners, and those who work in the Town of Mansfield have about the UConn Storrs campus reopening. We heard from nearly 600 people. We are sharing with you today what we learned and what actions are in place to address some of the concerns raised.

You can see the results of the Thoughtexchange, in full, <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/report/09508f198353b03152007344dbfb582b>, or a summary, <https://chip.uconn.edu/uconn-town-of-mansfield-thoughtexchange/>.

We also published a joint message on August 19 to our UConn community emphasizing the importance of keeping ourselves and our neighbors safe through many of the practices and protocols you shared and we outline below. You can view that message here: <https://today.uconn.edu/2020/08/message-president-provost-community-responsibility/>.

**Community spread:** We heard from you a great concern that COVID-19 will spread from the campus to the community, particularly through anticipated off-campus events like parties and large social gatherings but also through exposures at downtown businesses and with UConn students teaching and volunteering in local schools.

In response, we are strengthening UConn's messaging to students, faculty, and staff at the Storrs campus about how their choices impact campus and the local community. An example of this is the email we sent to all faculty, staff, and students on August 19. We will continue to create high visibility messages emphasizing that our campus sits within a larger community and that mutual respect is needed to keep each other healthy. We are also examining what additional safeguards can be put into place for our students with educational placements in the community.

**Off-campus students:** Many shared concerns about off-campus students. There is a perception that the de-densification of our residence halls has pushed more students into off-campus housing.

According to our Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services office, the demand for off campus housing has been lower than normal, which has been highlighted by the increase in vacancies at properties that are typically fully leased at this point in the year. In response to concerns about large gatherings, we are working with the state government to support the Town of Mansfield's request to enact a local ordinance that will ban gatherings of 25 or more people. We have also stepped up our efforts to educate off-campus students about COVID-19 prevention recommendations including how to reduce risk when socializing (limiting the number of visitors, hosting gatherings outside, wearing masks).



We are requiring all students living off-campus and taking classes on our Storrs campus to take a COVID-19 test prior to the start of the semester.

**Adherence to COVID-19 prevention recommendations:** We heard from many of you some skepticism about adherence to behavioral recommendations such as wearing masks and maintaining physical distancing, and many questions were raised about how compliance with COVID-19 prevention behaviors will be enforced, most notably in off-campus settings.

In response, we have been monitoring compliance closely during our pre-semester quarantine. In one highly publicized case, a party in a residence hall that violated our health and safety rules resulted in the students involved being removed from campus housing. Separately, over the first weekend, seven students were written up for minor infractions. Across our community, several offices and organizations are also involved in initiatives to promote safe practices. For example, our School of Fine Arts is running a student contest and awareness campaign to promote mask wearing; off-campus housing is working with landlords about how to have safe gatherings and how to talk with roommates about being cautious outside their residence; and the police chief will start a campaign to catch students making good choices and reward them with a T-shirt.

We have also initiated a COVID-19 information center (<https://today.uconn.edu/2020/08/uconn-establishes-covid-19-information-center/>), where students, faculty, staff, and the community can call with their COVID-19 questions related to our campuses (as in non-emergency or non-medical inquiries).

We hear your concerns and we want to strengthen our commitment to the town, to be good neighbors, and be a source of pride for Mansfield. We strive to be transparent in our response. We have created a COVID-19 Dashboard (<https://reopen.uconn.edu/covid-dashboard/>) to keep you up-to-date on the number of COVID cases detected on campus. You can also find detailed information about testing and tracing plans, etc. at our Reopening UConn site (<https://reopen.uconn.edu/>).

Please continue to reach out to us at [president@uconn.edu](mailto:president@uconn.edu) with your ideas about how to navigate these challenging times.

Sincerely,  
Tom and Carl

**Tom Katsouleas**  
President

**Carl Lejuez**  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



# Starting school safely

## Districts get ready for <sup>8/23/20</sup> unusual year

### Back to school

CLAIRE GALVIN, LISA MASSICOTTE AND MICHELLE WARREN  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITERS

As area schools kick off an unprecedented year, local educational leaders are making the final preparations to ensure a safe and effective learning environment.

Local schools open as early as Aug. 31 and as late as Sept. 10 because of the coronavirus.

#### Windham

The Windham Board of Education voted just Thursday to delay the start of school to Sept. 8, previously scheduled for Sept. 1.

"The school system could certainly benefit from having some additional time in terms of preparation," Superintendent Tracy Youngberg said.

As part of the change, the convocation will be moved to Aug. 27.

Staff will participate in seven professional development days before students arrive, from Aug. 27 to Sept. 4.

Non-certified staff will have four staff development days.

**DISTRICTS, Page 4**



School buses are parked near Lebanon Elementary School on Thursday afternoon, above. Lebanon will start with a hybrid model on Sept. 8. A car parked outside Southeast School, below, has a sign that says 'Keep us safe.'  
Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

press con-  
iday. Roxanne  
ut  
on  
ior

9 CASES  
latest figures



# Districts prep to start school safely

Lou (Navin) McBride



celebrated on Saturday Aug 29th, at 11 a.m. church 99 Jackson St, Willimantic followed Joseph Cemetery, Windham. Due to COVID reception following will not be held. To send an of sympathy, please visit us online at www.t.com.

## in the Wall g brings p to its kids

hospitals, as is play time. When the pandemic hit, however, all in-person support was suspended and pre-recorded content was offered instead. "More recently, we've been able to do virtual visits bedside," Axtmayer said. "It's been well-received."

**Staff also had to alter the hospital outreach program recently, since staff could no longer visit hospitals due to pandemic restrictions.**

streamed live on the camp's YouTube and Facebook pages Sept. 13. Donations to the camp can be made on the camp website, [holeinthewallgang.org](http://holeinthewallgang.org). For more information, call the camp facility at 860-429-3444 or the administrative office at 203-772-0522. Follow Michelle Warren on Twitter - @mwarrentc.

Continued from Page 1

Staff will have an early dismissal day Sept. 4. Students will also have early dismissal during their first week of school. The delay was proposed because engineering reports are still being conducted on each school to determine ventilation and air-flow issues.

Additionally, the district is still waiting for 600 webcams to use with the hybrid, part-synchronous learning time for students at home.

Students will attend in-person school on either Monday and Thursday or Tuesday and Friday. Wednesdays will be used as a flex day for students who need additional support.

The district is still calculating how many students will opt to stay home for 100 percent virtual learning. "As a former parent, I can't imagine having to make this choice to send my child to school or not," said board member Ilda Ray at Wednesday's meeting. "I respect whatever choice people make for their children and their families."

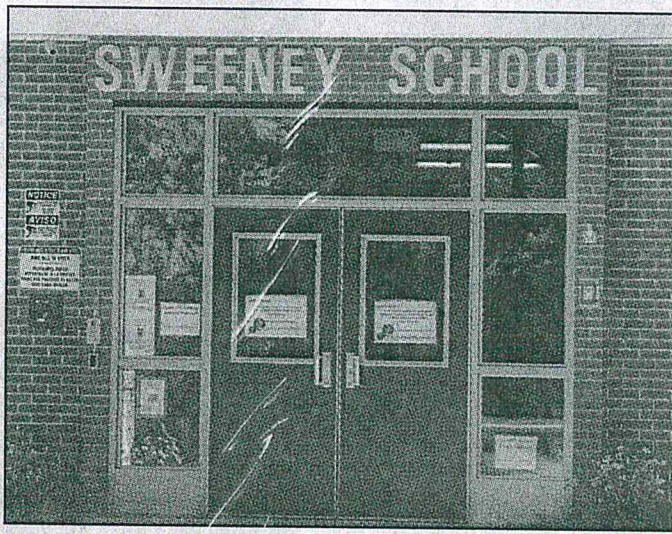
**Mansfield** Mansfield Superintendent of Schools Kelly Lyman said one focus this week has been informing staff about the health and safety protocols that will be in place, as well as classroom setup.

"I just want to remind everybody that we're all going to need to be flexible throughout this school year as we see what happens with the health data, but we think we've been as flexible as we can to pivot where we need to," she said. School starts Sept. 3.

The district is using a hybrid model whereby students will attend in-person for two days and participate in remote learning for the other three school days. Students will switch off for their in-person days, with only about 50 percent of the population attending school in person at a time.

Lyman said, starting Thursday, staff will participate in training for five days. She said staff members are currently finalizing plans for

Windham schools, like Sweeney School in Willimantic, will start school with a hybrid model on Sept. 8. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff



Windham schools, like Sweeney School in Willimantic, will start school with a hybrid model on Sept. 8. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

students who will be participating entirely in remote learning.

About 25 percent of the parents are utilizing that option for their children, a figure Lyman said was slightly lower than expected.

"We're hearing from some parents that they're very anxious to have their children back in school in groups again and many of those parents are keeping their kids home," she said.

Lyman said other parents are concerned about students not being in school all five days, which they said negatively impacted their child's education during the prior remote learning period.

**District 19** Meanwhile, school will start Sept. 9 for ninth-graders and Sept. 10 for the other grades at E.O. Smith High School (District 19), where students will participate in a hybrid model.

Like students in the Mansfield schools, students will attend school two days a week and participate in remote learning the other three school days.

District 19 Superintendent of Schools Sharon Cournoyer said during the Aug. 11 board of education meeting the district will continue to get updates from the Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD) regarding COVID-19 test data.

"We're looking at our data regionally," she said.

Cournoyer said if there are conditions that warrant concern at the school, school officials will consult with

EHHD Director Rob Miller. **Coventry**

Coventry Public Schools are scheduled to open Aug. 31 under a hybrid model.

"We were under a lot of pressure to do this in a short period of time. We had very, very limited time to do this," Coventry Superintendent of Schools David Petrone said during a recent question-and-answer session with parents.

Its hybrid model is similar to other schools, with students in grades 1-12 learning in a mix of in-person and remote education while preschoolers attend school daily.

Students will be divided into groups A and B.

Group A will attend in-person on Mondays and Thursdays while Group B will attend in person on Tuesdays and Fridays. When students are not in school in person, they will be learning remotely.

There will also be virtual open houses in September and the schedule can be found online at [coventrypublicschools.org](http://coventrypublicschools.org).

**Columbia** "Flexibility is the name of the game this year," Columbia Superintendent of Schools Maria Geryk said Friday.

The Columbia school district is set to open in its hybrid model Sept. 2, which involves students with last names starting with letters A through K in Group A and students with last names L to Z in Group B.

Group A will attend school in person on Mondays and

Tuesdays while Group B will attend in person on Thursdays and Fridays, according to the reopening plan.

Horace W. Porter School student schedules have been coordinated with older students within District 19 and the Bolton School District, according to Geryk.

Students will be learning remotely when not attending school in person.

"I believe that many people feel anxious at the start of a new school year and COVID has increased those feelings," Geryk said. "There are many new procedures and protocols to get used to for staff and students. We will hold the health of students and staff in the forefront of all of our decisions and will provide a warm and welcoming environment for the children of Columbia."

**Lebanon** On Thursday, the Lebanon Board of Education moved to set the schools' reopening date to Sept. 8.

The schools will reopen in the hybrid model, which involves distance learning along with students attending in-person in alternating cohorts, to keep the building capacity at 50 percent.

Lebanon Superintendent of Schools Robert Angeli mentioned ventilation system issues within the schools during Thursday night's special board of education meeting.

"None of our schools have every area in the school that is directly impacted by our ventilation system," Angeli said Thursday. "None of our buildings are totally ventilated with our (current) system."

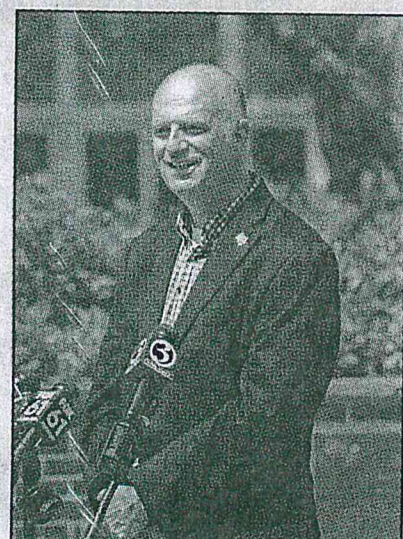
The district is working on fixing the ventilation system and has HVAC filters on backorder.

Currently, the district is in the process of hiring four additional custodial staff to assist with disinfecting and handing out lunches, according to Angeli.

Follow Claire Galvin on Twitter - @CGalvinTC. Follow Michelle Warren on Twitter - @mwarrentc. Follow Lisa Massicotte on Twitter - @LMassicotteTC.

# officials pressure Lamont for waiver on gatherings

conference outside all Friday. Windham officials from West a letter to the emergency Services tion requesting nted a waiver to uring sizes. ty Mayor Ben d Acting Mayor state Rep. Susan antic, State Rep. , D-Mansfield, n Smith, D-Col- during the press



Windham Acting Mayor Tom DeVivo, left, and state Rep. Gregg Haddad, D-Mansfield, right, speak during a press conference Friday at Mansfield's town hall. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

nts to really be to think twice d a gathering," spearheaded by s and addresses off-campus par

turned over to the Department of Economic and Community Development for their review.

appreciated, it isn't enough. When asked if town officials were given a time-frame for Lamont's

of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"We want to be clear about what our expectations are," Haddad said.

Mansfield council members authorized Moran to make the DESPP request earlier this month.

Approximately 5,000 resident undergraduates living on the Storrs campus moved in this week, with the majority moving in last weekend.

Classes begin Aug. 31 at UConn and Sept. 1 at Eastern.

UConn students had to be tested before entering the residence halls and are currently undergoing a two-week quarantine.

After Thanksgiving break, UConn students will not return to campus and will complete their classes virtually, a decision made in anticipation of a possible outbreak during the winter months.

"We were hoping to have this

positive for COVID-19.

There have not been any issues in Willimantic involving college students, however, according to Windham Town Manager Jim Rivers.

Windham Acting Mayor Thomas DeVivo said more than 300 COVID-19 positive cases have been reported in Windham.

He said Windham officials want the college students to be in town and "will continue to welcome them."

However, DeVivo said many young people are "confident they will avoid this very serious illness."

"They take risks that put everyone else at risk," he said. "We don't want a student to become ill and then go home and then spread it through a super-spreader event."

According to UConn's public dashboard, which is updated regularly, as of this Friday afternoon





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## Relief money boosts local districts

### Windham to get \$890,000 in COVID-related expenses

By REN, CLAIRE GALVIN MASSICOTTE  
STAFF WRITERS

Local school districts continue to grapple with the pandemic, they received a significant funding boost. The state announced allocations from the Coronavirus Relief Fund. The money could come in handy as districts prepare to open for the school year as early as this Monday. This year starts, most area districts will employ a hybrid model, with in-person classes for part of the day and distance learning for the rest.

Windham school district received a portion of the Coronavirus Relief Fund money during the latest funding round.

The funds include: equipment; masks; cleaning supplies; at-home internet connections; to assist students and families; funding for additional staff in high-density areas; additional models of remote learning; and smart classrooms.



A row of school buses are parked near Lebanon Elementary School on a recent afternoon. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

### Windham

Windham Public Schools will receive approximately \$889,500 in the latest round of funding, with local school officials saying it will be put to good use, though the amount is still not enough.

Windham Superintendent of Schools Tracy Youngberg said school districts submitted estimates of what it would cost to adhere to the new state guidelines for reopening schools.

"The governor seems committed to providing funds to facilitate reopening of schools across the state," she said.

In Windham, much of the provided funding is going toward cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment.

"Given our modest increase in Windham's school budget this year and the increased expenses we will bear to make schooling accessible to all students during this pandemic, we are very appreciative of this additional

funding," Youngberg said.

"On top of the new technology devices being provided to our Windham High School students, this will help us get ready for students and staff to return on Sept. 8."

The school's opening was delayed until Sept. 8 so engineering reports could be concluded and additional technological equipment delivered.

"We continue to be committed to being

### COVID-19 CASES

According to latest figures

Andover	9
Ashford	22
Chaplin	4
Columbia	29
Coventry	52
Eastford	12
Franklin	14
Hampton	7
Hebron	32
Lebanon	27
Mansfield	70
Scotland	0
Willington	16
Windham	325

Source: Gov. Ned Lamont's office

RELIEF FUNDS, Page 4

.....6  
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### Mask up, Mansfield

Pedestrians in Mansfield do their part by 'masking up' as the sign states to the right. The signs, which are set up along the sidewalks in downtown Storrs, are a reminder to people to stay safe, wear a mask and keep their distance from others. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

## UC gets input on COVID concerns

8/26/20

MICHELLE WARREN  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

STORRS — Input from a recent thought exchange revealed many concerns about the potential for COVID-19 to spread from the Storrs campus to the outside community.

Perhaps the biggest worry is students simply do not realize how serious their actions can impact the local community during a pandemic.

That feedback will be utilized as the university continues to plan for the fall semester, which starts Monday.

"In response, we are strengthening UConn's messaging to students, faculty and staff at the Storrs campus about how their choices impact campus and the local community," UConn President Thomas Katsouleas and Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl LeJuez said in a letter to the community Friday.

The fall semester starts on Monday.

The thought exchange, a

partnership between the town and university, was conducted by the Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy at UConn.

About 600 participated in it.

Many of the respondents expressed concerns about off-campus students, with Katsouleas and LeJuez noting there has been a perception that de-densification of residence halls has pushed more students into off-campus housing.

Currently, only about 5,000 undergrads are living on campus at Storrs, about 41 percent of the residential capacity.

Residential students were tested for COVID-19 prior to entering residence halls.

"According to our Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services office, the demand for off-campus housing has been lower than normal, which has been highlighted by the increase in vacancies at properties that are typically fully-leased at this point

COMMUNITY, Page 4



School, he was truly most proud of his work with all of his students at the University. Keith entered the military after college and served during the Korean Conflict in the Japan and Korea. He spent the two years in the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps, attaining the rank of Corporal before his honorable discharge.

the Thomas J. O'Brien Finance PhD Fund in Honor of Keith B. Johnson with a check sent payable to the UConn Foundation Inc. and a memo of the fund name: The UConn Foundation, Inc. Attn: Data Services 2390 Alumni Dr., Unit 3206 Storrs, CT 06269-3206 or to: Joshua's Trust PO Box 4 Mansfield Center, CT 06250.

## UConn reports three more COVID cases

STEVEN GOODE  
HARTFORD COURANT

STORRS—The University of Connecticut reported three new positive cases of COVID-19 among its on-campus students, bringing the total since the beginning of the semester to 30.

University spokesperson Stephanie Reitz said in a release Tuesday all “three are believed to be connected to the existing cluster of positive cases on campus, meaning they are not unrelated cases appearing independent of one another in different parts of campus.”

Reitz said one student who was positive and was in isolation had recovered and left isolation.

She said the university was aware of four cases among off-campus students who

were tested because they will be visiting campus for classes.

Reitz said two positive cases were among faculty and staff who expect to be working regularly on campus.

She said testing continues for those groups, with more results expected in coming days.

According to Reitz, the on-campus positive rate at the UConn Storrs campus is 0.54 percent among more than 5,500 residential student tests conducted.

“The number exceeds the on-campus resident student population of about 5,000 because UConn tests students multiple times,” she said. “No positives have been reported among students in UConn Stamford housing.”

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency.

E.O.S starts school Sept. 9. District 19 Superintendent of Schools Sharon Cournoyer wrote in an email the funding is “very helpful,” though she

## Community airs concerns with UConn

Continued from Page 1

in the year,” Katsouleas and LeJuez wrote.

Participants in the thought exchange were also concerned about enforcement of public health guidelines.

“In response, we have been monitoring compliance closely during our pre-semester quarantine,” Katsouleas and LeJuez wrote.

They acknowledged there have been some issues.

Several students were kicked out of university housing following an incident in a residence hall during which people were closely assembled and not wearing masks.

That incident was being investigated by the Office of Community Standards.

There was also a separate incident involving seven students who got minor infractions, but it is unclear if that happened on or off-campus.

“Across our community, several offices and organizations are also involved in initiatives to promote safe practices,” LeJuez and Katsouleas wrote.

in an email. “With uncertainty on how we will progress through the year, it is unknown if this will leave the district in a difficult position.”

safety expenses as well as transportation costs.

“Although the resources provided from the state are greatly appreciated and cer-

All students who are living off-campus, but taking an in-person class on campus, were required to take a COVID-19 test before moving onto campus and quarantining for two weeks before the semester starts.

Students will take in-person classes until Thanksgiving break, after which time all classes will continue exclusively online.

The university regularly updates its public dashboard, which provides data about testing results.

As of Tuesday, there had been 36 positive virus cases at the Storrs campus, including 30 residential students, four commuter students and two faculty/staff members.

Katsouleas and LeJuez wrote the university is supporting the Town of Mansfield’s request to further reduce gathering sizes beyond state limits.

Under Phase 2 of the state’s reopening plan, private indoor gatherings are limited to 25 people and private outdoor gatherings are limited to 100 people.

Mansfield and Windham officials, as well as legislative delegates, are seeking authorization to limit indoor gatherings to 10 people unrelated by blood or marriage and outdoor gatherings to 20 people unrelated by blood or marriage.

That request was prompted by a concern about off-campus parties and the potential impact of those parties on the community.

That request, which was initially sent to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, was also approved by officials from Windham and West Hartford. The decision is up to Gov. Ned Lamont.

Mansfield Mayor Antonia Moran said this morning she emailed the governor’s office over the weekend, but had not heard anything back yet.

“Our legislators have been working on this. Everybody has been working on this,” she said.

Moran said she was not sure “where to go from here” but felt that if the numbers

Claire Galvin on Twitter-@CGalvinTC. Follow Lisa Massicotte on Twitter-LMassicotteTC.

go up, the governor would respond. “We are watching rates of infection very closely,” she said.

Meanwhile, Moran said town officials are asking people to “voluntarily abide by” the town’s limits.

“The risks that you take might be greater or less than the risks I’m willing to take, but we can’t arrest or punish people if they are within the laws set by the governor’s office,” she said.

“All we can do is ask for voluntary compliance with what the town recommends and what the health department (eastern highlands) recommends.”

Moran said the university has been “proactive” about warning people about dangerous behavior.

According to UConn officials, campus police and state police have been working together to spread the messages of expectations on campus and have “stepped up” those efforts.

Follow Michelle Warren on Twitter-@mwarrentc.

## Teachers brace for new school year with fear and uncertainty

With school teacher Josh Forest said she requested an



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## Lamont's executive powers extended for

By Eric Bedner

ebedner@journalinquirer.com

HARTFORD — A committee of 10 legislators voted not to reject extending Gov. Ned Lamont's executive powers for another five months, leaving in place his previous executive orders and allowing him to issue more in the future.

With the approval of the so-called "Committee of 10," which

is comprised of legislative leaders and chairs of various committees, Lamont's executive powers will be extended to Feb. 9 rather than expiring on Wednesday.

Committee members on both sides of the aisle agreed that Lamont and the people of Connecticut have effectively tackled the novel coronavirus, but Republicans argue the state is in a much different position than

it was in the early days of the pandemic and the legislature should have more of a role in future decisions.

While legislators were more routinely part of discussions early on, Senate Minority Leader Leonard A. Fasano, R-North Haven, said lawmakers' input has since been lacking.

"The lack of communication has led to frustration by legisla-

## Storrs restaurant and bar cited for COVID-19 violations

By Michelle Warren

The Chronicle

STORRS — After issuing and rescinding a cease-and-desist order at a well-known local restaurant, health officials will conduct random spot checks to see if other establishments are violating guidelines related to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Eastern Highlands Health District Director Rob Miller said cease-and-desist orders were issued to Huskies Restaurant & Bar and Huskies Tavern last Friday and then rescinded Tuesday.

He said the two entities are separate businesses, but have the same owner and staff.

While bars are closed under Gov. Ned Lamont's executive orders due to the pandemic, restaurants are allowed to be open at limited capacities.

Both businesses are located at 134 N. Eagleville Road abutting the University of Connecticut campus.

Miller said the violations include a lack of patrons wearing masks, lack of social distancing, lack of indoor ventilation, and lack of prominent signage. "Based on that, and given what was to be anticipated a very large

number of patrons coming in this weekend, we decided it was best to prevent any further public health nuisance that a cease-and-desist order be issued," he said.

"The order directed ownership to provide a written safety plan for review and approval and pass a pre-operation inspection prior to reopening," he said.

Miller said the safety plan was approved and the businesses passed the pre-operational inspections, which were conducted Tuesday. Therefore, the cease-and-desist order was rescinded, effective Tuesday.

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## Huskies cited for COVID-19 violations

MICHELLE WARREN

Chronicle Staff Writer

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Both businesses are located at 134 N. Eagleville Road abutting the University of Connecticut campus.

Miller said the violations include a lack of patrons wearing masks, lack of social distancing, lack of indoor ventilation and lack of prominent signage.

"Based on that, and given what was to be anticipated a very large number of patrons coming in this weekend, we decided it was best to prevent any further public health nuisance that a cease-and-desist order be issued," he said.

"The order directed ownership to provide a written safety plan for review and approval and pass a pre-operation inspection prior to reopening."

Miller said the safety plan was approved and the businesses passed the pre-operational inspections, which were conducted Tuesday.



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## Schools aim for 'safety first'

### First day of classes smooth but 'eerie' in the age of COVID-19

By Michelle France

mfrance@journalinquirer.com

Parents and educators getting ready for the 2020-21 school year have had their own list of new vocabulary words, among them: hybrid, cohorting, mask breaks, and remote learning.

■ **School questions:**  
Researcher questions safety of hybrid model / Page 7

As the coronavirus pandemic disrupted the school year in March, so too is it affecting this year as young learners who've

been away from each other for nearly six months buckle down and go back to school.

"This year is going to be different," Andover Superintendent Valerie Bruneau said. "The name of the game is safety first and flexibility second."

Six north-central Connecticut school systems, including Suffield and Vernon, opened for classes this week, while 12 districts are set to welcome students after Labor Day on Tuesday, including Enfield, Manchester, and South Windsor. East Hartford will start remotely and bring kids into the classroom on Sept. 14.

"My staff has done an amazing job getting prepared and ready to teach our students in this new reality that we are all facing,"



Jim Michaud / Journal Inquirer

Matt Daley, Manchester Public Schools COVID-19 compliance liaison, sets up shields on desks in a first-grade class on Thursday at the Waddell Elementary School in Manchester. **See more photos, Page 3.** More photos are available on the JI's website.

Bolton Superintendent Kristin B. Heckt said. "We are in a period of flux, but we are working very hard to ensure that we provide the best possible education for our students."

It was a smooth, yet "eerie," first day of school, most local superintendents said

this week.

Bolton welcomed students Wednesday with a hybrid model, not only to curb the spread of COVID-19, but to allow students and staff time to gradually adjust to wearing

■ **SEE SCHOOLS / PAGE 3**

## Developer behind WL sports complex proposal remains elusive

By Joe Chaisson

jchaisson@journalinquirer.com

**WINDSOR LOCKS** — Despite the recent approval of a site plan for the long anticipated All Sports Village, the developer at the center of the proposed complex, Andrew Borgia, remains unwilling to speak in detail about his background or past or current projects.

Over the past year, Borgia has not answered multiple requests from the Journal Inquirer for comment on the status of All Sports Village. His only statement to the press in that time was the announcement of

a sponsorship deal with Coca-Cola, which gives exclusive sales rights to the soft drink company's products within the proposed facility.

When asked, for instance, about the possibility of a U.S. Olympic team one day using All Sports Village as a base of operations, Borgia replied, "There's no new information. Nothing to offer."

Borgia is a longtime developer based out of Yaphank, New York.

He built a 27-acre baseball complex on Long Island known as Baseball Heaven, which features four full-size and three youth

fields, each of which is equipped with all the amenities of a professional ballpark, including below grade dugouts, connecting bullpens, PA systems, electronic scoreboards, and turf.

Borgia and his company, JABS Sports Management, were also involved in the construction of Little League fields in New York that at one point were unusable because of flooding.

As previously reported by the Journal Inquirer in April 2019, Borgia built the ball-fields in Islip, New York, in 2013 as part of

■ **SEE SPORTS / PAGE 4**



## Theaters seek state relief

### Shut down by virus, six companies apply for \$12 million in aid

By Tim Leininger

tleininger@journalinquirer.com

Connecticut's Flagship Producing Theaters have petitioned Gov. Ned Lamont for a \$12 million relief package that would help alleviate the massive loss of revenue professional regional theaters are suffering due to being shut down because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Formed in 2014, Connecticut's Flagship Producing Theaters, or CFPT, consists of six professional theaters across the state:

Hartford Stage, Long Wharf Theatre, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Goodspeed Musicals, Yale Repertory Theatre, and the Westport Country Playhouse.

According to a statement released by the organization, the \$12 million would come from federal funding given to Connecticut through the CARES Act, a \$2.2 trillion stimulus bill that was passed by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump in March, from which Connecticut received \$1.2 billion. The \$12 million requested by

the CFPT would be divided evenly between the six theater companies.

"The dire situation that arts and culture is in in the state cannot be overstated," said Cynthia Rider, managing director of Hartford Stage. "As the state looks to invest money ... arts and culture was being overlooked."

In a statement, the CFPT said that in a typical year when all the theaters are in full operation, they bring in a total of \$26 million

■ SEE THEATERS / PAGE 3

## Employee at Coventry school tests positive for COVID-19

By Olivia Regen

oregen@journalinquirer.com

COVENTRY — A Coventry Grammar School staffer has tested positive for COVID-19 and is in quarantine for 10 days, School Superintendent David Petrone confirmed today.

However, Petrone said that based on the outcome of a contact tracing investigation by the Eastern Highlands Health District he does not believe any students are at risk.

Petrone said the individual was only in the school, located at 3453 Main St., for a brief period of time and is now required to isolate for 10 days. Petrone said he could not identify the person or the person's position at the school due to privacy laws.

Petrone said school officials were alerted to the case on

■ SEE SCHOOL / PAGE 4

## READY TO MOVE



Jim Michaud / Journal Inquirer

Volunteers prepare bags of groceries on Thursday for the line of cars coming through the curbside pickup at the Enfield Food Shelf on Alden Avenue. The pantry will soon be moving to a larger location on Enfield Street. More photos are available on the JI's website.



# The Daily Campus

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SINCE 1896 • VOLUME CXXVII, NO. 8

Tuesday

**COVID-19 Tracker**  
**CONFIRMED CASES AT UCONN STORRS**  
as of 7:11 p.m. on Sept. 7

**37** Current Residential Cases

**100** Cumulative Residential Cases

**44** Commuter Cases

## Mansfield offering free COVID testing to residents this week

by **Caroline LeCour**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
caroline.lecour@uconn.edu

The Town of Mansfield is hosting free COVID-19 testing at Betsy Paterson Square in Downtown Storrs to residents and commuter students this week.

Hosted by Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD), the local public health department for the town of Mansfield, testing commenced yesterday and will begin again tomorrow.

According to Robert Miller, the local Director of Public Health for EHHD, the initiative to provide free testing is in response to an incline of cases in the Downtown Storrs area.

"The object of this event is to respond to a cluster of six cases, which is concerning because this is a densely populated area in town," said Miller. "In an effort to suppress any further spread, we're making testing available to all the residents of the downtown area



The town of Mansfield provides free walk-up COVID-19 testing in Storrs Center on Monday, Sept. 7. The testing is to be offered again on Wednesday and is meant to assist in slowing the spread of the virus in the area. PHOTO BY MAGGIE CHAFOULEAS, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

surrounding Mansfield." The University of Connecticut has had a number of COVID-19 positive cases, with residents only able to request a test if they have come in contact with someone who has tested positive or have a

## Delivery drivers express concerns



# Mansfield offering free COVID-19 testing to residents this week

By Caroline LeCour - September 8, 2020



Covid photos by Maggie Chafouleas

The Town of Mansfield is hosting free COVID-19 testing at Betsy Paterson Square in Downtown Storrs to residents and commuter students this week.

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"The object of this event is to respond to a cluster of six cases which is concerning because this is a densely populated area in town," said Miller. "In an effort to suppress any further spread, we're making testing available to all the residents of the downtown area surrounding Mansfield."

The University of Connecticut has had a number of COVID-19 positive cases, with residents only able to request a test if they have come in contact with someone who has tested positive or have any COVID-19 symptoms.

Unlike UConn, both residents and students in the Mansfield area are able to request a test even if they have not experienced symptoms or had recent contact with a positive case.

“Our target audience is the Storrs downtown residents, but is open to anybody in the Mansfield area, including the businesses,” said Miller.

According to Miller, the type of COVID-19 test being admitted is known as a PCR or nasopharyngeal specimen collection and patients should receive test results within about two days by phone.

If you would like to get tested, EHHD requests that you visit their website to help provide required demographic information before your test and to bring proper identification as well.

There will be testing available this Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, visit the EHHD website at <http://www.ehhd.org>.

### Caroline LeCour

Caroline LeCour is a campus correspondent for The Daily Campus. She can be reached by email at [caroline.lecour@uconn.edu](mailto:caroline.lecour@uconn.edu).

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# Staffer at Coventry Grammar School tests positive for COVID-19

By Olivia Regen

[oregen@journalinquirer.com](mailto:oregen@journalinquirer.com)

Sep 8, 2020



COVENTRY — A Coventry Grammar School staffer has tested positive for COVID-19 and is in quarantine for 10 days, School Superintendent David Petrone confirmed today.

However, Petrone said that based on the outcome of a contact tracing investigation by the Eastern Highlands Health District he does not believe any students are at risk.

Petrone said the individual was only in the school, located at 3453 Main St., for a brief period of time and is now required to isolate for 10 days. Petrone said he could not identify the person or the person's position at the school due to privacy laws.



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Petrone said school officials were alerted to the case on Friday and Principal Ronda Carrie initiated the COVID-19 symptom protocol, which resulted in the individual being sent home.

“It is important for you to know that this staff member wore a mask at all times and did not have close contact with students,” Petrone wrote in a letter to parents.

Once the Mansfield-based Eastern Highlands Health District was contacted, its director, Robert Miller, immediately began a contact tracing investigation to assess the risk of exposure to others in a school setting. Contact tracing looks for any individuals who spent 15 minutes or more within 6 feet of a person with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis.

Miller said based on the contact tracing investigation he was able to determine that one other staffer was also deemed at risk and that person was asked to self-quarantine for 14 days.

### AT A GLANCE

**What:** A Coventry Grammar School staffer tested positive for COVID-19

**Details:** Coventry Superintendent David Petrone said the individual was only in the building for a brief period of time and is now required to isolate for 10 days. One other staffer has been asked to self quarantine for 14 days.

**Risk:** Petrone said there is no risk to students.

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“Based on our investigation, that was the only person identified as being at risk for exposure,” he said. “We were able to respond quickly and able to complete the investigation and inform the school community all in one day.”

Miller said he expects to see more cases in school systems but that the health district has been preparing and working on the appropriate procedures and protocols in response.

“I think we are in a reasonably good place right now but as with anything that is COVID-related, there is always a certain amount of uncertainty,” he said. “We have been working well with our district to become as prepared as possible.”

School board Chairwoman Jennifer Beausoleil said she appreciated the swift response by Coventry staff implementing protocols and working with the health department regarding contact tracing and communication with Coventry Grammar School parents and staff.

“We hope that the staff member has a speedy recovery,” she said.

School board member Eugene Marchand said this case underscores the importance of the superintendent opening school under a hybrid plan. The hybrid model involves splitting the student population into two groups to attend school in-person alternately. It is a combination of in-classroom instruction and remote learning.

“Obviously, we are going to have to access every new situation,” he said.

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AP TOP STORY

18

# UConn orders students in apartment complex to quarantine

Sep 13, 2020



Sean Flynn via UConn

STORRS (AP) – University of Connecticut and local health officials have ordered about 700 students living in an off-campus apartment complex to quarantine for two weeks after tracing several COVID-19 cases to homes there.



Student living in the The Oaks on the Square, which is located just off campus in Storrs, are being asked to remain inside their apartments except for for "solitary activity" or to pick up food, according to the letter sent to Oaks residents.

Non-students living in the complex are not subject to the quarantine, which was agreed to Friday by officials from UConn, the Eastern Highlands Health District and the town of Mansfield.

"We believe it appropriate to characterize this as an outbreak warranting increased medical intervention," the groups wrote in a joint statement released Friday.



The quarantined students will be required to switch any in-person classes to online for an indefinite period of time.

As of Saturday, the school has reported 121 positive tests for the new coronavirus on campus since about 5,000 students returned in August and 92 cases among those living off-campus.

The on-campus positivity rate was reported at 0.72%, on Saturday. The off-campus rate was 1.63%. The state's positivity rate was 1.1% on Friday.

A popular bar and restaurant just off the Storrs campus has also been closed because of COVID-19. Ted's Restaurant and Bar announced on social media Thursday it is closing temporarily after two staff members tested positive for the new coronavirus.

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CORONAVIRUS

# Coronavirus cases at UConn, other college campuses driving increase in Connecticut COVID-19 numbers

By DAVE ALTIMARI, ALEX PUTTERMAN and EMILY BRINDLEY  
HARTFORD COURANT | SEP 18, 2020



FEEDBACK





Mikayla Cusack carries items from the car as she and her dad, Mike Cusack, move her into her residence hall during move-in day at UConn Friday, Aug. 14, 2020, in Storrs. (Kassi Jackson / Hartford Courant)

## FEEDBACK

As the University of Connecticut started welcoming students back to school in mid-August, Mansfield's COVID-19 numbers were low by any metric. From March to mid-August, the town of 25,000 had **recorded only 42 coronavirus cases.**

But in the past month, that number has more than quintupled to 220 cases, with nearly all of those new cases reported from within the UConn student body. In a bid to contain the spread, an entire dorm was locked down, then a bar was shuttered.

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Now an off-campus apartment complex in Storrs Center is under quarantine, and on Saturday school officials announced they were quarantining a second dorm — Eddy Hall, where 96 students currently live, because they had uncovered four COVID cases.

FEEDBACK

A month after many Connecticut college students returned to school, COVID-19 cases at UConn and some other university campuses have played a significant role in the state's recent uptick in coronavirus infections — a development many feared with the resumption of classes.

Gov. Ned Lamont on Thursday noted “concerning” trends in Connecticut’s COVID-19 numbers, as the state’s rate of positive tests ticked up and the number of hospitalized patients climbed to its highest level in more than two months.

“There’s been a number of cases at UConn; there’s been some at Central,” the state’s chief operating officer, Josh Geballe, said Thursday, discussing the state’s recent increase in cases. “Those seem contained at this point — I think the administrations there have taken all the right actions — but those do drive case numbers.”



## Gov. Lamont acknowledges ‘concerning’ trends in Connecticut’s COVID-19 numbers as hospitalizations climb to highest level in more than two months »

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But the experience has differed from one campus to the next, and from one college town to another.

FEEDBACK

In Mansfield, significant coronavirus outbreaks at UConn have yet to spill over into the broader community. But in New Britain, cases among Central Connecticut State students help explain a recent uptick citywide. In Middletown, New Haven and elsewhere, cases have remained low on local campuses, resulting in no apparent spike in cases. And in Windham, the town has recorded an uptick in coronavirus cases even while Eastern Connecticut State has seen a relatively low number of cases.

Due in part to wide variations in testing standards from school to school, the return to college campuses in Connecticut has resulted in a patchwork of issues — met by a similar patchwork of solutions.

### **Concern over community spread**



Statewide, after weeks of positive test rates below the gold standard of 1 percent, Connecticut has seen its positivity rate climb over the past week and a half, while hospitalizations have reached higher levels than recorded since July.

Those increases have coincided with the reopening of college campuses. And while returning college students certainly do not account for the entirety of the state's increased numbers, the cases identified among university students and staff have undoubtedly contributed to the Connecticut's coronavirus uptick.

UConn's cases have nearly single-handedly pushed Tolland County into one of the highest per capita infection rates in the state. From Aug. 14 to Sept. 17, Tolland County reported 233 new coronavirus cases — in about the same period, UConn **reported** well over 250 cases, although some of those cases were likely reported in students' hometowns outside of Tolland County.

On Saturday, UConn reported 12 new cases, three of them from Eddy Hall prompting the quarantining of all 96 students who live there.

“Over the course of the past week, four positive COVID-19 cases have been identified among Eddy residents. This rate is disproportionate to the positive cases we have seen among other residential locations and cause for concern,” Medical Director Dr. Elyssa Erer wrote. The students could be quarantined for more than 14 days.



FEEDBACK

Rep. Brian Smith speaks during a press conference held by Mansfield and Windham officials outside of Mansfield Town Hall Friday, Aug. 21, 2020, in Storrs. The local officials have requested action from Gov. Ned Lamont to limit the gathering size in towns as students return to campuses, but two weeks after requesting this action they are still waiting for an answer from the administration. (Kassi Jackson/The Hartford Courant)

Before UConn students returned to campus, local officials worried that coronavirus-positive students — particularly those who were asymptomatic — would bring the virus into Mansfield and then spread it to year-round residents, including elderly residents.



That concern drove Mansfield officials to push for additional restrictions on gatherings within the town. Mansfield officials, along with officials from Windham and West Hartford, lobbied the state for approval to decrease the maximum size of gatherings allowed, but Lamont's administration never formally responded to that request.

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Mansfield and Windham still want power to limit student parties, but Gov. Lamont is only offering more state police »

However, so far Mansfield's fears haven't materialized. The town hasn't seen significant COVID-19 spread spilling over from the UConn campus, according to Eastern Highlands Health Director Robert Miller.

"We're seeing a very low prevalence of cases among Mansfield residents," Miller said. "We're not seeing any indication, based on the current data, that there's an increased risk of spread among [the] non-student population in the Mansfield area."

CCSU, meanwhile, has seen 19 cases among residential students and staff over the past week and currently has 15 students in isolation and another 15 under supervision in quarantine. In total, CCSU has recorded more than 60 cases among students, faculty and staff since reopening its campus in mid-August, behind only UConn among Connecticut colleges that have reported numbers regularly.



Unlike UConn, CCSU has been part of a broader uptick in its surrounding community, as cases have risen in New Britain. The city has recorded more than 100 cases over the past two weeks, according to state numbers, and had the second most cases of any Connecticut municipality between Aug. 30 and Sept. 12.

[As COVID-19 cases increase in New Britain, Central Connecticut State expands testing program »](#)

Sergio Lupo, the city's health director said "there is a concern" about CCSU students who commute from surrounding towns or live off-campus in New Britain. He said health department officials were meeting with CCSU regularly to discuss containment strategy.

Early in the semester, CCSU President Zulma R. Toro **threatened expulsions** if students didn't follow safety protocols. In early September, a popular bar near campus was **shut down for two weeks** after being linked to a cluster of cases.

Additionally, the school has increased the number of residential students tested regularly and offered one-time pop-up testing for students and faculty on campus. After initially testing 5% to 10% of students weekly, CCSU recently announced it would now test 25%, in hopes of catching more cases.

New Britain's new Beehive Bridge carries Main Street over Route 72. (Stephen Dunn)

Elsewhere, Sacred Heart University has asked students living in Bridgeport to remain off campus due to a cluster of cases, while Connecticut College has **sent home students** following unsanctioned social gatherings.



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In Windham, home to Eastern Connecticut State, COVID-19 numbers have spiked in recent days. After 330 cases over the first six months of the pandemic, Windham has reported more than 50 in the past two weeks.

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FEEDBACK

ECSU itself has not seen a large number of coronavirus cases — one among on-campus students, six among commuter students — but the North Central District health director, Patrice Sulik, said the school may have played a role in the town's cases.

“We are seeing, as expected, activity from the Eastern students,” Sulik said. “And we’re working really closely with the college and the public school system and others to jump on it and nip it in the bud.”

## Disparities in testing

Other college towns in Connecticut have not seen an increase in coronavirus cases.

Middletown, home to Wesleyan, and New Haven, home to Yale and other colleges, have both dodged outbreaks. Those campuses have also implemented aggressive testing programs, which may help at least in part to explain their low case numbers.

FEEDBACK

The rooftop garden and meeting room at the top of the new Community Health Center building on Main Street in Middletown has sweeping views of the city, the Arrigoni Bridge and the Connecticut River. (Cloe Poisson, Hartford Courant)



While many colleges and universities are only testing random samples of their students or those with COVID-19 symptoms, Yale and Wesleyan have both committed to testing all students and staff every week. Officials say that allows them to catch cases early, before the virus has a chance to spread through the campus and town populations.

From Sept. 9 to 15, Yale tested 4,931 students and 1,119 faculty and staff, discovering only three cases. The school has recorded 16 total cases since the start of August, according to its [official dashboard](#).

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Wesleyan has found similar success, testing 3,493 students and employees and finding only six total cases.

FEEDBACK

UConn has tested less aggressively than Wesleyan and Yale but still more than other state schools. The university has also installed pumps across campus and is testing wastewater to determine if there is a coronavirus presence in a particular dorm or classroom building.

But even some schools with limited COVID-19 testing have so far avoided cases. In addition to Yale, New Haven's other colleges — Southern Connecticut State and Albertus Magnus — have similarly kept their numbers low, despite less ambitious testing programs.

“We have a task force ready to respond, but so far we have received zero complaints,” New Haven Health Director Maritza Bond said. “There are inconsistencies across the state as to what each college is doing as far as testing and who is getting tested.”

Other colleges that have largely avoided significant outbreaks include:

- Trinity College, which has recorded 17 cases since mid-August, though 15 in the past two weeks.
- The University of Hartford, which also had 17 total cases since August, as of Tuesday.
- The University of New Haven, which has recorded two cases.
- Fairfield University, which had seven total cases as of Sept. 10.
- The University of Bridgeport, which had recorded one case as of Tuesday.
- Quinnipiac University, which has not yet recorded a positive test.

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### Dave Altimari



Dave Altimari is a reporter on the Courant’s investigative desk. He has reported on stories that have been named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, won a George Polk Award as part of a team that exposed corruption in the administration of former Gov. John G. Rowland and a National Headliner Award for coverage of the Hartford Distributors shooting.

---

### Alex Putterman

Hartford Courant



Alex Putterman reports on the coronavirus pandemic, among other subjects. Since joining The Courant in 2018, he has covered UConn football and the Huskies athletic department, plus sports betting, stadium economics, local mascot debates and more. Previously, he contributed to publications including The Atlantic, VICE, MLB.com and Awful Announcing.

---

### Emily Brindley

Hartford Courant



Emily Brindley covers West Hartford and the Farmington Valley, as well as breaking news, for the Hartford Courant. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with degrees in psychology and nonfiction writing, and was previously a town reporter at the Journal Inquirer.

FEEDBACK



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CORONAVIRUS

# UConn quarantines another dorm after 12 new coronavirus cases reported Saturday

By **DAVE ALTIMARI**  
HARTFORD COURANT | SEP 19, 2020



FEEDBACK



The Jonathan the Husky statue is seen during move-in day at UConn Friday, Aug. 14, 2020, in Storrs. (Kassi Jackson/The Hartford Courant)

**FEEDBACK**

UConn Saturday quarantined another dorm because of concerns the coronavirus was spreading through it.

All told there were 12 new cases reported Saturday, but three of them were in Eddy Hall, making four positive cases there this week. Given that 28 residents of the dorm were already now in isolation school officials decided to quarantine all 96 students.



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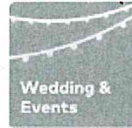
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FEEDBACK

“Over the course of the past week, four positive COVID-19 cases have been identified among Eddy residents," Medical Director Dr. Elyssa Eror wrote. "This rate is disproportionate to the positive cases we have seen among other residential locations and cause for concern.

The quarantine may last longer than 14 days.

“Quarantine status will need to continue until a clear decrease in transmission can be documented through this testing effort," Eror said. “This may be greater than 14 days."

Students living in Eddy Hall will be tested twice a week. They will not be permitted to attend in-person classes; grab-and-go meals will be available at a nearby dining hall.



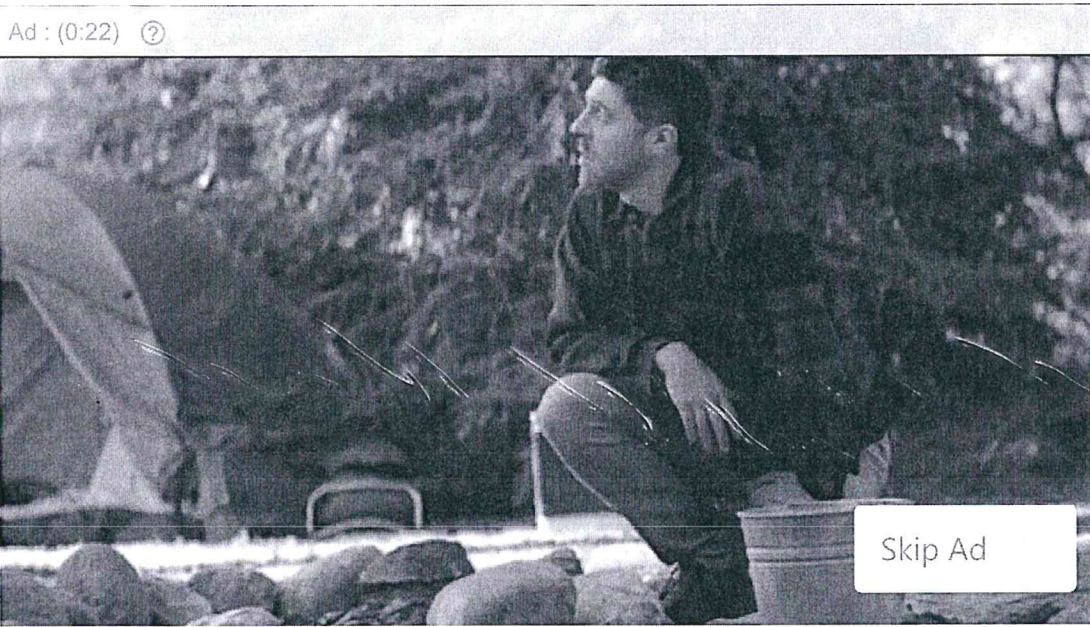
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FEEDBACK

UConn currently has 51 current positive or suspected on-campus cases, including the 12 new ones since Friday. Six of the 12 new cases were already in medical quarantine. Three others were identified through “pooled sampling” at Eddy Hall and were not in quarantine.

There have been 147 COVID cases among residential students. There also were eight new cases of off-campus students testing positive, bringing that total to 57.



With pooled sampling school officials are testing a group of students from one dorm using a saliva test which produces quicker results. If the pooled sample is negative, all students in that pool are deemed negative; if it is positive, the students in the pool are tested individually.

Earlier this month, UConn ordered a quarantine of nearly 300 students living in the Garrigus Suites. That quarantine has since been lifted.

Last week, the university, in conjunction with the Eastern Highlands Health District and the town of Mansfield, ordered more than 700 students living in The Oaks on the Square apartments off campus to quarantine.

#### LATEST CORONAVIRUS

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*Dave Altimari can be reached at [daltimari@courant.com](mailto:daltimari@courant.com).*

Connecticut teachers express concerns about proper ventilation in schools, inequities in coronavirus funding between districts

Survey: Connecticut a top destination for people relocating due to coronavirus pandemic

Crosby High School in Waterbury closes because of student with COVID-19

FEEDBACK

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Dave Altimari




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Dave Altimari is a reporter on the Courant's investigative desk. He has reported on stories that have been named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, won a George Polk Award as part of a team that exposed corruption in the administration of former Gov. John G. Rowland and a National Headliner Award for coverage of the Hartford Distributors shooting.



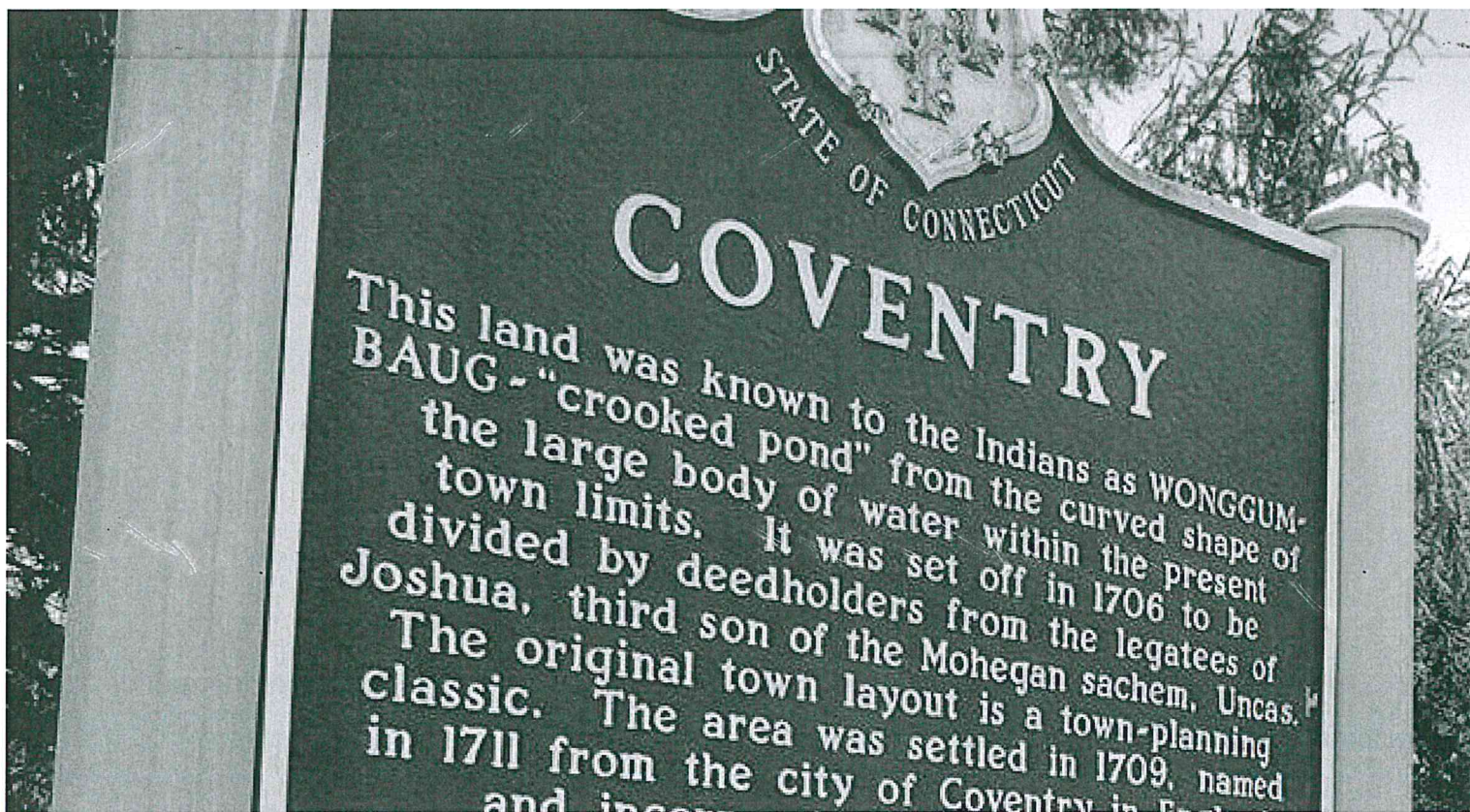
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# Coventry students to return to in-person learning full time on Monday

By Olivia Regen

[oregen@journalinquirer.com](mailto:oregen@journalinquirer.com)

Sep 23, 2020



Town of Coventry

COVENTRY — Superintendent David Petrone has decided to have all students return to school full time Monday after consulting with the Eastern Highlands Health District and determining that local data on the coronavirus does not indicate an increased risk in community spread within the Coventry community.

There are 63 cases of COVID-19 in Coventry and 1,209 in Tolland County, according to the latest daily numbers from the state website.



## AT A GLANCE

### IN PERSON

**WHAT:** Schools convert to full-time in-person learning Monday

**DETAILS:** Based on local data on the coronavirus indicating no increased risk in community spread

**REMOTE LEARNING:** Parents uncomfortable sending their children to school full time may have their children learn remotely



Petrone reopened schools Aug. 31 under a hybrid model – a combination of in-classroom instruction and remote learning – for students in Grades 1-12.

The hybrid model involves splitting the student population into two groups to attend school in person alternately.

School board member Eugene Marchand said that with the hybrid model in place, students and teachers had the opportunity to practice in-person learning.

“We have some experience under our belt, and we can pivot back to a hybrid or fully remote if need be,” he said.

Petrone said if parents feel uncomfortable sending their children to school full time, they have the option to have them learn remotely.

“Right now, the town of Coventry and Tolland County, which is the primary data set that is evaluated to determine risk, indicates relatively low risk,” said Robert Miller, director of the Eastern Highlands Health District Monday.

Petrone said he confirmed that the leading county indicator for COVID-19 risk in the community falls within the threshold established by the state Department of Public Health and the state Department of Education for in-person learning.

That threshold indicates that there is low risk in a school system returning full time if the county has less than 10 cases per day per 100,000 on a seven-day rolling average. Tolland County has 6.4 cases per 100,000 on a seven-day basis, according to information from the state.

“I have spent a lot of time talking to parents and talking to students,” Petrone said. “Students are really excited to be back in school. If we can provide as much normalcy to their life that is a positive thing for them. We can do it safely.”

Petrone added that the school district has spent a significant amount of time putting high quality cleaning protocols in place and ensuring that safe practices are adhered to.

“Our students are doing an outstanding job of wearing masks every day,” he said. “Our staff is doing a great job of ensuring that students are following the rules of (keeping) socially distant.”

Board of Education Chairwoman Jennifer Beausoleil said it is going to be valuable for students to have more in-person contact and interaction.



"If you elect to have your child learn remotely, please know they will be following their school schedule as if they were attending in person and will be expected to adhere to the times noted on their daily schedule," he said.

Based on a questionnaire sent to parents on whether they intend to send their children back to school full time, 1,376 students will be attending in-person instruction on Monday while 174 will be learning remotely, according to Petrone.

There are 1,615 students enrolled in the school system and there were responses from parents representing 1,550 students.

Petrone said if the situation changes, he is prepared to reevaluate the model.

"We need to be ready to be able to pivot from one instruction model to the next dependent on which situation has presented itself," he said.

For more coverage of Coventry and Tolland towns, follow Olivia Regen on Twitter: @OliviaRegen, Facebook: Olivia Regen JI, and Instagram: @ORegenJI.

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## Olivia Regen

Town Reporter

Olivia covers Tolland and Coventry. She joined the JI in March 2019. She graduated from the University of Kansas, and she enjoys running & hanging out with her Manchester terrier, Sophie. Olivia loves journalism because it can change the world.

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TOP STORY

# No mask? Some consequences, maybe: What happens if you're not wearing one in public and someone complains

By Olivia Regen  
oregen@journalinquirer.com  
Sep 26, 2020



Stylist Dan Garvey works on the hair of Pat Ferguson of Vernon on Wednesday as a sign for wearing masks, left, and lots of sanitize seen at Headliners Salon and Spa in Tolland. (Jim Michaud / Journal Inquirer.) More photos are available at [www.journalinquirer.co](http://www.journalinquirer.co)



One local health department director finds it surprising that it has not received a high volume of complaints about businesses or individuals not complying with Gov. Ned Lamont's executive order to wear face masks in public when social distancing of 6 feet is not possible.

"I think some customers would never call us to complain or choose on their own to take their business somewhere else if they are concerned about masks," said Patrice Sulik, director of the Enfield-based North Central District Health Department based in Enfield

State and health officials contend there are not many complaints because most people are complying with the governor's April 17 order, which he has since extended to February 2021 to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. They also acknowledge that with all the mandates of contact tracing and the underfunding of health departments, it is impossible to keep statistics strictly on how many are violating the face mask order.



So, what exactly happens when a complaint about someone not wearing a face mask in public is made and how is the law now enforced with Lamont's new executive order dealing with the issuing of fines for those who do not comply?

The answer is complex as the enforcing agency varies depending on the type of business and is split between the health departments, municipal government, and law enforcement. In most instances, based on interviews with several local government officials and health departments, after informing individuals of the law, there is compliance. Fines have yet to be issued under the governor's new executive order that was signed on Sept. 15.

Lamont's executive order would issue a \$100 fine to any individual not wearing a face mask in public.

In addition, the law also fines any person or business entity \$500 that sponsors a gathering that violates size restrictions. Beginning Oct. 8, private indoor gatherings at businesses will be limited to 50% capacity with a cap of 100 people, and 25 people will be allowed for parties at a private home.

Private outdoor gatherings will be capped at 150 people. Those who attend events that exceed the limit are also fined \$250.

Robert Miller, director of the Eastern Highlands Health District based in Mansfield, said that any complaints that involve barbershops, hair salons, and restaurants fall under the health departments' discretion to investigate.

All other complaints would be enforced by the town governments in each town whether it is the town manager or law enforcement, he added.

There have been 85 COVID-19-related complaints made to the Eastern Highlands Health District since March, but only a fraction of them have been related to people not wearing face masks, Miller said.

#### IF A COMPLAINT IS MADE

**INVESTIGATION:** Any complaints about face masks that involve barbershops, hair salons, and restaurants fall under local health department's discretion to investigate. All other complaints would be enforced by the town government in each town whether it is the town manager or law enforcement.

**COMPLIANCE:** The investigating agency asks for voluntary compliance and if noncompliance continues a hearing is scheduled by local health department.

Once a complaint is made, it's the department's job to investigate, he said. And in all cases, thus far, department officials have been able to inform individuals about the law and get them to comply.

"Every complaint is followed up on," Miller said. "We work diligently on gaining voluntary compliance through clear guidance and education. Thus far, this has worked reasonably well for us."

Sulik agreed.



"We have not had any hearings or issues regarding masks at this point," she said. "If we get a call, we will reach out to a business first and have a long conversation with them. We try to lead with education as a primary tool."

If the incident happens repeatedly the department would hold a hearing, she said.

Sen. M. Saud Anwar, D-South Windsor, who is a physician and serves as vice chairman of the legislature's Public Health Committee, said the governor's mandate to wear face masks empowers businesses in that if an individual chooses not to wear one, a business owner has the right to not provide service to that individual.

Erica Gompper, owner of Headliners Salon and Spa in Tolland, said the law was important in giving her the ability to turn a customer away at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic who was not wearing a face mask. Since then, she said, the salon has not had any other issues.

She added that everyone is complying with the law and each employee wears eye protection and a face mask while customers' temperatures are taken at the door.

Anwar said statewide health departments are faced with more critical issues than keeping data on whether people are adhering to the law on face masks.

But overall, he said, most people in the state respect science and are adhering to the law. He said he believes that only a small segment of the population is not following the law.

Kevin Dieckhaus, an associate professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Connecticut, said face masks help prevent the spread of the coronavirus because the virus is largely spread through respiratory droplets and the masks trap those droplets in the material.

"If you can get 80 to 95 percent to wear masks, you can substantially reduce the number of particles that can be inhaled," he said.

In Coventry and South Windsor, town officials say they have not received many complaints about people not complying with the law to wear face masks.

Coventry Town Manager John Elsesser said there has been good compliance of people wearing face masks in town.

He said the town has only received one complaint and it was referred to the health district because it involved a customer not wearing a face mask at a food establishment.

In South Windsor, five complaints have been made to the Police Department since March about businesses not complying with wearing face masks, said spokesman Sgt. Mark Cleverdon.

"In those cases, an officer went to the location and asked people to wear a mask," said South Windsor Town Manager Michael Maniscalco. "From what I am aware, everyone has complied in those instances."

A spokesman for the Connecticut State Police said the agency has not received many complaints regarding people not wearing face masks.

Miller said the health department is not set up to issue citations.

"I am concerned about the notion of issuing fines to individuals who may not respond in a manner which is safe for my employees," he said.

Police departments have not issued fines yet and will be doing so based on a discretionary basis, said Cleverdon and a spokesman for the state police.

"We would look at each individual case as its own separate entity and determine whether enforcement action is appropriate," Cleverdon said. "I don't imagine us standing in the parking lot and handing out tickets. If someone gives us a complaint, we will investigate it and determine what the action is based on that investigation."

The new executive order gives discretion to health departments, municipal entities, and police departments to issue fines.

Both officials in Coventry and South Windsor say discretion will lie with the police in this matter.

William Dunlap, a professor of criminal and constitutional law at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, said the fines may help people comply with the law.

"Generally speaking, fining people for certain type of behavior will tend to reduce that behavior," he said.

#### MORE INFORMATION



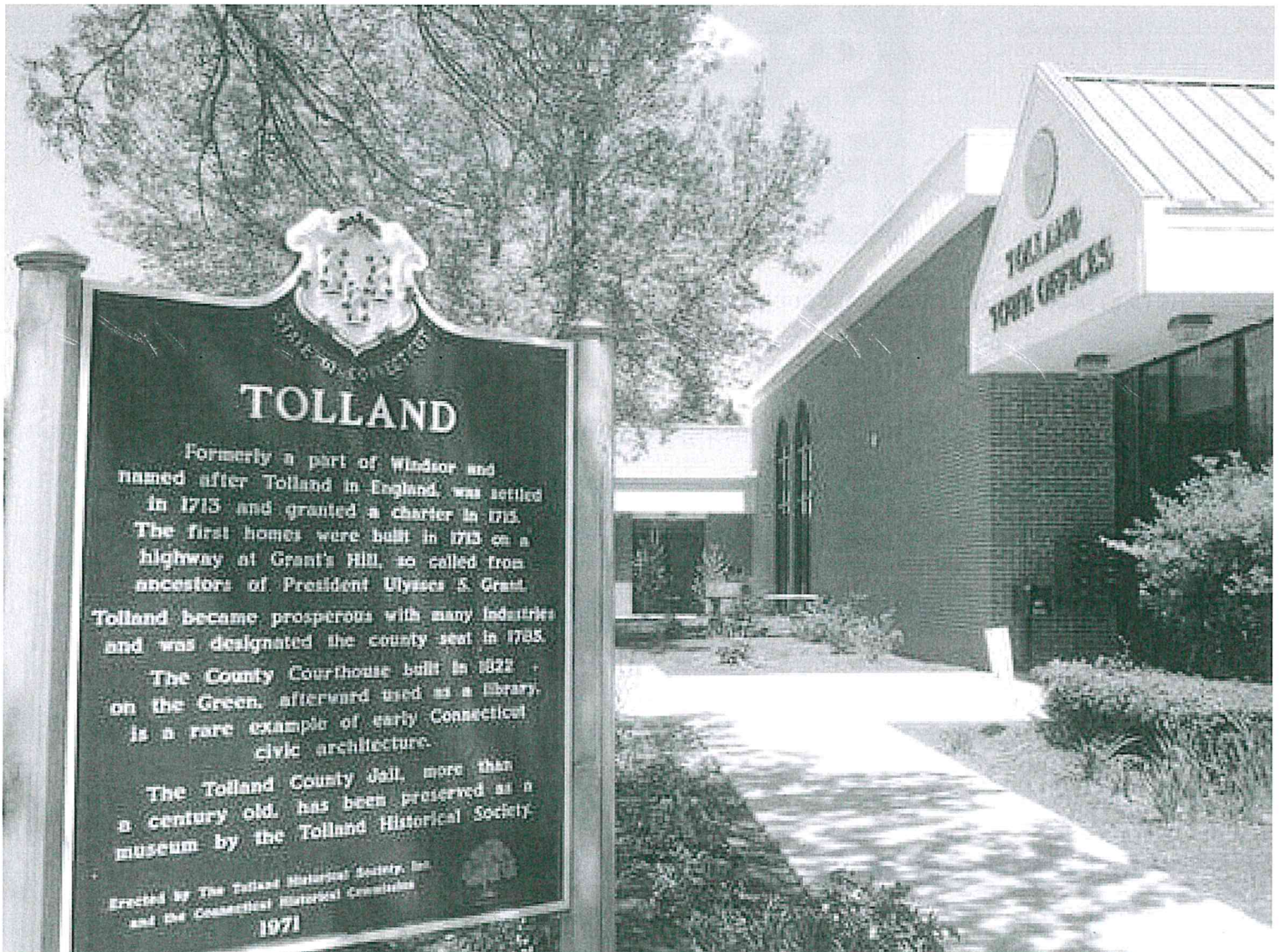
[https://www.journalinquirer.com/towns/tolland/k-5-students-in-tolland-to-return-to-full-time-classroom-learning-oct-5/article\\_7df59dac-fe7f-11ea-a9b7-7b20419628f9.html](https://www.journalinquirer.com/towns/tolland/k-5-students-in-tolland-to-return-to-full-time-classroom-learning-oct-5/article_7df59dac-fe7f-11ea-a9b7-7b20419628f9.html)

# K-5 students in Tolland to return to full-time classroom learning Oct. 5

By Olivia Regen

[oregen@journalinquirer.com](mailto:oregen@journalinquirer.com)

Sep 24, 2020





TOLLAND – Superintendent Walter Willett has decided to have students in kindergarten through Grade 5 return to school full-time on Oct. 5.

Meanwhile, students in Grades 6-12 will continue to learn under a hybrid model, a combination of in-classroom instruction and remote learning.

That decision was based on local data on the coronavirus, which does not indicate an increased risk of community spread within the Tolland community, Willett said.



"I think the plan provides the necessary support for families and students while maintaining appropriate safety standards," Willett said today.

He added that it's important for students in kindergarten through Grade 5 to be back in the classroom with their teachers.

"The students tend to struggle the most when they don't have an adult in front of them. They will get that emotional and physical support," he said.

Christina Plourd, vice chairwoman of the Board of Education, said Wednesday that students learn best while in the classroom and that the opportunities offered those in kindergarten through Grade 5 at school can better help them move forward in their education.

She also said she will continue to advocate that students in Grades 6-12 also return to the classroom since the local data on COVID-19 indicates that there is not an increased risk of community spread in Tolland.



Still, Plourd said different age groups represent different challenges and she supports the superintendent's phased in approach to full-time in-person learning.

## AT A GLANCE

### IN-PERSON LEARNING

**WHO:** Tolland students in kindergarten through Grade 5

**WHEN:** Four days a week beginning Oct. 5

**WHY:** Local coronavirus data indicating no increased risk of community spread

There are 56 cases of COVID-19 in Tolland and 1,215 in Tolland County, according to the latest daily numbers from the state website.

The leading county indicator for COVID-19 risk in the community falls within the threshold established by the state Department of Public Health and the state Department of Education for in-person learning.

That threshold indicates that there is low risk in a school system in returning full time if the county has less than 10 cases per day per 100,000 on a seven-day rolling average. Tolland County has 6.4 cases per 100,000 on a seven-day basis, according to information from the state.

Willett said he chose to keep students in Grades 6-12 learning under a hybrid model because of their propensity to interact in a variety of environments, including at the University of Connecticut.

With the hybrid model "they are getting the benefit of having personal interaction," he said. "If they get sick or are impacted, the chances of it impacting the entire school is much less if they are learning in a hybrid plan."

Beginning Monday, Oct. 5, students in kindergarten through Grade 5 will engage in in-person learning at school four days a week while learning remotely on Wednesdays.

Meanwhile, students in Grades 6-12 will continue learning in a hybrid plan where they will be divided into two groups. One group would attend in-school classes on Mondays and Tuesdays and then the schools would be shut down for cleaning on Wednesdays. The second group would use the schools on Thursdays

and Fridays. When students are not in the schools, they would participate in classes from home via teleconference.

Willett said if parents elect to have their students continue to learn remotely, they can do so by contacting the school system. Willett is planning an online Zoom meeting today and on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 4 p.m. to answer parents' questions.

School board member Kate Howard Bender said Wednesday that she's "afraid for our community" concerning the decision to open schools full time for the younger students.

"The elementary classrooms are too small to accommodate a full class of students and maintain social distance," she said.

In response, Willett said the school system is doing things in accordance with state standards and following the guidance of the Eastern Highlands Health District.

School board member Jacob Marie said Willett's plan is moving the school system in the right direction and that in-person learning, especially for younger children, is "critically important and also better from a mental health standpoint."

Understanding there are risks with any decision, he said he believes that this is a safe decision overall.

For more coverage of Coventry and Tolland towns, follow Olivia Regen on Twitter: @OliviaRegen, Facebook: Olivia Regen JI, and Instagram: @ORegenJI.

## Olivia Regen

Town Reporter

Olivia covers Tolland and Coventry. She joined the JI in March 2019. She graduated from the University of Kansas, and she enjoys running & hanging out with her Manchester terrier, Sophie. Olivia loves journalism because it can change the world.

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## COVID case confirmed at day care

9/24/20

**MICHELLE WARREN**  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

MANSFIELD — Several members of the Mansfield Discovery Depot community are under a two-week quarantine after an individual there has tested positive for coronavirus.

Mansfield Discovery Depot (MDD) Director Debbie Plourde said Wednesday that staff was made aware of the positive case last Friday.

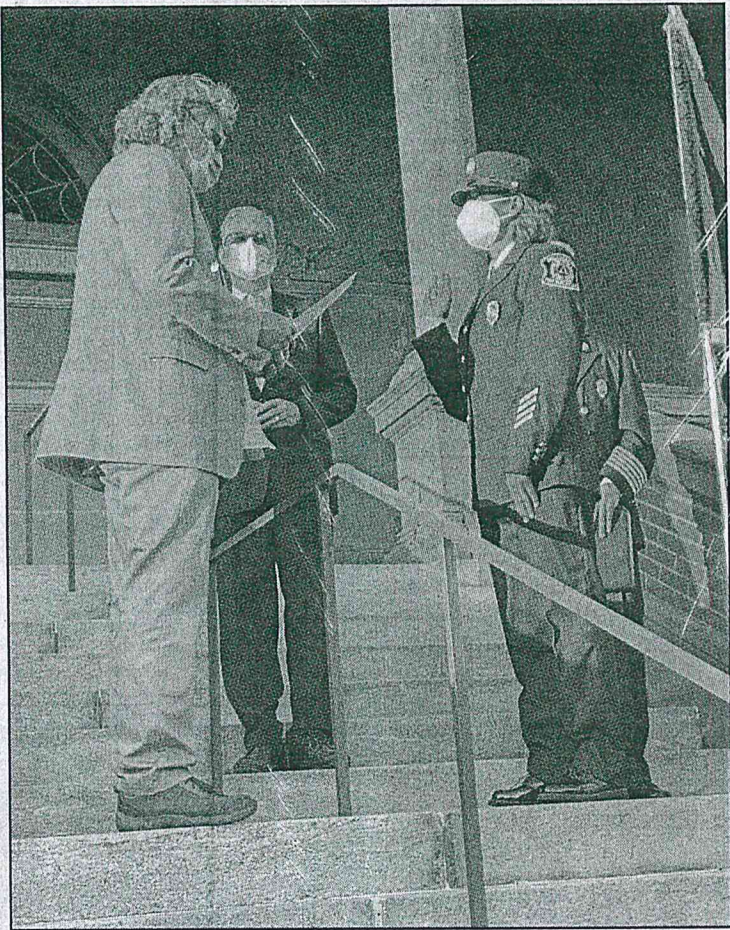
“We immediately contacted the Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD) and the (state) Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to discuss the most current procedures on how to proceed,” a statement issued by MDD Wednesday stated.

“All families and staff who

### COVID-19 CASES

According to latest figures

Andover	10
Ashford	24
Chaplin	7
Columbia	30
Coventry	63
Eastford	12
Franklin	16
Hampton	8
Hebron	38
Lebanon	33
Mansfield	194
Scotland	0
Willington	22
Windham	411



ment firefighter Natalie Siebecker, left, was promoted to lieutenant Wednesday after 15 years of service  
dham Town Council Chairman Pro Tempore Thomas DeVivo, right, administers the oath to Siebecker  
ite of the Abundant Life Community Church looks on. Claire Galvin | Staff

# ry special promotion



# COVID case confirmed at Mansfield Discovery Depot

Continued from Page 1

for 14 days. Plourde said the classroom the individual was in will remain closed for 14 days because the entire class is being quarantined.

Families affected by the quarantine will not be charged tuition for the two weeks.

“Please keep in mind that if we are faced with a staffing shortage due to this situation, we may need to close additional classrooms if we are unable to support the teacher-to-student ratios in those

classrooms,” Plourde wrote. “We will do everything in our power to avoid this situation, however, it is necessary to mention it at this time just in case.”

She wrote if a parent decides to keep their child at home, it is important they notify the school they are doing that and the reason for doing so.

Plourde wrote COVID-19 is spread mainly via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person.

***Please keep in mind that if we are faced with a staffing shortage due to this situation, we may need to close additional classrooms if we are unable to support the teacher-to-student ratios in those classrooms.***

Debbie Plourde

Parents were asked to discuss the following preventative measures with their children and other family members:

- Washing hands frequent-

ly, but especially after using the restroom and before and after preparing or consuming food.

- Avoid touching the mouth, hands and nose.

- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue.

- Wearing face coverings whenever there is a likelihood you or your family members will be in the presence of others.

- Maintain at least six feet between yourself and others when outside of your home.

MDD families were asked to monitor the following symptoms: fever of 100.4 degrees or higher; chills or shaking chills; uncontrolled new cough that is not due to another known cause, such

as chronic cough; difficulty breathing or shortness of breath; and a new loss of taste or smell.

Plourde wrote students who are exhibiting any of those symptoms or feeling ill should call their medical provider to report their symptoms and ask about testing prior to seeking care at a clinic, physician’s office or hospital.

EHHD Director Robert Miller could not be reached for comment.

Follow Michelle Warren on Twitter - @mwarrentc.

## Siebecker sworn in as new fire lieutenant

Continued from Page 1

highly of Siebecker.

According to Scrivener, Siebecker is the second female firefighter in an officer position in the history of the fire department.

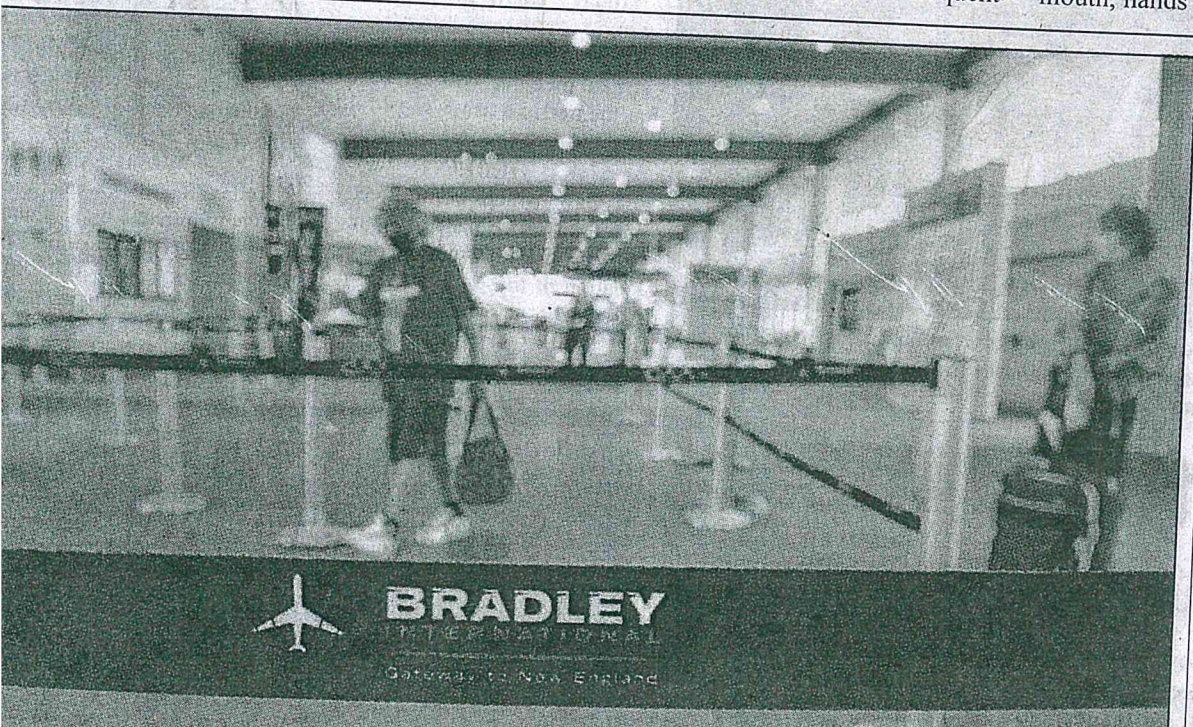
Siebecker replaces Lt. Holly Swiney, who recently retired.

“It’s going to be really hard to fill the shoes of Lieutenant Swiney,” Siebecker said. “She and I

During her tenure, she has served as EMS supply coordinator, assistant training instructor, training instructor, fire prevention coordinator, assistant fire alarm technician, fire alarm technician and deputy fire marshal.

***During her tenure, she has served as EMS supply coordinator, assistant traini-***

“You all work really hard in a town that really has tight resources,” said DeVivo. “From the leadership, right on down to the new



**BRADLEY**  
INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT  
GATEWAY TO NEW ENGLAND



15. Court: Nov. 17 in Danielson.

Jose Antonio Trujillo, 18, of 32 John St., Willimantic, was charged with first-degree larceny, assault of a public safety/emergency medical technician/transportation/health employee, interfering with an officer and second-degree breach of peace Sept. 15. Court: Sept. 16 in Danielson. Bond: \$100,000.

Wilson Echevarria, 35, of 86 Spring St., Apt. 1, Willimantic, was charged with possession of a controlled substance or more than one-half ounce cannabis and sale of narcotic substance Sept. 17. Court: Nov. 18 in Danielson Superior Court. Bond: \$5,000.



### Span repair

Work continues on the bridge on Route 66 near the Columbia/Willimantic town line this week.

Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

# Coventry schools moving to normalcy

9/25/20

OLIVIA REGEN  
JOURNAL INQUIRER

COVENTRY — Local schools starting Monday will take one more step toward normalcy, for now, as full, in-person classes are expected to begin.

Coventry Superintendent of Schools David Petrone has decided to have all students return to school full time Monday.

He made the decision after consulting with the Eastern Highlands Health District and determining local data on the coronavirus does not indicate an increased risk in community spread within the Coventry community.

There are about 63 cases of COVID-19 in Coventry and an estimated 1,209 in Tolland County, according to the latest daily numbers.

“Right now, the Town of Coventry and Tolland

County, which is the primary data set that is evaluated to determine risk, indicates relatively low risk,” said Robert Miller, director of the Eastern Highlands Health District.

Petrone said he confirmed the leading county indicator for COVID-19 risk in the community falls within the threshold established by the state Department of Public Health and the state Department of Education for in-person learning.

That threshold indicates there is low risk in a school system returning full time if the county has less than 10 cases per day per 100,000 on a seven-day rolling average.

Tolland County has 6.4 cases per 100,000 on a seven-day basis, according to information from the state.

“I have spent a lot of time talking to parents and talking to students,” Petrone said.

“Students are really excited to be back in school. If we can provide as much normalcy to their life that is a positive thing for them. We can do it safely.”

Petrone added the school district has spent a significant amount of time putting high quality cleaning protocols in place and ensuring safe practices are adhered to.

“Our students are doing an outstanding job of wearing masks every day,” he said. “Our staff is doing a great job of ensuring that students are following the rules of (keeping) socially distant.”

Coventry Board of Education Chairperson Jennifer Beausoleil said it is going to be valuable for students to have more in-person contact and interaction.

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The hybrid model involves splitting the student population into two groups to attend school in person alternately.

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students and teachers had the opportunity to practice in-person learning.

“We have some experience under our belt, and we can pivot back to a hybrid or fully remote if need be,” he said.

Petrone said if parents feel uncomfortable sending their children to school full time, they have the option to have them learn remotely.

“If you elect to have your child learn remotely, please know they will be following their school schedule as if they were attending in person and will be expected to adhere to the times noted on their daily schedule,” Petrone said.

Based on a questionnaire sent to parents on whether they intend to send their children back to school full time, 1,376 students will be attending in-person instruction on Monday while 174 will be learning remotely, according to Petrone. There are 1,615 students enrolled in the school system and there were responses from parents representing 1,550 students.

Petrone said if the situation changes, he is prepared to re-evaluate the model.

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## See ‘Pet of the Week’ on Page 4

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with UConn planning to request the remaining \$27.5 million from the state.

"We are hoping for federal help, for state help, but the clock is ticking for the fiscal year," UConn Executive Vice President for Administration/

Lamont expressed gratitude for the work UConn employees and trustees are doing, "especially during these incredibly complicated times."

"We're by no means out of the woods," he said, expressing  
**UConn, Page 4**

## Water hazard

It's been a while since we have had to worry about puddles, as drought conditions have kept the ground dangerously dry. But Wednesday's rainstorm took a small bite out of the rain deficit and created lots of puddles, like this one near Route 6 in Windham. Occasional showers are also expected to hit the area Friday. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

# Two COVID-19 cases reported at E.O. Smith

10/1/20

**MICHELLE WARREN**  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

**MANSFIELD/STORRS** — Two members of the E.O. Smith High School community have tested positive for coronavirus this week.

Parents were notified about one of those cases Monday and the second case Wednesday.

"The Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD) has done contact tracing to determine direct con-

tacts," Regional School District 19 Superintendent of Schools Sharon Cournoyer said. "Those direct contacts have been notified."

Citing privacy standards under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, she did not indicate whether the individuals are students or staff members.

Cournoyer said the staff are following guidance from EHHD and the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention regarding the "best means to communicate the situation without violating privacy rights."

"It's really a part of our obligation to be as transparent as we can be legally with people," she said.

Cournoyer said the two cases involved "unrelated circumstances" and there were no "close contacts" of students or building staff with either individual.

She said if there were such con-

tacts, they would have been notified by EHHD.

A "close contact" is defined as someone who has spent at least 15 minutes within six feet of a person with a confirmed COVID-19 case or a direct exposure to possibly infected droplets of saliva or nasal mucus, for example, if someone was sneezed or coughed on in the face.

"The local health district has been  
**TWO COVID-19 CASES, Page 4**

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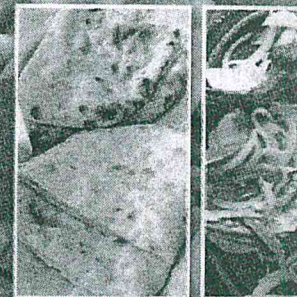
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# Lamont requests disaster declaration for Isaias

NICHOLAS RONDINONE  
HARTFORD COURANT

Gov. Ned Lamont sent a request Wednesday to President Donald Trump seeking his approval of a major disaster declaration for damage from Tropical Storm Isaias.

Lamont's office said weeks of data collection show the damage to public infrastructure tops more than \$21 million, and that does not include damage to personal property.

"Tropical Storm Isaias came through Connecticut fast and created an impact that is taking weeks to repair," Lamont said in a statement. "If approved, this federal declaration will allow many municipalities in our state to become eligible for much-needed state reimbursements as they continue to fix damaged infrastructure from the storm."

Isaias, a fast moving hurricane that was downgraded to a tropical storm, hit Connecticut with powerful winds and lashing rains, causing widespread damage in the matter of several hours.

Officials estimated more than 800,000 homes and businesses lost power. Restoration took roughly a week and put a critical eye on the state's power utilities.

Along with outages, crews contended with the clean up of tens of thousands of downed trees that blocked hundreds of roadways.

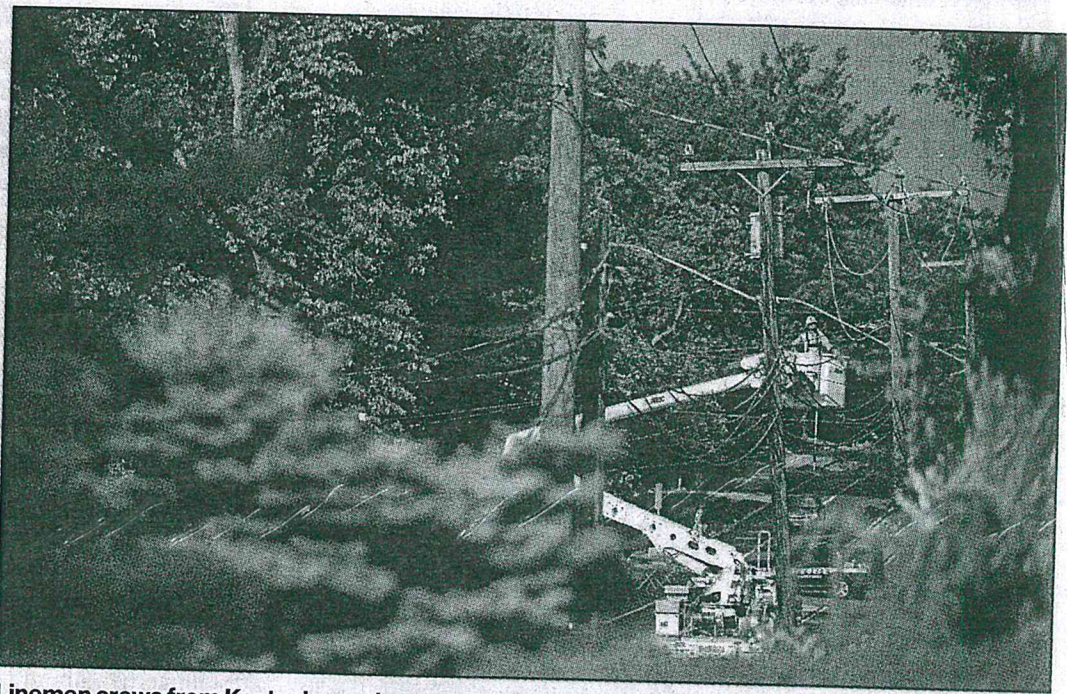
Officials said at least two people died in the storm, and another five were seriously injured.

Days after the early August storm, Lamont's office said that the White House had approved an emergency declaration, opening the opportunity for federal assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

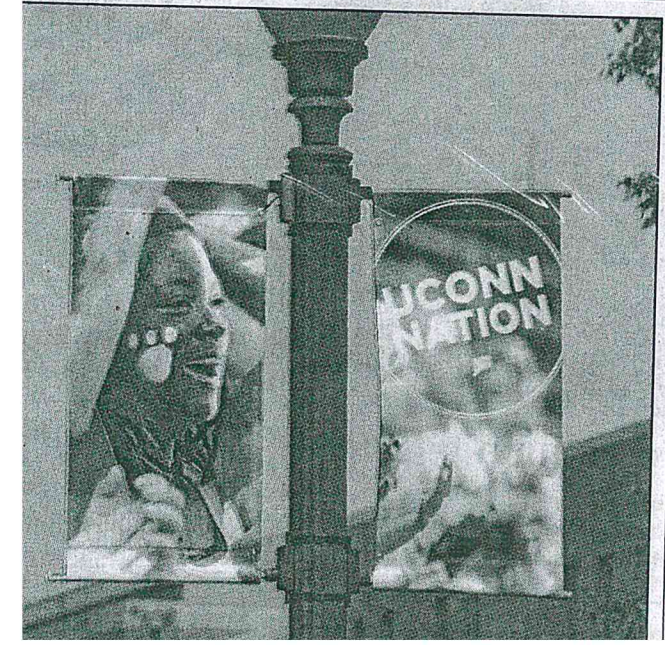
But time was needed to get a detailed estimate of damages before seeking the major disaster declaration that would allow for up to 75 percent reimbursement from FEMA.

It is unclear if or when Trump will approve the declaration, but the president has approved similar requests in the past.

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Linemen crews from Kentucky work on power lines along Farmington Avenue Aug. 8 in West Hartford as cleanup efforts continue after Tropical Storm Isaias' impact. TNS



## Two COVID cases reported at EOS

Continued from Page 1

amazingly responsive and really fantastic with their communication and support for the school when these circumstances come up and it really does allow us to make the best decisions that are in the interest of health and safety for our community," Cournoyer said.

In the notification sent Monday, parents and staff were notified the last time the member was in the school was Sept. 22 and school offi-

individual was instructed to remain in self-isolation for 10 days and has been given instructions to follow prior to returning to the school.

"The health district takes a lead in conducting a case contact investigation," Miller said.

He said if laboratory results are positive, health district staff will con-

The school district continues to reinforce the mitigation measures, she said, including mask wearing, social distancing and frequent sanitation.

*There have been six COVID-19 cases in school settings within the health district, which serves 12*

Miller said there have been six COVID-19 cases in school settings within the health district, which serves 12 school districts.

He said none of the cases

settings as safe as possible for students and staff."

Cournoyer said there have not been any changes to the school schedule, which has been operating on a hybrid model since opening Sept. 9.

"We're planning on conversations with the board (of education) next week about what our thoughts are," she said.

Cournoyer said school has been open for less than a month and sports start today. "We want to give that



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## Press Releases



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## GOVERNOR NED LAMONT

10/09/2020

### Governor Lamont Announces Membership of the COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group

(HARTFORD, CT) – Governor Ned Lamont today announced the members he is appointing to serve on the Governor’s COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group. The group will be responsible for advising the governor on preparations for a COVID-19 vaccine, including the optimization of a statewide vaccine distribution strategy, and communicating critical medical information about the vaccine with the state’s residents.

The group will be administered by staff from the Connecticut Department of Public Health. A schedule of meetings has not yet been finalized, however it is anticipated that the group’s first meeting will be held in mid-October. Meetings will be open to the public.

The members of the Governor’s COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group include:

#### Main advisory group



- **Co-Chair:** Dr. Deidre Gifford, *Acting Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health*
- **Co-Chair:** Dr. Reginald J. Eadie, *President and CEO of Trinity Health of New England*
- Mary Daugherty Abrams, *State Senator (D-Meriden, Middlefield, Rockfall, Middletown, Cheshire)*
- Jessica Abrantes-Figueiredo, *Chief of Infectious Diseases for Saint Francis Hospital*
- Stephen Civitelli, *Director of Health for the Wallingford Health Department*
- Chris DiPentima, *President and CEO of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association*
- Josh Elliott, *State Representative (D-Hamden)*
- Tekisha Dwan Everette, *Executive Director of Health Equity Connecticut*
- Keith Grant, *Senior System Director for Infection Prevention for Hartford HealthCare*
- Eileen Healy, *Executive Director of Independence Northwest for the Connecticut Cross-Disability Lifespan Alliance and Chair of the Connecticut Association of Centers for Independent Living*
- Derrick Holloway, *Pastor of First Calvary Baptist Church*
- Sal Luciano, *President of the Connecticut AFL-CIO*
- Richard Martinello, *Medical Director of Infection Prevention for Yale New Haven Hospital and Yale New Haven Health*
- Mag Morelli, *President of LeadingAge Connecticut*
- Nichelle Mullins, *President and CEO of Charter Oak Health Center*
- William Petit, *State Representative (R-New Britain, Plainville)*
- Jason Schwartz, *Assistant Professor at the Yale School of Public Health*
- Milagrosa Seguinot, *President of the Connecticut Community Health Workers Association*
- Michelle Seagull, *Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection*
- Heather Somers, *State Senator (R-Griswold, Groton, North Stonington, Plainfield, Preston, Sterling, Stonington, Voluntown)*

### **Allocation subgroup**

- Michael Carius, *American College of Emergency Physicians*
- Stephen Civitelli, *Director of Health for the Wallingford Health Department*
- Kerry Clark, *UConn Health*
- Tekisha Dwan Everette, *Executive Director of Health Equity Connecticut*
- Lori Fedewa, *Director of the Connecticut State Office of Rural Health*
- Khuram Ghumman, *President of the Hartford County Medical Association*
- Tim Klufas, *College student*



- Suzanne Lagarde, *CEO of Fair Haven Community Health Center*
- Zita Lazzarini, *UConn Health*
- Andrew Mais, *Commissioner of the Connecticut Insurance Department*
- Sara Parker McKernan, *New Haven Legal Assistance*
- Leslie Miller, *President of the Fairfield County Medical Association*
- Nichelle Mullins, *President and CEO of Charter Oak Health Center*
- Neil O'Leary, *Mayor of the City of Waterbury*
- Regina Rush-Kittle, *Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection*
- Marlene Schwartz, *President of the UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity*
- Michelle Seagull, *Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection*
- Raymond Sullivan, *Director of Health for the Brookfield Health Department*

### **Communications subgroup**

- Mary Daugherty Abrams, *State Senator (D-Meriden, Middlefield, Rockfall, Middletown, Cheshire)*
- Robyn Anderson, *Reverend*
- Matt Barrett, *President and CEO of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities*
- John Brady, *American Federation of Teachers*
- Hector Caraballo, *Pastor of Casa de Oracion y Adoracion*
- Angel Castellano, *Pastor of Smirna Misionera Church*
- Yolanda Castillo, *Secretary of the Town of Manchester Board of Directors*
- Lindsay E. Curtis, *Pastor of Grace Baptist Church*
- Chris DiPentima, *President and CEO of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association*
- Tiffany Donelson, *President and CEO of Connecticut Health Foundation*
- Brad Drazen, *Vice President of Communications and Marketing for the Hartford Foundation*
- Taylor Edelman, *Equity and Community Engagement Coordinator for Apex Community Care*
- Josh Elliott, *State Representative (D-Hamden)*
- Michael Freda, *First Selectman of North Haven and President of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities*
- Judy Goldberg, *Vice President of Government Relations for the Connecticut PTA*
- Susan Halpin, *Connecticut Association of Health Plans*
- Angela Harris, *Phillips Health Ministry and Phillips CME Church*



- Eileen Healy, *Executive Director of Independence Northwest for the Connecticut Cross-Disability Lifespan Alliance and Chair of the Connecticut Association of Centers for Independent Living*
- Derrick Holloway, *Pastor of First Calvary Baptist Church*
- Erin Jones, *Counsel for the March of Dimes*
- Greg Jones, *Legacy Foundation*
- Nihal Khan, *Director of Religious Affairs for the Islamic Center of Connecticut*
- Sal Luciano, *President of the Connecticut AFL-CIO*
- Mag Morelli, *President of LeadingAge Connecticut*
- Diane Morgenthaler, *Director of Health and Wellness for Southern Connecticut State University*
- Maurice Porter, *Reverend of Impact Church*
- Joseph Quaranta, *President of the Community Medical Group and Co-Chair of the Connecticut Health Information Technology Advisory Council*
- Jordan Scheff, *Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services*
- Milagrosa Seguinot, *President of Connecticut Community Health Workers Association*
- Heather Somers, *State Senator (R-Griswold, Groton, North Stonington, Plainfield, Preston, Sterling, Stonington, Voluntown)*
- Vicki Veltri, *Executive Director of the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy*

### **Scientific subgroup**

- Jessica Abrantes-Figueiredo, *Chief of Infectious Diseases for Saint Francis Hospital*
- David Banach, *Head of Infection Prevention and Hospital Epidemiologist at UConn Health*
- Keith Grant, *Senior System Director for Infection Prevention for Hartford HealthCare*
- Jim Hadler, *Clinical Professor of Epidemiology at the Yale School of Medicine*
- Danyal Ibrahim, *Trinity Health of New England*
- Albert Ko, *Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine and Department Chair at the Yale School of Public Health*
- Roxy Kozyckyj, *Director of State Government Affairs for the Healthcare Distribution Alliance*
- Richard Martinello, *Medical Director of Infection Prevention for Yale New Haven Hospital and Yale New Haven Health*
- William Petit, *State Representative (R-New Britain, Plainville)*
- Jack Ross, *President of the Connecticut Infectious Diseases Society*
- Jason Schwartz, *Assistant Professor at the Yale School of Public Health*
- Jody Terranova, *Assistant Professor of Pediatrics for the American Academy of Pediatrics*