



Town of Manchester
41 Center Street
Manchester, CT 06045
860-647-5235

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWN OF MANCHESTER DECLARES PUBLIC HEALTH AND CIVIL PREPAREDNESS EMERGENCY

MANCHESTER, CT- Today, the Town of Manchester announced that General Manager Scott Shanley declared a public health and civil preparedness emergency throughout the Town of Manchester. The emergency declaration was made in coordination with the State of Connecticut's response to Coronavirus (COVID-19), which the World Health Organization has called a global pandemic. Federal, state, and local proactive measures have been instituted to protect Manchester residents and visitors in an effort to minimize the impact of COVID-19. A Unified Command System involving all Town departments and the public school system has been established to coordinate an effective response to this health crisis. The Manchester Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is operating in monitoring mode and the Unified Command Team is prepared to respond as needed to address this emerging threat.

There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Town of Manchester at this time; however, widespread community transmission is expected in the next few weeks and the Town is taking deliberate steps to slow the spread of the virus and "flatten the curve."

In order to enforce social distancing as much as possible in the community and limit exposure, the Town of Manchester has taken the following actions:

- Manchester Public Libraries will be closed effective tonight March 16th at 9:00PM until further notice.
- Starting at noon on Tuesday, March 17th, all town buildings, including Town Hall, will be closed to the public. During this time, staff will continue to report to work in order to evaluate and modify operations to ensure the continued delivery of essential municipal



services. Municipal buildings are tentatively scheduled to reopen on Thursday, March 19.

- Manchester Senior Center will be closed Monday, March 16 the Senior Center will be closed for all routine operations, until further notice.
- Manchester Leisure, Family, and Recreation Department has made programs, activities, events, and facilities reservations unavailable until further notice.
- Manchester Public Schools and State Schools will be closed effective today, March 16th until at least March 31st.
- Free “Grab n’ Go” breakfast and lunch is available to Manchester students Monday, March 16th through Friday March 20th, at three locations. Bennet Academy - School Street entrance and Manchester Middle Academy (the former Robertson School building) - Main entrance. Waddell Elementary School - Broad Street side door entrance along the cafeteria. Breakfast is available from 8-10 a.m. and lunch from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Students are not allowed to congregate and must leave school grounds as soon as they get their meals.
- The Board of Directors’ Budget Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, March 17 is cancelled.
- The Board of Directors’ Budget Workshop scheduled for Thursday, March 19th will be held via video conference, and will be broadcast live on Channel 16 and the Town’s website. Details to follow.
- Most Town public meetings of various committees will be suspended until mid-April.
- The Town is encouraging employees who are able to effectively do so to work from home. The vast majority of Town of Manchester employees, including Police, Fire, Public Works, Water, and Sanitation are unable to work remotely due to the nature of the work, but the Town is taking measures to ensure that all staff are protected.

To encourage social distancing, we encourage residents needing to do business with the Town to access online services by visiting our website (www.townofmanchester.org), and/or contact us by phone.

For general questions, the Town’s Customer Service & Information Center may be reached at **860-647-5235**.

For Department specific questions please use the following contact information:

Department of Health

Phone: 860-647-3173

Email: healthdept@manchesterct.gov



Department of Human Services

Phone: 860-647-3092

Senior, Adult and Family Services

Phone: 860-647-3096

Senior Center

Phone: 860-647-3211

Department of Leisure, Family, and Recreation

Phone: 860-647-3084

Manchester Public Library

Phone: 860-643-2471

Department of Assessment and Collection

Assessment: (860) 647-3016

Tax Collection: (860) 647-3018

Town Clerk Office

Phone: 860-647-3037



Water & Sewer Department

Main Phone: 860-647-3115

Emergency Phone: 24 hours - 860-647-3111

Billing Phone: 860-647-3135

For the latest updates and information, please visit the CDC website: <http://bit.ly/3d4jNZR> and state COVID-19 website: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>

For the latest updates and resources in the community, please visit the Manchester, CT COVID-19 page: <http://bit.ly/2TYGLc1>

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