

TOWN OF SUFFIELD

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www.SuffieldCT.gov

Melissa M. Mack
First Selectman
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860-668-3838



March 19, 2020

Dear Suffield Community & Town Employees,

Since my last update four days ago, I am relieved to report that there are still no confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Town of Suffield. Unfortunately, the State of Connecticut has seen an increase and I am saddened to report, its first two deaths. Please continue to abide by the restrictions now in place, however difficult they may be to accept and follow.

Many have reached out to my office to ask, “What can I do?” We are blessed as a town to have robust social services infrastructure in place through the Suffield Senior Center/ Minibus and Suffield Community Aid. These organizations, in addition to the Suffield Housing Authority, are monitoring our seniors and our regularly maintained “at-risk” list comprised of our most vulnerable population. Through frequent contact, we are making sure these residents have what they need. We have repurposed the Town Minibus service to be the delivery arm for Meals on Wheels with extra sanitation and CDC recommended protocols in place to take volunteers out of the process temporarily in an effort to keep everybody safe.

While this need in our community is thankfully being met, I ask residents to please **reach out to elderly or infirm neighbors**. If they do not have internet access, please share these updates with them. Please let us know about any additional supports needed. If YOU need assistance, please reach out – we are all here to help!

What else can you do to help?

- Practice social distancing and if sick, isolation
- Continue to support the Food Pantry at Suffield Community Aid
- Support local restaurants – order take-out and conserve your food stockpiles as well
- Stay informed:
 - Sign up to receive emergency notifications through [CT Alert](#)
 - Sign up to receive [Town News](#)
 - Share Town updates with your friends and neighbors
- Give blood – contact the American Red Cross to find out how
- Check out additional ways to volunteer::
 - <http://www.getreadycapitolregion.org/volunteer/volunteering>
 - [Capital Region Medical Reserve Corp](#)

Please continue to visit the [Emergency Alert](#) page for new information – this is the first place we will post followed by other means. Here’s the most recent updates relevant to Suffield, organized by category:

National Assistance

- **U.S. Small Business Association Working Capital Loans Available Due to Coronavirus**
 - [In English](#)
 - [In Spanish](#)

State Executive Orders:

- **Executive Order #7D**
 - Prohibits social gatherings of 50 people or more
 - Prohibits restaurants and bars from food service other than take-out
 - Ban applies to delicatessens, food courts (but **CAN DO** take-out and delivery)
 - Closes off-track betting
 - Closes gyms, recreation center, movie theaters
 - Crowd size limit applies to social and recreational events - does **NOT** apply to:
 - Farmers Market
 - Red Cross Blood Drives
 - Food Banks
 - Meals on Wheels, food trucks
 - Hospital cafeterias
 - Craft breweries **CAN** sell take-out beer
 - Banquet facilities limit of 50 per room
 - Discussions currently taking place for service plazas to provide take-out, bathrooms and gas
- **Executive Order # 7C**
 - Extension of Municipal Budget Adoption Deadlines
 - [Revised Town of Suffield 2020-21 Budget Review Schedule](#)
- **Executive Order #7B**
 - Suspension of In-Person Open Meeting Requirements
 - ALL meetings to be held via teleconferences
 - Public not required or able to physically attend
 - All agendas will include call-in number for commissioners and public
 - Public may only participate during public comment
 - Board members need to identify themselves prior to speaking

Town of Suffield/Municipal Partners:

- **Parks & Playgrounds**
 - Town-wide basketball, tennis courts, skate park and playgrounds closed
 - Sunrise Park pavilion closed

- All parks still **OPEN** for hiking
- **Parks & Recreation Department**
 - Go to Suffieldrec.com for daily virtual activities and contests including NEW virtual 5K Run/Walk
- **Police Department**
 - Suspending fingerprint services for background checks including pistol permit applications until further notice
- **Landfill**
 - Hours remain unchanged:
 - Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Currently **OPEN** for leaves, yard waste, household trash and comingled recyclables only
 - Comingled recyclables = small metal items, glass, plastic
 - Disposals are self-serve only; attendants may not assist patrons
 - No cash transactions
 - Contractors may go over scale with construction debris and yard waste
 - Contractors will be billed
 - Closed for following items:
 - No large appliances
 - No couches
 - No mattresses
 - No Freon units
 - No propane tanks
 - No tires
 - No electronic waste
 - No cardboard and newspaper
 - No bulky waste pickup
 - “Leave-It” area closed
 - No public restroom available
- **WPCA**
 - Requests residents to throw disinfectant wipes/”flushable wipes”/paper towels in trash – items **SHOULD NOT BE FLUSHED**
 - [Related flyer](#)
- **Senior Center**
 - Grab-and-Go lunches available by request for \$2
 - [Menu – week of March 16th](#)
 - [Menu – week of March 23rd](#)
 - Call 860-668-8830 for meal options and ordering
 - Meals will be left on table outside of front entrance clearly labeled with name
 - Seniors to be billed in future

- **Kent Memorial Library**
 - Items currently checked out to patrons eligible for long-term loan until May 1st
 - All overdue fines waived at this time
 - Digital resources available on website:
 - eBooks
 - eAudiobooks
 - eMagazines
 - Movies and music: Overdrive, RBDigital, Bookflix, Hoopla
 - Scholastic Books offering free resource for parents:
 - Scholastic Learn From Home
 - Provides @ 20 days worth of projects, virtual field trips, articles and stories
 - Visit www.scholastic.com/learnathome for more information.
- **Youth Services**
 - [Managing COVID-19 Anxiety](#)
 - [COVID-19 Daily Schedule for Kids](#)
- **Suffield Community Aid**
 - Building closed to public
 - Meals on Wheels currently delivered via Senior Center Minibus
 - Food bags for those in need available for pick up
 - Reaching out to residents at risk to help with essential food needs, emotional and social needs
 - Staff on hand to help those in need – call 860-668-1986

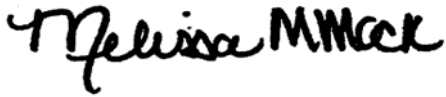
Regional Suppliers

- **Connecticut Water**
 - Moratorium on water service shutoffs for nonpayment until further notice
 - Tap water available for hand-washing and other
 - Will work with customers on payment arrangements if having trouble making full payment at this time
 - Offices closed to visitors
 - Service representatives working remotely
 - Call weekdays from 8 am to 4:30 pm at 1-800-286-5700
 - 24-hour emergency service at 1-800-286-5700
 - Email at customerservice@ctwater.com.
- **Connecticut & Aquarian Water Company - Safety of Drinking Water**
 - Tap drinking water not a known source of coronavirus
 - www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater#main-content
- **Eversource**
 - Postponed disconnections for nonpayment for residential and business customers across electric, natural gas, and water operations
 - Customer service team available to help customers with financial programs such as payment plan

- Call 800-286-2000
- Increase in scam activity - be wary of unsolicited calls that threaten to disconnect utility service and demand payment by unusual means
- Read more: [Eversource Community Message 3-17-2020](#)

Lastly, thank you to all who have already so generously donated to the Food Pantry at Suffield Community Aid. Janet Frechette, Director, commented, “The amount of that is coming to our door is nothing short of AMAZING.” So proud of our town. Continue the great work and we will get through this together. Be well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa M. Mack". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Melissa M. Mack
First Selectman

cc: Board of Selectmen