

TOWN OF SUFFIELD

83 Mountain Road, Suffield, Connecticut 06078
www.SuffieldCT.gov

Melissa M. Mack
First Selectman
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860-668-3838



June 17, 2020

Dear Suffield Community & Town Employees,

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 marks Phase 2 of the State of Connecticut Reopening. We share everybody's relief and enthusiasm as we begin to get things up and running again. As First Selectman and Emergency Management Director, we want you to know that our children have represented and served the public well in their constant demands for opening playing fields and swimming facilities! I am sorry to report that playgrounds remain closed and will be reevaluated on June 30th (per guidance from the National Recreation and Parks Association). It is critical to emphasize the importance of adhering to the guidelines of the phased reopening to prevent the need to back-peddle and close down again. The [Emergency Alert](#) page (also accessible via the COVID-19 button) continues to be the source for updates in addition to [Facebook](#). Email suffieldreopens@suffieldct.gov to notify the town about any concerns.

Currently, Suffield reports the following COVID-19 information:

[\(CT data as of 6/16/20\)](#)

- 119 confirmed cases
- 15 probable cases
- 20 deaths (per NCDHD)
- Suffield House ([Nursing Homes as of 6/10/20](#)) with 128 licensed beds:
 - 52 confirmed cases
 - 12 confirmed deaths
 - 7 probable deaths
- Suffield by the River ([Assisted Living Homes as of 6/9/20](#)) with 114 licensed beds:
 - 13 confirmed cases
 - 0 deaths

Neighboring communities reflect the following number of confirmed COVID-19 cases:

[\(MA data as of 6/10/20\)](#)

- Agawam: 449
- Enfield: 580 + 13 probable
- East Granby: 9
- Granby: 21

- Southwick: 48
Springfield: 2650
- **Suffield: 119 + 15 probable**
- West Springfield: 356
- Westfield: 430
- Windsor Locks: 111 + 6 probable
- Windsor: 528 + 45 probable

Phase 2 Reopening – Effective June 17th

Please see [Sector Rules and Certification for Reopen](#) for complete information regarding the following sectors:

- Amusement Parks
- Hotels / Lodging
- Restaurants (current table limit is 25)
- Museums, zoos, and aquariums
- Indoor recreation (e.g., bowling, movie theaters, etc.)
- Libraries

****Kent Memorial Library remains closed to public but continues to provide [digital](#) and [curbside services](#) – Summer Reading Program starts June 29th!****

- Outdoor events
- Personal services (e.g., nail salons, tattoo parlors, etc.)
- Sports and fitness facilities (e.g., gyms, fitness centers, pools, etc.)

****See Parks & Recreation, Sunrise & Stony Brooke Parks, Babb’s Beach for details below****

350th Anniversary Celebration

The Town of Suffield announces plans to postpone in-person anniversary celebrations for 2020 until Columbus Day Weekend 2021. This includes the 350th Parade. Still scheduled for 2020, the Barn Quilt Trail beginning in late June and into July, and a socially-distanced car parade, fireworks and virtual commemoration slated for October 11-12th. Be on the lookout for a press release to be issued shortly and visit www.Suffield350.org for more information.

Dining

A number of Suffield restaurants took advantage of the town’s temporary outdoor dining permit and welcomed patrons on patios and the like including Suffield Pizza, Tosca, Nutrition Shack, Lucky’s Pub and the Shamrock Café. With warm weather upon us, stop by for an outdoor meal! Stay tuned as restaurants reopen indoor seating as well. Please support all our local restaurants.

[List of Takeout Restaurants](#)

Gratitude

More high praise and another shout out to Director Paula Pascoe and her staff for the Senior Center's Grab & Go Lunches. Thank you for taking such good care of our seniors!

From Senior Center residents, their families and general fans:

- “Thank you – you are our heroes.”
- “Susan raved about the quality, quantity and the price! The special note, included with each daily meal, is the cherry on top! ‘*Those meals give my mom’s life a purpose.*’ What an impact these meals have had on the quality of life for our older residents during these scary and confusing times.”

Blood Drives

The American Red Cross reports a critical need for blood donations. In an effort to help, the Senior Center will host drives on the following dates from 1:45 to 6:45 p.m.:

June 30

July 7

July 21

August 12

August 26

September 8

November 3

December 29

Due to COVID-19, the Red Cross implemented stricter donation procedures. All donors must make an appointment in order to donate and new procedures will be explained at that time. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to www.redcrossblood.org to sign up online.

Portable Toilets

A number of residents inquired about reestablishing portable restrooms at Town facilities. With heightened cleaning and sanitizing guidelines implemented by the Health Department, this task now involves additional hurdles, namely finding cleaning staff to meet the new standards. Please be patient as we remedy the situation as quickly as possible.

Town of Suffield

- **All Town offices remain closed to public**
 - Services continue to be provided online and via email, phone and mail
- **Parks & Recreation, Sunrise & Stony Brooke Parks**
[Sector Rules and Certification for Reopen/Sports & Fitness Facilities](#)
 - **OPEN to the public:**
 - Playing fields (see link for specific guidelines)
 - Basketball courts (see link for specific guidelines)
 - Skate Park
 - Tennis, pickleball courts

- Parks and amenities, including swimming (no lifeguard on duty at Sunrise until June 27th)
 - **CLOSED to the public** until further notice:
 - Playgrounds – will reevaluate June 30th
 - Sunrise Park Pavillion reservations
- **Babb's Beach**
 - Opening June 27th
 - See [Babb's Beach](#) for more info
 - Reservation system via <http://www.suffieldrec.com> to ensure limited crowds
- **Police Department**
 - Fingerprinting now available through records clerk for pistol permits
- **Town Clerk**
 - Town Charter & Ordinances now available [online](#)
 - Land Records from 1700 to present now available [online](#)
 - Dog Licensing extended to August 1, 2020
 - Register new dogs and renewals by mail or drop box
 - Renewals also available [online](#)
 - Go to [Town Clerk page](#) for details

Houses of Worship

- [Executive Order No. 7TT](#): Amended Prohibitions on Large Gatherings
- [Guidelines for Houses of Worship](#)
- Current Status:
 - **Church of Christ, Congregational** (United Church of Christ)
 - No in-person worship until September, to be re-evaluated at end of August
 - Offer online services and pastoral care via phone or Zoom
 - **Second Baptist Church**
 - Will reopen in September
 - Working on AA group to be able to use building
 - Services recorded for viewing on YouTube
 - Meetings and studies available via Zoom
 - **First Baptist Church**
 - Services postponed till August
 - **Third Baptist Church**
 - No in-person worship until September
 - Open-air service to be offered in July

Federal & State:

- [Governor Lamont Launches Initiative Providing Connecticut Residents With Career Resources and Workforce Upskilling Following COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Executive Order No. 7UU](#): Mandatory COVID-19 Testing for Staff of Private and Municipal Nursing Home Facilities, Managed Residential Communities, and Assisted Living Services Agencies

Continue to take care of each other and be well.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Melissa M. Mack in black ink.

Melissa M. Mack
First Selectman

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Spencer in black ink.

John Spencer
Director, Emergency Management

cc: Board of Selectmen