



TOWN OF MONROE

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

COVID-19 Pandemic Update

March 11, 2020

The Town of Monroe continues to monitor and respond to the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic and its potential impacts to the community.

We are following our existing pandemic preparedness and response plan, in concert with guidance from the Center for Disease Control & Prevention ("CDC") and Connecticut Department of Public Health ("DPH"). Locally we are conducting regular meetings that include Emergency Management, our Director of Health, and the Superintendent of Schools.

We are in daily contact with various state health and emergency management officials. As of this afternoon:

- The State DPH has reported a total of 3 cases in Connecticut, and additional cases are inevitable.
- Currently, there are no known cases in Monroe.
- The range of illness can be very mild to severe. State health officials continue to predict that the majority of those who become ill with COVID-19 are expected to recover at home and not require hospitalization.
- Currently those over the age of 65 and people of all ages with severe underlying health conditions appear to be the most at risk for severe illness.

The Governor has declared both a civil preparedness and public health emergency in the State. At this time, the primary purposes for this declaration is to grant emergency authority in the event that further actions may become necessary. It also enables state laws that protect against unfair or deceptive profiteering or price gouging.

While currently not widespread, State officials have advised that we must assume that community transmission of COVID-19 is occurring at some level. Therefore, the State has recommended limiting certain mass gatherings with large numbers of people in close proximity. This guidance is intended to slow down additional disease transmission. Based upon this guidance, and the current situation in Monroe:

- We are recommending that those most at risk for serious illness (again, those over the age of 65 and people of all ages with severe underlying health conditions), consider avoiding large gatherings with large numbers of people in close proximity.
- We will evaluate any Town-sponsored large events and non-essential meetings and consider postponement or cancellation based upon the anticipated attendance, venue, and nature of the event.
- Currently, all Town offices remain open on normal schedules.
- The Superintendent of Schools is communicating directly with the school community regarding the cancellation or postponement of certain school events, however at this time Monroe schools remain open.
- Residents are reminded that focusing on common sense precautions are important to limit the spread of disease. Regular hand washing, covering your cough or sneeze, and staying home when sick will help to limit the spread of disease. If you are sick and need medical advice, please call your medical provider.

We will continue to post information and links to official information at www.MonroeCT.org/COVID-19. Residents and business owners with further questions or concerns may contact the Monroe Health Department at 203-452-2818, or call the State of Connecticut's COVID-19 Hotline by calling Infoline at 211 or texting "CTCOVID" to 898211.

Kenneth M. Kellogg
First Selectman