



TOWN OF MONROE

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

COVID-19 Pandemic Update

May 22, 2020

The State Department of Public Health is currently reporting the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Monroe at 103.

As you know, this week marked the Governor’s Phase 1 of the Re-Open Connecticut Plan. Several Monroe restaurants received expedited approval for outdoor dining, and many of our retailers and other businesses have re-opened. Remember that these businesses have specific state rules to follow. Please do your part, and follow the rules that they must tell their customers.

Source: State of CT **5 Criteria to Progress to Phase 2**

 Declining Transmission <100 bed net increase in hospitalizations in last week of phase 1	 Testing & Contact Tracing 100k tests a week, 50% completed contact tracing within 48 hours	 Business & Social Safeguards Rules and regulations disseminated two weeks prior to Phase 2 reopening
 Protection for the Vulnerable Testing plan for key workers and priority high-risk communities implemented	 Healthcare Capacity <20% of beds occupied by COVID-19 patients amongst total peak COVID-19 bed capacity	

This week the Governor also released Phases 2 and 3 of the plan, which could begin as early as June 20th, provided that the state continues to meet specific criteria, such as declining transmission of the virus, adequate healthcare capacity, and expanded testing and contact tracing. Phase 2 includes business sectors such as gyms and fitness centers, movie theaters, indoor dining at restaurants and outdoor entertainment with up to 50 people.

While this is encouraging news, I must again remind everyone that we are still under current state restrictions regarding the social gathering limit of five, maintaining six feet social distancing whenever possible, and wearing a mask when in public except, of course, when eating outside at one of our restaurants.

Source: State of CT **Phase 2 & 3 Business Sectors to Open**

Phase 2 Approx. June 20th	Accommodation (no bar areas) Gyms, fitness, & sports clubs All personal services Outdoor arts, entertainment and events (up to 50 people) Outdoor amusement parks	Movie theaters Bowling alleys Social clubs, pools All museums, zoos, aquariums Restaurants (indoor, no bar)
Phase 3 At least 4 weeks later	Bars Indoor event spaces & venues Indoor amusement parks & arcades	Outdoor events (up to 100 people)

Source: State of CT **Phase 2 Education & Community Services to Open**

Phase 2	Selected youth sports (Jun 20) All summer day camps (Jun 22) Public libraries (Jun 20) Nonresidential workforce programs (mid Jun) Nonresidential clinical/laboratory courses (mid Jun)	K- 12 summer school (July 6) Other nonresidential programs (July/Aug) Graduate programs (July/Aug) Undergraduate residential small-scale pilot programs (July/Aug)
Fall School Year	Undergraduate residential programs	K-12 (TBD) Boarding schools

This week, our Board of Finance also finalized their Proposed Annual Budget, which reduces expenditures by another \$1.5 million and assigns a significant portion of our fund balance to avoid increasing the tax rate. The current projection is for a slight reduction of the mill rate, to 35.48. The Board must now vote to adopt the budget and finalize the mill rate during the first week of June. More details are available on the Town’s website, including our tax calculator that allows you to estimate next year’s taxes based upon the new projected mill rate and your new property assessment based upon the state-mandated revaluation.

As we start the holiday weekend, please remember to keep safety in mind. While we cannot celebrate as a community in our traditional fashion, we can all take time to remember and honor our military veterans that have given the ultimate sacrifice.

Best wishes for a safe and healthy Memorial Day.


Kenneth M. Kellogg, First Selectman