Update on COVID-19

This is an important message from First Selectman Rob Smith, Superintendent of Schools Brian Reas and Emergency Management Director Craig Mansfield on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

In an effort to keep our residents informed as to how the town is addressing the current Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak concerns, we will be providing periodic updates Monday, Wednesday and Friday at approximately 6:00 p.m. or as needed for additional updates. It is with an abundance of caution that we are now making changes to certain areas of activity.

The **East Haddam Public Schools** have closed effective March 13, 2020, and will be closed until at least March 31, 2020 per the Governor’s Executive Order No. 7C. Grab and Go breakfasts and lunches will be provided at the Nathan Hale-Ray High School for all kindergarten through twelfth grades students who are currently enrolled in the district. The schedule to pick up lunches will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. starting this Wednesday March 18, 2020. On Mondays, two lunches and two breakfasts will be provided for pick-up per student. On Wednesdays, three lunches and three breakfasts will be provided per student. These meals will be available on this schedule until school is back in session and you are notified that the program is discontinued. Please refer to the school website at [www.easthaddamschools.org](http://www.easthaddamschools.org) for the complete and most up to date information.

The **Municipal Office Complex** is closed to the public except by appointment effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Most of our staff will be reporting to work during normal business hours until further notice, except for Tuesday, March 17, 2020, when the Office will close at 4:00 p.m. We request that residents conduct municipal business by phone, email or U.S. mail in an effort to decrease exposure. Board, Commission & Committee meetings will be cancelled effective March 16, 2020 unless there is pressing business. All essential meetings will be conducted through Zoom audio conference.

The **Public Works Offices** will be closed to the public except by appointment effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Staff will be on site to respond to calls and emails during normal business hours.

The **Transfer Station** will be open normal business hours, however the “What Not Corner” will be closed until further notice. We do ask residents to exercise proper social distancing practices by maintaining a 6’ distance from each other and attendants when visiting the site.

**Parks & Recreation** has cancelled all events and classes.
The **Senior Center** is closed to the public until further notice. The center will continue to deliver “Meals on Wheels” and provide the “med car” service to doctor appointments for those seniors that use the “med car”. A brown bag, grab and go lunch will be available to interested seniors that are used to having lunch at the center. People will need to call the center at least by noon the day before to reserve a lunch. Anyone with questions should call the Senior Center at 860-873-5034.

The **East Haddam Free Public Library and Rathbun Library** are closed to the public. All programs, events, and non-library board meetings are cancelled. Online resources, including online programs & digital materials, are available on the libraries' website. Please hold on to all library materials until the libraries reopen; all fines will be waived.

The **East Haddam Food Bank** will be open regular hours (10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm) on Tuesday, March 17th. Patrons of the Food Bank who are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms should not come to the Food Bank. In those cases, patrons should call 860-891-8100 to make other arrangements.

Donations of non-perishable foods are welcome and can be delivered to the Food Bank, 488 Town Street, Moodus (Grange Hall) on Saturday, March 21st between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. If you have questions regarding the Food Bank, please call 860-891-8100 or 860-873-3296.

**Youth & Family Services** remains open at this time, however all activities and events are cancelled.

**Emergency Response Services** will continue as usual. If the call is for a medical issue, please understand the First Responders may be wearing face masks to protect themselves and you.

We appreciate your vigilance and we will continue to keep you aware of changes. Please remember that 80% of positive cases of COVID-19 are mild and resemble a cold. If you have a fever and respiratory issues, please seek care through your primary care physician.

We ask our residents to practice **every day preventative actions** which will help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
For complete details and town information please visit the town COVID-19 website page at www.easthaddam.org.

Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation throughout this crisis. Please be Safe.