

Robert R. Smith
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Board of Selectmen TOWN OF EAST HADDAM

MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX
1 PLAINS ROAD ♦ P.O. BOX 385
MOODUS, CONNECTICUT 06469



Update on COVID-19

This is an important message from First Selectman Rob Smith on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:00 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, at a minimum, Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings via the town website. On Tuesday, March 10, the Governor issued declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies throughout Connecticut and on Wednesday, March 18, First Selectman Rob Smith signed a Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergency for East Haddam.

On March 20th, the Governor initiated a “STAY SAFE, STAY AT HOME” order. The State Department of Public Health has reported that there are now positive cases of COVID-19 within the Chatham Health District towns.

The **East Haddam Public Schools** closed effective March 13, 2020, and will be closed until at least March 31, 2020 per the Governor’s Executive Order No. 7C. Please refer to the school website at www.easthaddamschools.org for the complete and most up to date information.

The **Municipal Office Complex** is closed. Board, Commission & Committee meetings will be cancelled until further notice.

The **Town Clerk’s Office** will have very limited hours. You may leave a message at 860-873-5027 or email townclerk@easthaddam.org and the Clerk’s Office will get back to you.

For **Land Record Recordings**, it would be preferred if they are delivered via mail or courier service. There is a drop box to the right of the main entrance, (tax collector’s lock box) where they may be dropped. Once processed, a copy of the receipt will be scanned and mailed to you by the Clerk’s Office.

The **Public Works Office** is closed. Public Works staff will continue to respond to emergencies and for snow removal, if necessary.

The Transfer Station will be open on the following schedule for the week of March 23:

- **Friday, March 27 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** for all waste disposal to include bulky waste, brush, household waste (MSW) and recyclables
- **Saturday, March 28st, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** for disposal of household waste (MSW) and recyclables only

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We will continue to evaluate the safest way to handle the Town's trash during this emergency. To help move the traffic flow, please do not spend time socially interacting.

Parks & Recreation has cancelled all events and classes. Playgrounds and parks that promote close contact and cross contamination are now closed. This includes the dog park, skate park and "Chaps Court". Open space trails and Heritage Park walking path are open. Do not use Heritage Park exercise equipment. Please remember to incorporate all social distancing protocols when using these areas.

The **Senior Center** is closed to the public until further notice. The center will continue to deliver "Meals on Wheels". The "med car" service to doctor appointments for seniors has been suspended as most appointments were cancelled. 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 and leave a message.

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** currently plans to be open regular hours (10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm) on Tuesdays until further notice. 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.

Youth & Family Services offices closed effective March 20, 2020. Staff will work remotely and will be checking phone and email messages. Anyone in need of services, including counseling referral, food and fuel assistance, etc, should call 860-873-3296.

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:

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- 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.

We ask residents to exercise proper social distancing practices by maintaining a 6' distance from each other.

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.