

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# JOSH ELLIOTT

Proudly Serving Hamden

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Dear Neighbor,

After just over 5 weeks of Governor Lamont’s **Stay Safe, Stay Home** order, Connecticut is starting to see COVID-19 hospitalization rates slow. The curve has flattened, but this doesn’t mean we throw the Governor’s order aside at the first sign of improvement. Public health and elected officials continue to take steps to manage containment and limit the spread.

It’s important for all of us to recognize and thank the heroes of this pandemic: our healthcare workers, first responders, and other essential workers who are on the front lines every day. I would also like to thank our community members for their cooperation with public health measures and directives as well as the kindness and assistance they have shown. We are in this together.

This mailer provides information to help keep you up-to-date as experts learn more and officials act to fight the pandemic while also supporting the public during the shut down.

I want you to know that I am here for you and together we will get through this. Please reach out to my office if you have any questions or concerns including any of the information included here. Wishing you and your family safety and good health. You can reach me by email at: **Josh.Elliott@cga.ct.gov** or by phone at **860-240-8507**.

Take care,



Sign up for my e-newsletter for COVID-19 information and other updates on my website at [www.housedems.ct.gov/Elliott](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Elliott)

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## COVID-19 INFORMATION

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# State Representative Josh Elliott

FOR THE LATEST ON STATE RESPONSE EFFORTS, DIAL 2-1-1 OR VISIT [CT.Gov/CORONAVIRUS](http://CT.Gov/CORONAVIRUS)

## WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19?

COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019) is a respiratory illness spread from person-to-person contact. Symptoms may include cough, fever, and difficulty breathing and may appear 2-14 days after exposure. For the latest information and guidance, visit [ct.gov/coronavirus](http://ct.gov/coronavirus).

## HOW CAN I HELP?

CTResponds is the State of Connecticut's web-based volunteer management system which also includes the Medical Reserve Corps. If you are interested in volunteering to help your community during this emergency, please register at [ctresponds.ct.gov](http://ctresponds.ct.gov).

## FILING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

Please visit [ct.dol.state.us](http://ct.dol.state.us) to access an FAQ sheet on the rights of employees and employers as well as the form to file for unemployment. Under the CARES Act passed by Congress, the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) includes an extra \$600 per week, which began going out the week of April 27th and will be retroactive to March 29th filings. The Act also makes eligible for PUA benefits those who are self-employed, independent contractors, and gig-economy workers. CT DOL plans to start accepting applications the week of May 4.

## FEDERAL STIMULUS

The IRS has been sending Economic Impact Payments of up to \$1,200 for individuals earning less than \$75,000 and \$2,400 for couples earning less than \$150,000 and \$500 for dependents. Those who don't earn enough to file a tax return or collect social security are still eligible. If you haven't received your payment, please check this website for a status update and to register your information: [www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment).

## COVID-19 RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

### HEALTH SERVICES

Increased testing is an integral part of making progress toward getting back to a less restricted lifestyle. The Rapid Testing Site center is opened at the former Gateway Community College campus in New Haven. You can find the link to register for a test on my webpage [www.housedems.ct.gov/Elliott](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Elliott).

Another new testing site can also be found at the Cornell Scott Hill Health Center at 226 Dixwell Avenue, open between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Pre-authorization from a doctor is still needed. You can also visit [CDC.gov](http://CDC.gov) for a list of symptoms or call the Quinnipiack Valley Health District with questions at 203-248-4528.

### SOCIAL SERVICES

DSS regularly provides COVID-19 updates with specific information for those who receive Medicaid/HUSKY Health, SNAP or other DSS programs. For that information, go to: [portal.ct.gov/DSS/Communications/DSS-Response-to-COVID-19](http://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Communications/DSS-Response-to-COVID-19).

Please also visit [www.hamden.com](http://www.hamden.com) for local resources.

### HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Dial 2-1-1, press #3 then #4 if you are in a housing emergency. Participating financial institutions are now offering mortgage payment forbearances of up to 90 days, allowing homeowners to reduce or delay mortgage payments. The Governor has also prohibited eviction notices and late fees for non-payment of rent until July 1st and granted a 60-day grace period for April and May rent. Municipalities are also required to enact options for providing temporary property tax forbearance with reduced interest on delinquent tax payments. If you are having difficulty with any of these issues and need to know your rights, a group of non-profit Connecticut legal aid organizations has posted helpful information at [www.CTLawHelp.org/coronavirus](http://www.CTLawHelp.org/coronavirus). There is also up-to-date information at [www.ctfairhousing.org](http://www.ctfairhousing.org).

## FOOD AND NUTRITION

### HAMDEN MEALS ON WHEELS:

For LifeBridge Community Services (Meals on Wheel)  
Call 203-752-9919 or email [seniorfoodservices@lifebridgect.org](mailto:seniorfoodservices@lifebridgect.org)

### SOUP KITCHEN AND FOOD PANTRY SERVICES:

[www.hamden.com/704/Free-Meal-Sites-in-Hamden](http://www.hamden.com/704/Free-Meal-Sites-in-Hamden)

TO APPLY FOR SNAP BENEFITS visit [ct.gov/DSS](http://ct.gov/DSS).

### FOR HOURS AND LOCATIONS OF "GRAB AND GO"

### LUNCHES FOR STUDENTS AND YOUTH:

[www.hamden.org/coronavirus/meal-distribution-information](http://www.hamden.org/coronavirus/meal-distribution-information)

## SENIOR SUPPORT

AARP has up-to-date information on the COVID crisis.

Go to [www.aarp.org/coronavirus](http://www.aarp.org/coronavirus) AARP hosts free, national Tele-Town Halls on the coronavirus every Thursday at 1pm (ET). Call toll-free to join the live event on Thursdays: 855-274-9507.

## TAX EXTENSIONS

The Connecticut Department of Revenue Services has extended filing and payment deadlines for personal income tax returns to July 15, 2020. This includes quarterly estimated income tax payments. There are also extensions until May 31st for sales and use tax payments made by businesses for March and April.

## BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

The state and federal government offer several programs to support small businesses which include no interest loans and grants to help meet costs such as payroll, rent, utilities, insurance and other expenses. For more information regarding these programs, please call the DECD small business hotline at 860-500-2333 or visit [ct.gov/decd](http://ct.gov/decd). The Small Business Administration (SBA) can also be reached at 1-800-659-2955.