

Update for Monday March 23rd

CDC website:

COVID-19: U.S. at a Glance updated **3/23 4p**:

- Total cases: 33,404
- Total deaths: 400
- Jurisdictions reporting cases: 54 (50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and US Virgin Islands)

Cases of COVID-19 Reported in the US, by Source of Exposure

Travel-related	449
Close contact	539
Under investigation	32,416
Total cases	33,404

Clinical guidance update

- 3/23: Patients with COVID-19 can be discharged from a healthcare facility whenever clinically indicated. Meeting criteria for discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions is not a prerequisite for discharge.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>

- 3/22: Guidance for therapeutic options for COVID-19 patients:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/therapeutic-options.html>

CT DPH website:

As of **3/23 4p** a total of **415** laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported among CT residents. 4,500 tests have been conducted statewide. 54 patients were hospitalized, and eight residents have died (5 in Fairfield County, 2 in Tolland County, and 1 in Hartford County).

You can find a more detailed breakdown here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/CTDPHCOVID19summary3232020.pdf?la=en>

- The CT Insurance Dept. announced the IRS will provide immediate and full reimbursement for COVID-19 medical leave costs (both the leave and the cost of the insurance)
- Gov. Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7H, No. 7I and No. 7J over the weekend:
 - No. 7H**
 - < Mandates that all businesses deemed “non-essential” eliminate the onsite presence of all employees. Here’s a list of “essential” businesses:
<https://www.ctpost.com/news/coronavirus/article/Full-list-of-essential-businesses-15149788.php>
 - < Mandates a “coordinated response effort” preventing any municipality from enacting any order that conflicts with the governor’s executive orders
 - No. 7I**
 - < Suspends requirements that public assistance eligibility reinvestigations be conducted at least every 12 or 24 months
 - < Suspends medication copays for full benefit dually eligible Medicare Part D beneficiaries
 - < Suspends copays for HUSKY B clients (does not apply to other forms of cost sharing)
 - < Suspends limitations on refills of non-maintenance medications for HUSKY beneficiaries
 - < Provides flexibility to the Student Data Privacy Act to allow online schooling
 - < Limits visitation with children placed in DCF care and custody
 - < Limits visitors to facilities that treat children/youth with psychiatric disabilities
 - < Waives in-person service, screening and hearing requirements for facilities that have limited visitor access
 - < Gives pharmacists discretion in refilling certain prescriptions for longer periods (non-controlled drugs only, up to 30-day max supply)
 - < Permits the Dept. of Consumer Protection to grant a waiver or modification of any regulation pertaining to the operation of a pharmacy
 - < Suspends in-person shareholder meeting requirements
 - < Extends/suspends/modifies a host of municipal requirements and deadlines
 - No. 7J**
 - < Provides clarification outlining “non-essential” business
 - < Extends the time period for fire service personnel examinations
 - < Allows delivery of Methadone to homebound patients by maintenance clinics
 - < Suspends rehiring procedures and restrictions on temporary worker retirees

< Modifies contracting and real property statutes to facilitate leasing, repairs, alterations and use of real property to help meet housing needs during the crisis

Press reports:

- UCONN Health Center has drive-thru testing as of 10a this morning. Here's a list of all drive-thru testing sites in CT:
https://www.wfsb.com/news/several-locations-offer-drive-up-coronavirus-testing/article_563e3e68-6ce9-11ea-8646-4f28cadd99e8.html
- Gov. Lamont said that hospitals around the region could run out of protective masks in about a week's time. He announced the state has received more than 100 inquiries from people interested in donating supplies.
- Gov. Lamont is asking residents to consider signing up for the CTAlert system for phone and text message update about emergency alerts in the state.
<https://www.ctalert.gov/ctalert/site/default.asp>
- FEMA will fund National Guard units being sent to states to aid in the fight.
- The federal government will be building large "alternate care sites" and sending supplies to the states hit hardest by the virus.
- David Lehman, Commissioner of the CT Dept. of Economic and Community Development said low-cost bridge loans would be rolled out to businesses sometime this week. Other initiatives are also being considered, including relief from utility payments and regulatory relief.
- The CT Department of Revenue Services (DRS) is extending the filing and payment deadline for personal income tax returns 90 days, to July 15, 2020. The extension also applies to Connecticut estimated income tax payments for the first and second quarters of 2020.
- The U.S. government, IBM and others are giving researchers world-wide access to at least 16 supercomputers to help speed the discovery of vaccines and drugs to combat the virus.
- In response to rumors and scams circulating amid the outbreak, FEMA launched a webpage aimed at debunking some of the claims:
<https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus-rumor-control>