



Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 1:18 PM

Subject: Commissioner's Weekly Coronavirus Update – April 6, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

It has been about a month since Governor Lamont declared the COVID-19 public health emergency and I continue to be overwhelmed and proud of our team's response and fortitude during this time of crisis. Your unrelenting commitment to the people of Connecticut continues to be noticed and sincerely appreciated.

Many reports indicate that the worst of this pandemic could start to hit in mid-April, so our ability to safely continue operations in support of the essential transport of people and goods will be particularly important in the weeks ahead.

Since information is critical during this public health emergency, we have created a COVID information hub for **DOT employees** on our website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/StaffCOVID/Info>. The Staff COVID webpage is intended to serve as a one-stop shop for all information related to DOT COVID announcements, including messages from me and Human Resources, and other state COVID resources. Be sure to bookmark the page and share with your teams.

Each week I hope to share some additional information on our COVID response and actions, which I hope you will find useful. Please know, we will continue to make safety our number one priority as we move forward together through this crisis.

Sincerely,

Joe Giulietti
Commissioner

DOT Developments

- ***New* COVID Info Hub for DOT Employees.** With more of our workforce teleworking and others in the field with limited access to our intranet, we've created a webpage to serve as a one-stop shop for all information related to COVID announcements from DOT. Check it out [here](#).
- **Staggering Maintenance Shifts.** Last week, to increase safety and avoid disruptions or impact to highway operations we adjusted highway maintenance staffing shifts.

- **Protective Gear & Supplies.** Since the public health crisis started, we have and continue to request for PPE and cleaning supplies. With a shipment of masks received by CTDOT, we are distributing more than 1,700 masks to our maintainers and rest area attendants, all of whom are unable to telework and continue to work day in and day out to keep the traveling public safe. We've also made more than 200 masks available to field staff or employees that are required to go into the field in the Bureau of Finance & Administration and the Bureau of Engineering & Construction.
- **Highway Operations Facility Cleaning.** We have initiated the process to have a cleaning company perform additional cleaning at all Highway Operations facilities as a preventative measure to supplement routine disinfecting and sanitizing of high touch and common areas at our facilities.
- **Service Suspensions.** We have announced the following service changes related to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - With reduced ridership, we are taking the opportunity to expedite infrastructure improvements on the Waterbury Branch rail line by substituting the rail service with bus service starting April 6.
 - The two Connecticut River ferries (between Glastonbury and Rocky Hill, and Chester and Hadlyme) have been suspended indefinitely as of April 1.
 - Four service plazas on Route 15/Merritt Parkway (New Canaan and Orange) were closed as of March 30.

Recent HR Announcements

- **Families First Coronavirus Response Act.** Last week, HR shared that under new federal regulations that went into effect April 1st, some employees may be eligible for paid leave related to COVID-19 if they are unable to work or telework under certain conditions. You can read more [here](#). If you have questions, please contact your HR representative.
- **Timesheets Reminder.** With many teleworking, remember to use Microsoft Internet Explorer or Microsoft EDGE browser when interacting with CORE-CT.

DOT in the News

[State sees dramatic drop in traffic as residents 'stay safe, stay home'](#) – *CT Mirror* [4/6/2020]

If you are still getting meeting or appointment notices on your phone, the chances are very good that they include the advisory: "The traffic is light." ... Data compiled by the **State Department of Transportation** show that from early March through the end of the month, traffic volume on most roads was down 40 to 50 percent on weekdays and as much as 70 percent on weekends....

[Coronavirus Docks Nation's Oldest Continuously Operating Ferry](#) – *Glastonbury PATCH* [4/2/2020]

Concerns over the new coronavirus have left America's oldest continuously operating ferry at the dock for now. The ferry usually operates from April 1 through Nov. 30.... "The ferry will not open and will be closed indefinitely until further notice, due to the COVID 19 situation," according to a notice on the [state Department of Transportation's](#) ferry website. (Story also covered by [WFSB](#) 3/30/2020)

[DOT adjusts train schedule as ridership falls](#) – *Hartford Business Journal* [4/1/2020]

Ridership on buses and trains run by Connecticut's Department of Transportation has dropped significantly, as schedules are being truncated and more than half of DOT's staff works from home amid the COVID-19 crisis...

[Coronavirus switches trains with buses on Waterbury Line](#) – *CT Post* [4/1/2020]

A decrease in ridership caused by the coronavirus, has caused officials to substitute buses for rail cars. The bus service starts Monday... The DOT also announced increased cleaning of buses and trains to keep frontline employees and customers safe.

[Eerie Images Show Connecticut Highways Nearly Deserted Amid COVID-19 Outbreak](#) - *NBC30*
[4/1/2020]

Rush hour in Connecticut looks very different than it did a few weeks ago... NBC Connecticut analyzed traffic data from the Connecticut Department of Transportation's continuous count stations around the state....