



Monday, April 20, 2020 11:35 AM

Subject: Commissioner's Weekly Coronavirus Update – April 20, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, again, we were reminded that not all heroes wear capes, sometimes they wear yellow vests and hard hats labeled CTDOT. In yet another example of CTDOT's essential and undeniable role in supporting our state response to COVID-19, members of our team answered the call to help stand up a rapid COVID-19 testing center at the former Gateway Community College campus in New Haven. In sincere appreciation, the Governor thanked CTDOT for the instrumental role our workers played in setting up this State of Connecticut – CVS Health testing site. To every member of the team that worked on this project – I thank you. You've distinguished yourselves and this department, and a very grateful state thanks you. In case you missed, here's a video put together by the Connecticut State Police:



If you are having trouble viewing the video from your computer, try watching from [here](#).

On Friday, the Governor issued an Executive Order requiring everyone to **wear face coverings in public or when close contact is unavoidable**, unless doing so would be contrary to one's health or safety due to a medical condition. The directive also requires wearing face covering on public transportation. I know our staff have many questions about what this means for them. We are exploring additional types of face coverings to best serve our workforce, in addition to the many surgical masks we've distributed to many and cloth masks disseminated to our maintainers and other field crews. Please stay tuned, there will be more on this shortly.

This week, we are also recognizing **National Work Zone Awareness Week from April 20 – 24, 2020**. While there may be less traffic on our roads because of “Stay Safe, Stay Home,” work zones still face considerable safety risks. Now, more than ever, as everyone is doing their part to stop the spread of COVID-19, we are encouraging the public to slow down, save lives, and do their part to keep work zones safe.

In the meantime, I want to again thank everyone for their hard work and dedication. Last week, I asked you to [email me](#) and tell me stories, share pictures about the work you are doing during this crisis. (Keep on sending them in!) Remember, you can find more information related to COVID announcements on employee webpage: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/StaffCOVID/Info>.

Please know, the health and safety of our CTDOT family continues to be my top priority and together, we will get through this difficult public health emergency.

Sincerely,

Joe Giulietti
Commissioner

CTDOT Developments

#SoundTheHorn. To pay tribute to all heroic transportation workers across the country, last Thursday, CTtransit and our rail operators joined transit agencies from across the country in two, one-second horn blasts simultaneously, at 3pm on April 16th.

HR Updates

Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) – last week updated information about this leave program was distributed, you can find more [here](#).

DOT in the News



[Major coronavirus testing site now open in New Haven](#) –*New Haven Register* [April 18, 2020]

A large testing site for COVID-19 stands ready to greet its first patient this morning in the latest partnership between CVS and Abbott Laboratories that officials hope begins to fill a huge need...Emmanuel Kolady, senior vice president of CVS, toured the large parking lot and medical tent that was set up in one week’s time through the efforts of the Connecticut National Guard, the state Department of Emergency Management/Homeland Security, the state **Department of Transportation** and local public safety personnel.

[COVID-19 Closures Ease Roadwork Constraints, Says Connecticut Department of Transportation](#) – *CT Examiner* [April 16, 2020]

Efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 have led to significant work slowdowns across many parts of the economy over the last six weeks, but with half the usual traffic on roads across Connecticut, the state **Department of Transportation** says that it has taken the opportunity to increase road work efficiency....

[#SoundtheHorn honors transit workers in CT, across the country during coronavirus pandemic](#) – *News8 WTNH* [April 16, 2020]

Horns blew across the state and the country around 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon to honor transit workers during the pandemic. In a small ceremony this afternoon at New Haven train station, Rich Andreski with the **Connecticut Department of Transportation** said behind every bus driver and conductor on the front line, is a crew less noticed...

[Food trucks allowed to serve 4 CT rest areas during coronavirus pandemic](#)—*Hartford Business Journal* [April 13, 2020]

Food trucks are now permitted to operate at four Connecticut highway rest areas in an effort by the state to feed hungry truckers and other essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic... The order calls for the state **Department of Transportation (DOT)** to open rest areas in Wallingford and Middletown on I-91, in Danbury on I-84 and North Stonington on I-95 for food truck sales...