



Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020, 1:42 PM  
Subject: Commissioner's Weekly Coronavirus Update – April 27, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Many of you may have seen in the news, the Governor has reported that Connecticut is beginning to show signs of “flattening the curve” as the spread of the coronavirus is becoming more controlled through a number of measures, including social distancing. This is very welcome news. However as we continue to be reminded, Connecticut is far from being out of harm’s way.

As state leaders start to look at ways to ‘reopen Connecticut,’ last week members of our leadership team launched a steering committee and several working groups to plan for post-COVID operations here, including the safe transition of many CTDOT employees back into an office environment. There will be much more on this in the weeks to come, including an opportunity to share your thoughts as employees. But in the meantime, please know your health and safety continue to be our number one priority.

As you know, CTDOT implemented [a face covering requirement when social distancing is not possible](#) last week, in response to the Governor’s Executive Order on face protection. That means that unless you can’t wear a mask because of a medical condition, all employees—whether in the field or in the office—must wear a face covering if you can’t be more than 6 feet apart. (Some of our mask wearing workforce below, including a big shout out by the Governor in a tweet of our Sign Shop hard at work fabricating mask decals for public transit.)



**Governor Ned Lamont** @GovNedLamont

Many workers at hospitals, nursing homes, grocery stores and other places depend on public transit to get to their jobs.

CTDOT will be putting up these signs reminding customers to wear face coverings on buses and trains.

Please reserve public transit for essential travel only.



6:09 PM · Apr 22, 2020 · Twitter Web App



As an agency, we continue to adapt the way we work and be responsive to the state's fight against COVID-19. I want to thank you for your continued efforts to keep striving and accomplishing good work during this public health crisis. I appreciate all of the stories and pictures you have [emailed to me](#) – please keep them coming. And remember, you can find more information related to COVID announcements on the employee webpage: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/StaffCOVID/Info>, which now includes [Safety Bulletins](#).

As you have proven time and time again, there is nothing that can stop this team. We will continue to move forward together. And we will get through this.

Sincerely,

Joe Giulietti  
Commissioner

### **HR Updates**

**Face Coverings.** Last week, HR informed staff that you are [required to wear a face covering if you are unable to social distance](#) when working. A guide on how to [properly put on and remove a face mask](#) was also distributed in case helpful.

### **DOT in the News**

[Fighting coronavirus is tough in Hartford and other cities, where apartments, crowded buses and extended families make social distancing a challenge](#) – *Hartford Courant* [April 27, 2020]

...As infections and deaths in cities like Hartford continue to climb, officials are increasingly focusing on how social distancing poses an extra challenge to those navigating multi-generational households, crowded buses, streets dotted with open bodegas and elevators and hallways that make six foot buffers impossible....The **state Department of Transportation** has added physical barriers to 100 buses to protect drivers, and put signs on all buses instructing passengers to social distance....

[Mandatory masks: Who will enforce the governor's order?](#)—*The Day* [April 25, 2020]

Under an executive order issued by Gov. Ned Lamont, residents of Connecticut are required to wear masks or cloth face coverings whenever they come within 6 feet of another person in a public place....The **state Department of Transportation** and transit operators are promoting social distancing with signs and social media posts, and operators are reminding riders to wear a face mask or covering. That's in addition to other measures, including shifting customer boarding to the rear door, using helper buses to reduce crowding, frequent sanitization and using driver partitions.

[Food trucks help feed truckers along I-91 in Wallingford](#)—*Meriden Record Journal* [April 23, 2020]

...To help the drivers during this critical time, the **state Department of Transportation** has called on food trucks to set up at four highway rest stops that don't normally offer food, including along I-91 in Middletown and Wallingford....Wayne Storms, of New York, said finding food has become increasingly difficult for tractor trailer drivers. So far, Connecticut is the only state he's passed through that's brought in food trucks to help.

[Coronavirus cuts Connecticut highway traffic in half](#) – *Hartford Courant* [April 22, 2020]

The coronavirus pandemic has cut traffic on state highways to 50% of typical volume, allowing maintenance and construction crews to do more work...In normal times, the **state Department of Transportation** limits work zone lane closures...“As a consequence of COVID-19 and the precipitous drop in traffic volumes,” Nursick said, “we have been able to expand allowable lane closure time frames, durations and scopes, with no negative consequences, allowing for more productive construction activities.”

[Respirator mask reuse possible with decontamination site in New Haven](#)—*WTNH* [April 22, 2020]

A new system for sanitizing those crucial N-95 masks is now up and running in New Haven. It is a game changer when it comes to getting doctors and nurses enough of the personal protective equipment they need. They set it up in the garage of an old **Department of Transportation** building on Chapel Street in New Haven. It looks like a shipping container on the outside, but on the inside, they are able to sanitize those N95 masks so they can be re-used.