



Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020, 2:25 PM

Subject: Commissioner's Weekly Coronavirus Update – May 4, 2020



Dear Colleagues,

Like so many of you, I'm eagerly awaiting a return to normalcy as we move past the two-month mark of this declared public health emergency. No matter how eager we are to return to our regular routine at work and at home, we cannot rush it. For us at CTDOT, we will continue to thoughtfully adjust our operations to both protect the health and wellbeing of our employees and to support the essential services we are providing the people of Connecticut.

I understand that the gradual transition back from COVID-19 will impact many aspects of the way we work. As I've mentioned previously, CTDOT launched a steering committee to plan for post-COVID operations at the Department under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Mark Rolfe. Specific working groups made up of both staff and management have been tasked with examining employee issues related to reentry in the workplace. Work groups focused on **HQ building operations, business operations, and satellite facility operations** have been established. These work groups will be guided by **Health & Safety** and developed into a communications plan to keep all informed. There will be much more to share as the working groups propose solutions and move toward implementation, so stay tuned for more communications in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, **HR shared last week that telework for approved employees has been extended through the end of May.**

There is no question that COVID-19 has tested us and our ability to respond to an incredibly difficult situation. Again, I want you to know how much your work is appreciated. And yes – **please keep sharing stories and pictures of members of your team that continue to go above and beyond.** Just send me an

[email](#). And remember, you can find more information related to COVID announcements on the employee webpage: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/StaffCOVID/Info>, which includes [Safety Bulletins](#).

With your help and contributions, there is nothing that can stop this amazing team.

Sincerely,

Joe Giuliatti
Commissioner

HR Updates

Updated Telework Guidance. Last week, HR circulated [updated information](#) for employees approved to telework due to COVID-19, which has been extended through the end of May for the time being.

DOT in the News

[State traffic down 50% on average during the pandemic](#)—*The Day* [May 2, 2020]

As more people stay at home during the pandemic, traffic volumes on state highways have dropped significantly to an average of 50%, and even lower in areas of southeastern Connecticut. Fewer cars on the roads has led to a host of impacts for the state's transportation system. Crews are able to work more efficiently on construction projects. But it also means fewer gas tax dollars for the Special Transportation Fund. The **state Department of Transportation** also is reporting an uptick in speeding on highways and is urging drivers to maintain safe speeds...

[Federal and State Governments Adjust to Support Truck Drivers](#)—*CTNewsJunkie* [April 29, 2020]

While the federal government and the states have found ways to support truck drivers during the COVID-19 emergency, it's clear that drivers are still facing challenges on the road as most of the country has hunkered down at home to avoid spreading the disease...To help with this problem, the **Connecticut Department of Transportation** and the Federal Highway Administration has allowed food trucks to serve food in state-owned rest areas, which is normally not permitted under federal law. "Connecticut was one of the first states to do that," Sculley said. "They jumped right on it."