



Monday, June 15, 2020, 3:25 PM

Subject: Commissioner's Weekly Coronavirus Update – June 15, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As more sectors of the state prepare to reopen this week as part of Connecticut's Phase II reopening, the Governor's Office has provided additional guidance to state agencies for re-opening planning. Our COVID Steering Committee is working hard to review the state guidance in addition to feedback from the CTDOT employee survey to plan for our Department's "Phase II."

The Governor's Office knows our employees are working hard and have been since this pandemic began. They believe, as we do, that telework continues to be the best option for many employees as we continue to work towards a COVID-safe workplace in all work environments. As I have stated before, **authorized employees will continue to work remotely until otherwise instructed.**

As our COVID Steering Committee continues their work, I wanted to take this opportunity to share the **employee survey results** ([see attached](#)). We received an excellent participation rate from all our divisions. For many of our employees, you are not alone in your concerns. Overall, our workforce is worried about COVID exposures in the workplace, especially in high touch, common use areas—from restrooms to breakrooms. You are worried about the ability to social distance, the availability of masks and supplies, and the potential exposures to your loved ones at home who are high risk. CTDOT is a team, which likely points to why the overwhelming majority of our employees understand the importance of wearing a face covering and disinfecting work areas—for the benefit of everyone here at CTDOT. And with nearly 500 comments and suggestions submitted by employees for review and consideration, that tells me our employees really are dedicated to creating the most healthy and safe work environment possible. Your perspectives are so important for informing our path forward, so again I want to thank everyone for their participation.

Among some of the employee feedback was the request for more health and safety guidance and directives. Today, you were emailed a number of Safety Directives by CTDOT's Safety Director Jim Ritter. The guidance and direction in these documents are so important, so please be sure to review and adhere to them. I've also reattached them to this email in case helpful.

In the meantime, keep those great pictures and stories coming my way – 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 also includes [Safety Bulletins](#).

Thank you for all that you do – day in and day out. Stay safe.

Sincerely,

Joe Giulietti
Commissioner

DOT in the News

Dept. of Transportation holds poster contest—*Wilton Bulletin* [June 15, 2020]

The **Connecticut Department of Transportation** has initiated a poster contest for kindergarten through fifth grade schoolchildren to recognize and thank bus drivers and other public transit workers who have become “heroes moving heroes” and “essential workers on wheels” during the coronavirus pandemic.

The coronavirus has sunk public transportation ridership. Will it come back?—*Hartford Business Journal* (June 15, 2020)

... In mid-March, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced business shutdowns and social-distancing requirements, ridership on Connecticut’s public transit system plummeted: bus service use dropped by about 60%, while Hartford Line rail service ridership fell nearly 95%... “It’s an absolutely critical service,” said **Garrett Eucalitto, deputy commissioner of the state Department of Transportation**. “We are going to do everything we can to make our passengers feel as comfortable as possible coming back to our services.” Since Connecticut’s public transit ridership hit its nadir in March, passenger counts have slowly increased, said **Rich Andreski, bureau chief of public transportation at the DOT**. Bus ridership is currently down about 40%, while rail ridership is still down 90%.