

Town of Columbia

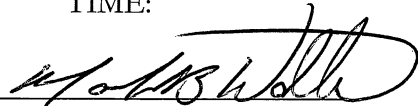
Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergency

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Sections 2S-Sa(a), 2S-1(S), and 2S-22 and as a result of the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease (coronavirus) that has resulted in the spread of infections, I hereby declare that a public health and civil preparedness emergency exists in the Town of Columbia.

Town Administrator: Mark B. Walter

DATE: March 13, 2020


TIME:

Signature: 

First Selectman: Steven M. Everett

DATE: March 13, 2020

TIME:

Signature: 

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

323 Jonathan Trumbull Highway, Columbia, CT 06237
(860) 228-0110 FAX: (860) 228-1952

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

Town of Columbia

Release

March 13, 2020 at 2:00pm

The Town of Columbia is monitoring the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and are engaged in constant communications with local and state public health and safety officials. The health of our residents, staff, and families are our top priority. To be proactive, I am declaring a Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergency, as this situation is ever-changing, and we would like to be ahead of the curve as needs arise. Realize these are precautionary measures to minimize the spread of this virus.

We will be closing our Town Offices and the Beckish Senior Center to the public which coincides with the Horace W. Porter Schools closing schedule from March 13, 2020 and we will re-open on March 30, 2020. The Saxton B. Little Library will be closed to the public as of Monday, March 16, 2020 until further notice.

Town offices and Senior Center will be staffed, for business to be conducted please contact us via phone, internet or mail. The Town departments contact information are located at the end of this document.

Transfer Station will be operating as normal.

If you have specific needs, please contact our offices and we will assist you in any way we can.

For updated information on COVID-19 please visit the State of Connecticut's website at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>

Please note that we are implementing the following protocols in response to COVID-19 out of caution:

For our Columbia community:

- Please do not panic. We recognize that the majority of people will be okay, but we are taking these actions to protect our most vulnerable citizens who are at higher risk. These include those age 70 or older, and/or those with chronic conditions or weakened immune systems. If you fall into one of these categories, you are strongly encouraged not to attend meetings or events with large numbers of people.
- We are working to increase our cleaning procedures for all municipal facilities including raising the frequency and intensity of disinfection. Common touchpoints such as doorknobs and handles shall receive special attention.

- The Senior Center will be temporarily closed to the public, beginning March 13, until March 30, 2020; however, we are also working on proactive measures and assistance to specifically aid our Seniors.
- Please reconsider attending large gatherings. This situation is constantly evolving. Right now, the guidance from the State of Connecticut stipulates that you are to avoid gatherings of 100 people or more, but this number is ever-changing. If you are planning to attend an event where you will be in close proximity to many other people, please consider skipping it.


We are recommending the following controls to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in our workplaces and schools:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- You should stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Obtain a flu vaccine.

We will continue to provide updates on this evolving situation. Again, for more information on COVID-19 please visit the State of Connecticut's website at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>

Department	Phone
Town Administrator	860-228-0110
Town Clerk	860-228-3284
Assessor	860-228-9555
Beckish Senior Center	860-228-0759
Building/Land Use Department	860-228-0440
Finance Department	860-228-8423
Public Works	860-228-4270

Sincerely,



Steven M. Everett
First Selectman

CC: Board of Selectman
Columbia Board of Education
Maria Geryk, Superintendent of Schools
Peter Starkel, Fire Chief
Rob Miller, Eastern Highlands Health District Director