

Vernon-Rockville COVID-19 Resource Guide

This is a document intended to compile resources and information related to the COVID-19 outbreak. This is a critical moment in our country, and millions of people are stepping up to find solutions, offer help, and provide information.

Consider this incomplete and unofficial at all times -- I do not work for the town, I am only trying to be helpful. This is ONLY a collection of already-announced information. I am not responsible for decisions affecting the town, and this is not the place where announcements will be made.

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To Add to This Document:

If you have items to add to this document, please send me a Facebook message (<https://www.facebook.com/JuliaKateA>). If you do not have Facebook, you can email me at juliakate24@gmail.com. Please include a link to verify! I cannot monitor this page/these platforms constantly, so please be patient with me.

I reserve the right to determine what goes in this guide.

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CLOSURES, SERVICE & HOURS ADJUSTMENTS

Schools

- **Vernon Public Schools:** Per Governor Lamont's Executive Order #7C, the Vernon Public Schools will be closed through the end of March, from Monday, March 16th through Tuesday, March 31, 2020.
 - **Supplemental Learning:** <https://sites.google.com/vernonschools.org/vpsonline/home>
 - **Vernon Public School Activities and Events:** All Vernon Public School activities and events are cancelled from Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, March 27, 2020. Individual communications will be coming from school administration about certain events, i.e. SAT Day which is canceled on March 25th, etc.¹

Religious Organizations

- **Minhaj-ul-Quran Al Noor Islamic Center** kids' classes, programs, and Sunday School, as well as some prayers have been [cancelled](#).
- **Rockville United Methodist Church** is [closed](#).
- **Trinity Lutheran Church** in-person services are [cancelled](#) through March 29th, but are available online.
- **Beth Sholom B'nai Israel** services are [cancelled](#).
- **Crossroads Community Church** services are [cancelled](#).

Public Spaces & Activities

- **The Rockville Public Library:** The library will be closed beginning at 4pm, Friday March 13, 2020 until such a time when it is deemed safe to resume operation. At this time, we are suspending late fees until the library reopens. All programs and public meetings are cancelled. Our physical services will be suspended, but we will continue to answer phone calls and emails in response to requests for information. Books may be returned to the outside library book drop. Patrons can also download digital services, such as eBooks, eAudiobooks, and [more from the library](#).²
- **The Vernon Senior Center:** Effective Friday, March 13, 2020 at 4:00 pm, and in consultation with the Vernon Senior Center Advisory Board, the Vernon Senior Center, located at 135 Bolton Road will close until further notice.³
- **Parks and Recreation:** Effective Friday, March 13, 2020 at 6:00 pm, all Vernon Parks and Recreation Department programs and activities are cancelled until further notice.⁴
- **All Nursing Home Facilities, Residential Care Facilities, or Chronic Disease Hospital Visitation is banned:** The Governor signed [Executive Order 7A](#) to protect the elderly and immunocompromised in our state.
- **All Psychiatric Facility Visitation is banned:** The Governor signed [Executive Order 7C](#) to protect the elderly and immunocompromised in our state.

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- **Cornerstone Foundation** Teen Center and playgroup are [cancelled](#).
 - **Indian Valley YMCA:** Starting on Monday, March 16, all of our YMCA of Greater Hartford branches will pause all classes and programs. This includes group exercise classes, youth sports, swim lessons, teams, babysitting programs (Child Watch & Amazing Kids) and more. The YMCA will reevaluate the situation, and make a decision to restart Spring 1 programs by Sunday, March 29.⁵
 - **TKB Club Bingo** is cancelled for the next 2 Sundays (as of 3/16/20).

Restaurants & Businesses

The Governor of Connecticut [has announced](#) that all bars, restaurants, movie theaters, casinos, and gyms must close to the public at 8pm Monday (3/16/20). New York and New Jersey have identical policies going into effect. Takeout and food delivery are still allowed.

If you have information about how any businesses or restaurants are responding, please contact me so I can add it to this guide.

- **American Eagle Credit Union:** Drive-Thru and ATM only.
- **Angellino's Italian Restaurant** is offering [curbside pickup](#) with debit or credit cards. Call ahead to order.
- **Anthony's** is offering [takeout options](#), and has adjusted hours. Sunday-Monday, 11am-7pm; Friday-Saturday, 11am-8pm.
- **Cafe Aura** is offering curbside takeout.
- **Chipotle** is offering both takeout and free delivery (when ordered through their website or app).
- **Elmo's Dockside** offers [takeout options](#).
- **Friendly's - Vernon** is offering pickup & takeout services.
- **Georgina's Restaurant** is offering [curbside pickup](#).
- **Great Harvest Bread Company** is offering to [takeout, curbside, and DoorDash online, and ezCatering](#). They are working on a full-service delivery for their complete line of products and hope to have it in place soon.
- **Jamaican Kitchen** is offering [online ordering](#) with quick in-store pickup.
- **Luna Piercing and Fine Jewelry** is closed.
- **OKI Asian Bistro** is closed.
- **Perfect Piece Furniture Consignment** is [closed](#).
- **PhoLy** is offering delivery in addition to order pickup starting on 3/17. For details, see [their Facebook post](#).
- **Rein's Deli** is [offering takeout/curbside service](#) only from 7am-7:30pm.
- **Steve's Bagels** will bring [called-in orders](#) to your car.
- **Stop & Shop:** Effective immediately, Stop & Shop has announced that all stores will have their hours adjusted to 7:30am-8pm so that staff can effectively restock shelves. Pickup services are temporarily suspended. There are delays in at-home delivery due to increased demand.⁶ Stores are open from 6:00am-7:30am for only those age 60+ to protect the most vulnerable.

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- **Walmart:** Walmart stores and Neighborhood Markets will be open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. until further notice. This will help ensure associates are able to stock the products our customers are looking for and to perform cleaning and sanitizing. Stores currently operating under more reduced hours (for example they regularly close at 10 p.m. or open at 7 a.m.) will keep their current hours of operation.⁷

LOCAL RESOURCES

Alcoholics Anonymous E-Meetings

- Pause A is hosting a free conference call AA meeting daily at 2pm. The dial-in is 425-436-6360, and the access code is 432932#. If you are able to chair a meeting, email pauldart@pauseawhile.org.
- Additional [online AA resources available here](#).

Free Meals for Students

The Food & Nutrition Services Department will be providing free meals to all Vernon Public School Students Monday-Friday through the emergency closure.

- Meal Site: Vernon Center Middle School, Door #5
- Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday, 9am-11am, during school closure
- Meals Served: Breakfast & Lunch
- Meal Style: Drive up, Grab & Go

Complete, bagged meals will be provided to all *Vernon Public School students* at NO COST. Families may collect breakfast and lunch at the same time. The family must provide the student's name (and the name must be verified) to obtain meals. Once a Vernon Public School student is identified, all children in the household are eligible for meals. One breakfast and lunch per child per day. Children do not need to be present to collect the meals. No meals are available for adults.

Further details and a map for pickup available here: <https://www.vernonpublicschools.org/covid-19>

ALERT Vernon

[Sign up](#) for texts about community emergencies and important community news.

Hockanum Valley Community Council

- **Pantry:** The Pantry will remain open during its regular hours. However, shopping will be discontinued. Instead we will prepare premade bags of food available for pick up during normal Pantry hours. Upon arrival go to the loading dock and you will be greeted by HVCC personnel who will issue food to you in premade bags. We are making every effort to provide as much food (and variety) as we can. We cannot individualize the bags, but rest assured we will package the

same amounts in each bag that you are normally permitted to take. We are controlling our inventory the best we can to ensure we have food for all of our clients. Clients and visitors will not be permitted in the pantry.

- Hours:
 - Monday 2-5pm
 - Wednesday 9am-noon, 3-6pm
 - Thursday 9am-1pm
 - Friday 9am-noon
- **Workshops:** Based on new guidance from the CDC, HVCC is postponing in-person, non-essential events and meetings that are open to the general public, whether on- or off-site, until after March 31.
- **Clinic:** For now, the clinic remains open and fully operational. If you are experiencing any signs of fever and/or respiratory illness, please do not come to the office. If you do, we will send you home and we will ask you to wait three weeks before returning to the office. If you cannot attend a medical appointment due to illness or self-quarantine and require refills of your medications, please contact the office for instructions on refills.⁸

Cornerstone Foundation

- **Soup Kitchen Meals to Go:** 15 Prospect Street
 - Lunch is served at 11:30am, Monday-Sunday
 - Dinner is served at 5:00pm, Monday-Friday
- **Food Cupboard:** Offers pre-made bags for pickup, 3 Prospect Street
 - Tuesday: 9am-noon
 - Saturday: noon-2pm
- Call for information: 860-871-1823

Mobile Foodshare

Mobile Foodshare is a pantry-on-wheels that brings fresh produce and other food to our neighbors in need. Food choices vary, but usually include produce. Bring a bag or box to carry your food.

- 3/17/20: Park West Apartments, 24 Terrace Drive, 1pm
- 3/19/20: 25 St. Bernard's Terrace, 10:15am

STATE RESOURCES

Accurate Coronavirus Connecticut Updates

Look for regular updates on the CT Coronavirus Page: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>

The CT Department of Labor & Unemployment

The [CT Department of Labor put out a Coronavirus Guide](#) to unemployment, paid sick leave, the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), wages, and information for employees and employers.

Some important points:

- Everyone who is currently out of work due to the pandemic is encouraged to file for unemployment ASAP.
- Connecticut is one of six states that doesn't have a waiting period for workers eligible to receive benefits.
- Make sure your employer provides you with a RETURN TO WORK DATE even if that date needs to be extended later. A return to work date on documentation from employers allows DOL to automatically process your application.
- School employees who might otherwise be ineligible for unemployment during school breaks and summer vacation are eligible if furloughed or laid off because of school closings.
- Prorated unemployment benefits, up to 60%, are available to eligible employees who have their hours cut.
- A hotline will be up and running mid-week to answer callers with claim questions.

No Electric, Gas, or Water Shutoffs

Attorney General William Tong announced that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority has granted an emergency moratorium on electric, natural gas, and water utility shut-offs in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The Office of the Attorney General filed a formal petition Thursday seeking to cease all utility service terminations for a 30 day period subject to renewal to ensure all residents may safely remain home during the epidemic.⁹

Telemedicine Coverage for those with Medicaid/HUSKY

The Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) is implementing changes in Medicaid/HUSKY Health that will support Connecticut's COVID-19 preparedness and response through increased access to health services. Specifically, for approximately 850,000 enrolled residents, DSS will cover identified telemedicine services, effective today.

DSS is also planning to cover testing for COVID-19; make prescription drug coverage more flexible; and eliminate cost sharing in the Children's Health Insurance Program (HUSKY B) and for members enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid.

At this time, telemedicine coverage includes:

- Real-time video conferencing, as can be enabled with a smart phone, between HUSKY Health members and their health care providers for specific medical and behavioral health services. This will enable many members and doctors to communicate remotely, with Medicaid covering the virtual visit.
- Broadening video conferencing in general to include all primary care type evaluation and management services for medical and behavioral health.

Schools' 180 Day Waiver

Governor Lamont Signed an 180-Day Waiver. The waiver means that regardless of how many weeks of school is missed, makeup days at the end of the year must be added, but not to extend past June 30. This is the case, even if the 2019-2020 school year results in less than 180 days. It does not mean that school automatically ends on the date of your original school calendar without makeup days.¹⁰

Extension for DMV Credential Renewals

The Department of Motor Vehicles – acting on the recent Declaration signed by Governor Ned Lamont – now offers an extension period to Connecticut residents with expiring credentials. Eligible DMV credentials that expire between March 10, 2020 and June 8, 2020 are automatically covered by this extension. The extension is effective immediately.

The extension includes all Connecticut driver's licenses, learner's permits, and identity cards. In addition to extending the expiration date of DMV credentials, late fees associated with eligible expired credentials will also be waived during the extension period. For answers to questions, updates, or more information about the credential extension, please call the contact center at 860-263-5700 (within Hartford area) and 1-800-842-8222 (all other parts of Connecticut).¹¹

Extension of Filing Deadline for Certain Annual State Business Tax Returns

Consistent with the emergency declarations signed by Governor Lamont, the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS) is granting an automatic extension of Connecticut filing deadlines for certain annual state tax returns as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.¹²

Effective immediately, the filing deadlines for certain annual tax returns due on or after March 15, 2020, and before June 1, 2020, are extended by 30 days. In addition, the payments associated with these returns are also extended to the corresponding due date in June.

The impacted returns and the associated filing dates and payment deadlines are set forth below:

- 2019 Form CT-1065/CT-1120 SI Connecticut Pass-Through Entity Tax Return – filing date extended to April 15, 2020; payment deadline extended to June 15, 2020
- 2019 Form CT-990T Connecticut Unrelated Business Income Tax Return – filing date extended to June 15, 2020; payment deadline extended to June 15, 2020
- 2019 Form CT-1120 and CT-1120CU Connecticut Corporation Business Return - filing date extended to June 15, 2020; payment deadline extended to June 15, 2020

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Free Internet

With an increasing number of school closures and families staying home to protect against COVID-19, several internet providers in Connecticut are stepping up to ensure that families have the access they need to conduct business and complete schoolwork.

As part of the Federal Communication Commission's [Keep Americans Connected Pledge](#) launched on March 12, eight internet service providers in Connecticut have committed to not terminating business or residential service, or charging late fees for anyone who can't pay their bill due to hardship caused by COVID-19. They also have committed to provide Wi-Fi hot spots to any American that needs them. These pledge commitments will be in place for at least a 60-day period.

Connecticut providers that have signed the pledge include Comcast, Frontier, Altice (Optimum), Charter (Spectrum), Cox, Atlantic, Verizon, and AT&T.

In addition to signing the pledge, several companies are providing additional resources. Some of these include:

- Comcast announced [a plan to ensure low-income families have internet access](#) that will be effective as of March 16. The benefits include 60 days of free service for new Comcast customers, and higher internet speeds for all qualifying customers. Families can check their eligibility and learn more about available programs at www.internetessentials.com.
- [Altice](#) and [Charter](#) are offering 60 days of free broadband to households with K-12 and college students who have been impacted by COVID-19 and not already subscribers to their services with no installation fees.
- AT&T is [waiving home internet data caps](#) during the entire COVID-19 outbreak.

Businesses and families in Connecticut that need assistance are encouraged to contact their service provider to see what programs they may have available to be supportive during this time.¹³

GENERAL INFORMATION

If You Think You Have COVID-19

Please review the [Center for Disease Control's page](#) on what to do if you think you are sick. (*I am not a doctor - do not consider this medical advice from me*).

Why Social Distancing Is Important

The Washington Post did an article with [simulations on why social distancing is essential](#) in a crisis.

Something to Do: Take the Census

The Census happens every decade in the United States and is a critical source of data that will impact our community. Connecticut gets \$2,900 of FEDERAL money (saves you money on taxes!) for every person counted in the census.

Learn more and take the Census: <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html>

Endnotes

1. <https://sites.google.com/vernonschools.org/vponline/home>
2. http://www.vernon-ct.gov/files/Main%20Page/2020/Coronavirus/Vernon_OEM_Press%20Release_COVID19_FINAL_v03122020.pdf
3. http://www.vernon-ct.gov/files/Main%20Page/2020/Coronavirus/Vernon_OEM_Press%20Release_COVID19_FINAL_v03122020.pdf
4. http://www.vernon-ct.gov/files/Main%20Page/2020/Coronavirus/Vernon_OEM_Press%20Release_COVID19_FINAL_v03122020.pdf
5. <https://www.facebook.com/EllingtonYMCA/>
6. <http://view.email-stopandshop.com/?qs=7186efa465c6fff1b0186d09276c7ca76e28caf4b29ddf2061abcc7871d97c4259767ceaa2a3c26a7a59c6e9afa116c86bac0bc09330adbe937d2c653551784d044286c386bd89d9765a7615a4f35a866b937c6f1c721ae>
7. <https://corporate.walmart.com/newsroom/2020/03/14/temporary-changes-to-our-hours-to-better-serve-customers>
8. <https://www.hvcchelps.org/>
9. https://portal.ct.gov/AG/Press-Releases/2020-Press-Releases/Attorney-General-Tong-Announces-PURA-Has-Granted-Emergency-Moratorium-on-Utility-Shut-Offs?fbclid=IwAR0HfQtrzkh-NAvdb8as_-4yTkLkGJKB1viBSGl-KGAnFpAiFPaTughHtA
10. <https://www.vernonpublicschools.org/covid-19>
11. <https://portal.ct.gov/DMV/News-and-Publications/News-and-Publications/CT-Department-of-Motor-Vehicles-Announces-Extension-for-Renewal-of-DMV-Credentials>
12. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/03-2020/Governor-Lamont-Coronavirus-Update-March-15-2020-6PM>
13. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/03-2020/Governor-Lamont-Coronavirus-Update-March-14-2020-5PM>