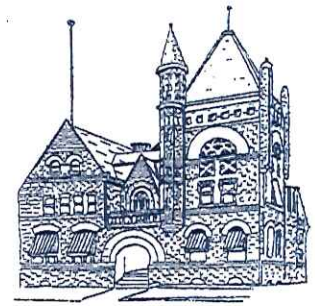




Office of the Mayor

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Nancy R. Rossi
Mayor

WEST HAVEN ISSUES EMERGENCY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19), ISSUES FORMAL DIRECTIVES AND ADVISORY

March 17, 2020

CITY OF WEST HAVEN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

FORMAL PREVENTION PROCLAMATION AND ADVISORY

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, in response to the Public Health Emergency declared by Governor Ned Lamont on March 10, 2020, and the National Emergency declared by President Donald Trump on March 13, 2020, due to the World Health Organization's designation of COVID-19 as a global pandemic and its spread across the United States, has proclaimed a series of directives, community restrictions and recommended actions for the benefit of West Haven's public health:

WHEREAS: Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7, dated March 12, 2020, prohibited gatherings of 250 people or more for social and recreational activities, including but not limited to community, civic, leisure and sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; movie screenings; plays or performances; conventions; and similar activities, and suspended various statutes and regulations to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS: Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7A, dated March 13, 2020, authorized the Commissioner of Public Health to restrict entrance into nursing homes and similar facilities to protect people who are most vulnerable to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS: COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS: Governor Lamont issued additional executive orders this weekend, including but not limited to ordering all public schools closed by Monday night; offering municipalities the flexibility to help encourage and allow for necessary social distancing measures and other health protections being implemented; closing certain DMV branches to reduce public interaction; and expanding visitation restrictions already in place for nursing facilities to psychiatric facilities, and has filed a Federal Disaster Declaration with the U.S. Small Business Administration to seek assistance for businesses and nonprofits affected during this crisis; and

WHEREAS: The World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS: The risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 appears to be higher for individuals in any one of the following categories: 1) 60 years of age or older, 2) have a compromised immune system and 3) have chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS: There is an increased risk of the rapid spread of COVID-19 among people living in congregate settings, such as long-term care facilities, and most residents of long-term care facilities are at increased risk for severe COVID-19; and

WHEREAS: To the reduce spread of COVID-19, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Connecticut Department of Public Health recommend the implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase the containment and slow the transmission of the virus, including the cancellation of large gatherings and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS: Attendance at public meetings and proceedings is likely to increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS: The City of West Haven took action to reduce the risk of exposure and slow the spread of COVID-19 this week by eliminating group gatherings in city buildings, and the Board of Education took action by closing all West Haven schools and programs; and

WHEREAS: To reduce the risk of exposure and slow the spread of the virus, the CDC and the World Health Organization have issued recommendations that Mayor Nancy R. Rossi hereby directs and implements as set forth below:

Now, therefore be it directed, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi hereby implements the following directives and community restrictions:

- All City of West Haven-scheduled public meetings, gatherings and events are suspended until further notice, with the exception of those that can be done electronically or virtually.
- The city has closed all municipal buildings and departments to the public for a minimum of two weeks.
- West Haven Library Executive Director Colleen Bailie announced that the library's three branches have closed indefinitely.
- Superintendent of Schools Neil C. Cavallaro announced that the school district has closed all public schools and is planning to reopen March 30, 2020. Governor Lamont extended that order; all schools will be closed through March 31, 2020. The Child Development Center is also closed until March 31, 2020.
- New departmental procedures are forthcoming, including how departments will handle payments for licenses, permits and taxes, as well as requests for beach parking stickers. The city will post information as it becomes available on the West Haven website.
- All recreation and sports programming in West Haven is postponed during this Public Health Emergency. This includes the suspension of league sporting activities and practices at all city parks and facilities, as well as the cancellation of any group public recreational activities.
- All playgrounds/playscapes are closed until further notice. City parks remain open for residents to enjoy for fresh air and exercise, for all willing to follow the necessary social distancing health policy of keeping a minimum of 6 feet between yourself and non-family members.

Be it advised and recommended that the following actions be taken:

That all business, nonprofit, or other organizations or entities:

- Limit gatherings to 20 people or fewer.
- Limit gatherings for individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness, such as seniors (including gatherings at retirement and assisted living facilities, mental health facilities and others) to 10 people or fewer, or postpone them until the Public Health Emergency is lifted.
- Cancel or postpone all concerts, conferences and sporting events.
- Close all gyms and community centers.
- Close all restaurants, catering facilities and bars, with the exception of takeout.
- Strongly encourage employers to require employees to work remotely, if at all possible, for the safety of the employees and public.
- Cancel/postpone all nonpublic events of any size within the City of West Haven boundaries and seek guidance from the Health Department if you must move forward with any gathering on how to implement essential health and safety practices and protocols as needed due to this pandemic; and

I, Nancy R. Rossi, Mayor of the City of West Haven, Connecticut, do hereby proclaim a Public Health Emergency in the City of West Haven, Connecticut, and implement these directives, restrictions, recommended actions and advisory for issuance to all individuals and entities residing within or doing business within the City of West Haven, Connecticut.

Nancy R. Rossi



Mayor
City of West Haven
Connecticut