

The Worker Bee



The Connecticut AFL-CIO's Legislative Update

Lamont Requires Boards of Ed to Pay Employees

Governor Ned Lamont allayed the concerns of thousands of school employees Tuesday by issuing an executive order requiring boards of education to continue employing and paying all school staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some school districts had already begun to furlough or lay off paraeducators, secretaries, school nurses, custodians, cafeteria workers and other support staff. [Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7-R](#) prevents that action by mandating school districts to continue paying wages and benefits to school staff they employ. It also directs boards of education to reinstate staff that may have already been furloughed or laid off.

The order also requires school districts to negotiate existing agreements with contracted student transportation and special education providers to ensure those employees are also paid wages and benefits. Boards of education will continue to receive state education funding in the form of Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grants and special education excess cost grants.

Ten-month and contracted employees are not normally eligible for unemployment benefits. By honoring employment contracts and paying these workers as they have already budgeted, boards of education provide peace of mind to these employees and also free up much-needed unemployment benefits for other workers who have been furloughed, laid off or terminated. Districts will also be better positioned to sustain services when schools are able to resume classes.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
NED LAMONT
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7R

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE - EDUCATION WORKFORCE SUSTAINABILITY, STATE PARKS CAPACITY CONTROL, AND CURBSIDE LIQUOR PICKUP

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued a declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed spread in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declaration, I have issued seventeen (17) executive orders to suspend or modify statutes and to take other actions necessary to protect public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; 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, 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 who are 60 years of age or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Connecticut Department of Public Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus and to slow transmission of the virus, including cancellation of gatherings of ten people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, Sec. 1800e of H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, provides, in relevant part: "A local educational agency, State, institution of higher education, or other entity that receives funds under the 'Education Stabilization Fund', shall to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus"; and

WHEREAS, local and regional boards of education have existing approved budgets for the duration of the 2019-2020 school year that are supported by state and municipal funding, and these school communities are instrumental to furthering the educational interests of our state; and

Governor Thanks and Protects Grocery Workers

Governor Ned Lamont has publicly thanked grocery workers for their dedicated service throughout the state's public health emergency. This week, he responded to a request from UFCW to help educate residents about how they can protect themselves and grocery workers when they shop. Taking to his [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) feeds, Governor Lamont urged residents to embrace social distancing and employ other precautions.

In addition, Governor Lamont issued [Executive Order 7-S](#) yesterday, which includes new mandatory rules requiring grocery retailers to take additional protective measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 between customers, employees, delivery drivers and maintenance staff. The Department of Economic and Community Development has published the new [Safe Store Rules](#) on its website. They include:

- Capping store occupancy at 50%
- Clearly marking 6' distances at checkout lines and other high-traffic areas
- Creating one-way aisles
- Maximizing space by using every other checkout line
- Installing Plexiglas shields to separate employees from customers at checkout
- Discontinuing all self-serve foods and product sampling
- Allowing "touchless" credit card transactions
- Sanitizing credit card machines regularly
- Sanitizing cart and basket handles between uses
- Providing employees with gloves and face masks

Stores must comply with these rules beginning today.

Governor Ned Lamont @GovNedLamont · 7h

The workers at grocery stores deserve our praise because they are providing our communities with an invaluable service. All of us need to do what we can to keep supermarket employees healthy.

Please follow some of these tips when food shopping.

Thank you to grocery store workers for providing our communities with critical services during this difficult time.

Tips to stay safe when food shopping:

- Physical distancing: Stay more than 6 ft. away from employees and shoppers
- If possible, send only one family member to the store
- If possible, use credit cards instead of cash
- Limit contact: Do your best to avoid touching surfaces, and bring disinfectant wipes for touch points
- If you choose to wear gloves, dispose of them after exiting store

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
NED LAMONT
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7S

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE - SAFE STORES, RELIEF FOR POLICYHOLDERS, TAXPAYERS, AND TENANTS

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued a declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed spread in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declaration, I have issued seventeen (17) executive orders to suspend or modify statutes and to take other actions necessary to protect public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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

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WHEREAS, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 appears to be higher for individuals who are 60 years of age or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Connecticut Department of Public Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus and to slow transmission of the virus, including cancellation of gatherings of ten people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No. 7N imposed certain safety restrictions and mandates on retail establishments in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 among customers, employees, and others entering such establishments; and

WHEREAS, there exists a compelling state interest in a consistent and easily understandable statewide approach to reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among customers, staff, and other persons entering retail establishments, to limit community transmission of COVID-19 statewide, and to ensure the continuity of essential retail services and safe conduct of permitted non-essential retail services; and

