



Friend –

Below please find the Murphy office update on COVID-19.

As always, if you need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact our Hartford or Washington, D.C. offices.

Here's what you need to know this week:

- Senator Murphy took to [Facebook live on Friday afternoon to provide an update on the state of negotiations on the COVID-19 relief package](#), and the priorities he is pushing to include for constituents in Connecticut.
- Frontline health care workers in Connecticut [received the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine this week](#). On Friday, the vaccine also [began to be administered to some nursing home staff and residents](#). Connecticut will continue to follow the recommendations made in the [vaccine distribution plan](#) developed by the Governor's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group's Science Subcommittee.
- Senator Murphy [hosted a discussion on Facebook live with Dr. Saad Omer](#), Director of the Yale Institute for Global Health, to discuss the COVID-19 vaccine and answer frequently asked questions from constituents. Dr. Omer answered questions on vaccine safety and the FDA review process, the different vaccines being approved and when we can expect things to return to normal.
- Governor Lamont [announced that Connecticut has extended its eviction moratorium through February 9, 2021](#).
- This week, Senator Murphy [met virtually with California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, President-elect Joe Biden's nominee to become Secretary of Health and Human Services](#). The two discussed the importance of a coordinated, science-driven approach to tackling COVID-19. As a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Murphy spoke to Becerra about the need to protect and expand the Affordable Care Act, improve access to mental health services, and strengthen U.S. engagement as a leader on global health.
- [PURA has extended the enrollment period for programs to prevent heat source shut-offs for both residential and non-residential customers through at least February 9, 2021](#). Further, the Winter Protection Program, which protects eligible households during the winter months, is also in effect from November 1, 2020 through May 1, 2021. If you are experiencing difficulty paying your utility bill, you can contact your utility company and ask if you are eligible to be "coded hardship" and enrolled in the Winter Protection Program. If you are ineligible for hardship status or a non-residential customer, ask to enroll in a COVID-19 Payment Plan. [Additional information regarding these programs and other assistance can be found here](#).

- As we approach the Christmas holiday next week, please take a moment to review guidance on [how to safely prepare for holiday gatherings](#). The best thing you can do to protect yourself, friends, and family during the holidays is to only celebrate in-person with members of your immediate household. The best way for us to keep cases down in the state is to stay home and away from others, and celebrate with those outside of our household virtually.

For information on federal coronavirus relief, including help for small businesses, direct cash payments and more, visit murphy.senate.gov/coronavirus. This page provides answers to frequently asked questions and gives a summary of available programs and funding.

For the latest information about keeping you or your family safe go to cdc.gov/coronavirus. For resources and information about Connecticut's response visit ct.gov/coronavirus.

I hope you found this letter helpful. You can get the latest updates on Senator Murphy's work in the Senate by following him on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our offices in Hartford or in Washington, DC.



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