



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:

- On Tuesday, Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States. Throughout the week, the president signed dozens of executive actions to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Senator Murphy [released the following statement applauding the president's actions](#).
- On Thursday, [President Biden issued an Executive Order invoking the Defense Production Act](#) to federalize the medical supply chain and ramp up production of the COVID-19 vaccine and PPE. Murphy has been calling on the president to federalize the medical supply chain since the beginning of the pandemic. He [introduced legislation to force the president to fully invoke the Defense Production Act](#) in March of 2020
- Today, Senator Murphy held a [Facebook live](#) with constituents to talk about his legislative priorities in the 117th. Murphy provided a rundown of where things stand with Biden's Cabinet nominees, COVID-relief, and impeachment.
- Senator Murphy joined Republican Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina to announce the introduction of their bipartisan FEED Act, legislation supported by Chef José Andrés and World Central Kitchen. [The FEMA Empowering Essential Deliveries \(FEED\) Act](#) allows the Federal government to pay 100 percent of the cost to states and localities so that they can partner with restaurants and nonprofits to prepare nutritious meals for vulnerable populations, such as seniors and low-income children. These partnerships will support businesses and small farmers as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.
- This week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced](#) state guidance for implementation of a requirement that state Medicaid programs suspend rather than terminate benefits for eligible incarcerated youth. Senator Murphy sponsored the original [legislation](#) requiring this change that was passed through the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to help formerly incarcerated individuals access primary care and behavioral health services.
- This week, [Governor Ned Lamont directed the Connecticut Department of Public Health to continue vaccinations for the 1.4 million individuals included in Phase 1b of Connecticut's COVID-19 vaccine rollout](#) using a tiered approach based on risk of adverse health outcomes from the virus. The State anticipates receiving about 45,000 doses of vaccine per week from the federal government.

- Connecticut Department of Social Services announced this week that food benefits will increase by 15% for all Connecticut households enrolled in SNAP. Approximately 110,000 enrollees will receive monthly COVID-19 emergency benefits starting on Saturday.

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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