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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 today, July 24th:

- Today, Governor Ned Lamont announced that he has signed an [executive order](#) creating a rebuttable presumption that workers who contracted COVID-19 in the early days of the pandemic contracted it on the job and are eligible for workers' compensation benefits.
- This week, Senator Murphy [led](#) eleven of his colleagues, including Senator Blumenthal, in [sending a letter](#) to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York calling for substantial funding for Amtrak in any future pandemic relief bill. Due to declining revenues and ridership the COVID-19 pandemic has caused, the senators noted dire measures Amtrak would have to take, such as cessation of critical NEC infrastructure projects and significant reduction in its workforce and services, if their ridership continues to decline.
- Senator Murphy and Senator Blumenthal joined U.S. Senator Bob Casey of Pennsylvania and 34 of their colleagues, [in sending a letter](#) to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell requesting that he support the funding amount and proposed funding flexibility for state and local governments that was included in the HEROES Act passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. The funding includes \$500 billion for states, \$375 billion for local governments and \$20 billion each for territories and tribal lands.
- Earlier this week Senator Murphy [spoke to the Hartford Courant](#) about his support for extending the \$600 per week unemployment benefit for people who have lost their jobs during this crisis.
- ICYMI: This week, Governor Lamont signed an [executive order](#) strengthening his [previously enacted](#) travel advisory for anyone entering Connecticut from states with high infection and positivity rates for COVID-19. The order changes the travel advisory to mandatory and has been taken in conjunction with similar measures by the governors of New Jersey and New York. Under the new order, failure to comply may result in a \$1,000 penalty imposed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH).
- Yesterday, the Connecticut Congressional delegation [sent a letter](#), led by Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-2), to House and Senate leadership urging them to provide support for shellfish and aquaculture farmers as they negotiate the next

COVID-19 economic relief package. In a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Charles Schumer, the Connecticut delegation asked that \$500 million be provided in fisheries assistance, which would include shellfish farmers.

- The state of Connecticut has received an additional extension from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for approval to apply for reimbursement for statewide emergency feeding efforts until August 19. These vital efforts will continue to be coordinated by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture in partnership with the many state and local agencies and nonprofit providers, including community food banks.
- Reminder: Connecticut's commercial utility protection moratorium ends on August 1st, but businesses can access the COVID-19 repayment program through their utility company through October 1st.
- Reminder: People who have fully recovered from COVID-19 for at least two weeks are encouraged to consider donating plasma, which may help save the lives of other patients. You can find out more about donation at the FDA's website: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/donate-covid-19-plasma#donate>.
- It is important to get tested for COVID-19. Check out [CT's 211 Testing Locator](#) and enter your town, zip code, street address, or county to find locations closest to you.

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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[If you would like to opt-out of future coronavirus updates, please click here.](#)