



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 today, August 28th.

- Throughout the week, Senator Murphy went door-to-door with Census workers in [Hartford](#) and [Bridgeport](#) to remind people to fill out the 2020 census. Right now, some towns in Connecticut have only been half counted. It's so important that our state gets counted to ensure that our communities get the funding we need. It only takes 10 minutes to fill out the Census and you can do so by going to [My2020Census.gov](#).
- This week, Senators Murphy and Blumenthal [held a press conference in Hartford to call for the Senate to return from recess](#) and pass legislation to provide immediate relief for state and local governments, frontline workers, families, schools, and small businesses amid the COVID-19 outbreak. They urged in particular the extension of the \$600 per week unemployment enhancement to unemployed workers, which ran out last month, putting thousands of Connecticut residents at risk of not being able to pay for housing, groceries, and other essentials.
- After hearing from thousands of concerned constituents across Connecticut, Senator Murphy joined local elected officials and union leaders at the Middletown Post Office to show support for postal workers and to call for additional funding to help the United States Postal Service (USPS) respond to challenges caused by COVID-19. Senator Murphy has sent numerous letters about the service cutbacks at USPS and is a co-sponsor of the [Postal Service Emergency Assistance Act](#), which would provide up to \$25 billion in emergency financial relief for the USPS and require USPS to purchase PPE and conduct additional cleaning and sanitizing of its facilities and vehicles.
- On Tuesday, Murphy visited a number of researchers and companies working on innovations to address COVID-19. He first met with [the Yale School of Public Health and the School of Medicine](#) to learn about the new saliva-based laboratory diagnostic test developed in partnership with the NBA to detect whether someone is infected with the novel coronavirus. He then [visited AI Therapeutics in Guilford](#) to learn more about the work they're doing to develop COVID-19 treatments. Finally, he toured Homodeus to see firsthand the home testing kits they are manufacturing.
- Senator Murphy also [visited the Community Health Center of New Britain](#) to thank frontline health care workers. He once again urged everyone to get tested for

COVID-19, especially those feeling symptoms or who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive. Visit 211ct.org/covidtesting to learn more.

- Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) this week issuing new guidance advising people without symptoms against getting tested for COVID-19, Governor [Ned Lamont joined New Jersey governor Phil Murphy and New York governor Andrew Cuomo in issuing a statement](#) stating that Connecticut, New Jersey and New York will continue to follow the advice of health experts to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19, and therefore will not be changing our guidance that prioritizes testing for this population.
- This month, Senator Murphy introduced a number of bills and letters to strengthen our health care system in the face of COVID-19:
 - The [TREAT Act](#), introduced with Republican Senator Roy Blunt of Missouri, would allow qualified health care practitioners to treat patients – including via telehealth—for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The [Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2020](#), introduced with Senator Tina Smith of Minnesota, would authorize the CDC to begin work on improving health disparities caused by “social determinants” of health, such as unemployment, hunger, lack of affordable housing, and education. These inequities have far more impact on Americans’ health than just medical care and treatment, especially in communities of color.
 - Senator Murphy led 25 colleagues in calling on President Trump to [reopen the Affordable Care Act's marketplace](#) to allow more people to enroll in health insurance and access federal subsidies – and to take steps to ensure seniors can enroll in Medicare coverage as they disproportionately face potential health issues related to COVID-19.
 - Finally, Murphy joined Senators Warren and Smith in urging the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to [issue detailed guidance for colleges and universities for reporting COVID-19 cases](#).

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 update 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.