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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, June 16th:

- Reminder: Tomorrow, Connecticut enters Phase 2 of its reopening plans. Businesses that are eligible to open under Phase 2 are reminded to self-certify with the state prior to opening. The self-certification process demonstrates to the state that businesses understand and will comply with COVID-19 rules and regulations. It can be done quickly online at business.ct.gov/recovery. Governor Ned Lamont's administration has [released documents detailing specific rules](#) that eligible businesses falling under phase 2 of Connecticut's reopening plans must follow amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The second phase takes effect Wednesday, June 17. **Phase 2 includes the following sectors:**
 - Amusement parks
 - Hotels
 - Indoor dining
 - Indoor museums, zoos, and aquariums
 - Indoor recreation (e.g. bowling, movie theaters, etc.)
 - Libraries
 - Outdoor events
 - Personal services (e.g. nail salons, tattoo parlors, etc.)
 - Sports and fitness facilities (e.g. gyms, fitness centers, pools, etc.)
- Senator Murphy and Senator Blumenthal joined all 47 of their Democratic Senate colleagues in [sending a letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Jovita Carranza. In the letter, the senators called for urgently needed improvements to streamline and simplify the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness application process to ensure the smallest and most underserved businesses are able to fully take advantage of the program.
- Senator Murphy joined a bipartisan group of senators [in a letter](#) led by Senator Brian Schatz of Hawaii and Roger Wicker of Mississippi in calling for the expansion of Medicare's telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic to be made permanent. In their letter, the senators highlight the growing use and benefits of telehealth during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, as patients seek to avoid traveling to hospitals and other providers and instead receive care at home. New data shows that the number of Medicare beneficiaries using

telehealth services increased by 11,718 percent in just a month and a half during the pandemic.

- ICYMI: Last week, Senator Murphy and Senator Blumenthal [sent a third letter](#) to Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Director Michael Carvajal seeking an explanation for BOP's failed response to the spread of COVID-19 at FCI Danbury. As of June 5, 2020, 98 inmates and 61 staff members at FCI Danbury have tested positive and one inmate has died.
- It is easy and free 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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