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Today, Connecticut begins phase one of its reopening plan. [Click here](#) to read the rules for businesses under phase one.

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, May 20th:

- Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved Connecticut's participation in a pilot program to provide online purchasing to SNAP Households. Last week, Senator Murphy joined a [letter](#) led by Senator Bob Casey calling on USDA to immediately work to ensure SNAP participants can receive home food delivery and curbside pickup during the COVID-19 pandemic. More information on the SNAP purchasing pilot is available [here](#).
- Yesterday, Governor Lamont issued a new Executive Order on summer camps, allowing day camps to begin operations on June 22, summer school programs to begin operations on July 6, and resident camps to remain closed.
- Connecticut's insurance commissioner is reminding all insureds in the state that all out-of-pocket costs for testing and treatment of COVID-19 have been removed. For more information, [read the press release issued today by the Insurance Department](#).
- Earlier this week, Senator Murphy [announced](#) bipartisan support for [legislation](#) he introduced last year with Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire to require the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to increase the amount of personal protective equipment (PPE) it procures from American companies.
- The Federal Communications Commission [announced](#) another round of telehealth enhancement grants, including awards for Bridgeport Hospital, Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Greenwich Hospital, and Yale New Haven Hospital.
- Earlier today, Senator Murphy joined Brian Lehrer on the Brian Lehrer Show to talk about Connecticut's partial reopening and efforts he's taking in Washington to bring relief to workers, families and small businesses in Connecticut. You can listen to the interview [here](#).
- ICYMI: This week, the USDA [announced](#) final details in how it will make the direct payments to farmers authorized in the CARES Act. Farmers who have experienced losses can begin applying for aid through the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) on May 26th. For the final rule outlining program click [here](#).
- For those still waiting for their Economic Impact Payment, the IRS has set up a hotline for questions at 1-800-919-9835.

- FYI: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is hosting live stakeholder calls to help communities plan for, respond to, and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Registration info for each session is linked below:
 - [Workplaces and Mass Transit](#): May 21, 4 pm ET
 - [Youth Sports](#): May 22, 4 pm ET

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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