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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, May 4<sup>th</sup>:

- Today, Governor Ned Lamont [announced](#) the statewide expansion of a program that will make free online learning licenses available to recipients of unemployment insurance, including those who have been impacted by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 public health crisis. The [SkillUp CT program](#) will significantly expand access to comprehensive online course work from a leading global provider for thousands of Connecticut residents.
- On Sunday, Governor Lamont, along with the governors of N.Y., N.J., Mass., R.I., Pa., and Del., announced a joint multi-state agreement to develop a regional supply chain for personal protective equipment (PPE), other medical equipment and testing. Click [here](#) to view video of their joint announcement.
- Today, Connecticut's Secretary of State Denise Merrill announced plans to send absentee ballot applications to all voters amid concern that COVID-19 will disrupt elections. You can read the plan [here](#).
- On Friday, it was announced that the Department of Social Services will be providing \$15.4 million in Emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) benefits to nearly half of Connecticut's SNAP participants on Friday, May 8, 2020 – adding to the \$32.7 million in emergency benefits disbursed in April.
- Today, Senator Murphy [highlighted](#) Whelen Engineering Company as this week's "Murphy's Monday Manufacturer." Ordinarily, Whelen manufactures for the emergency warning industry, but during the COVID-19 pandemic, the company temporarily reorganized some of their resources to manufacture face masks and full-face shields in their Connecticut and New Hampshire facilities. Their engineers used open-source PPE designs, which included building a 500-pound injection mold in one of their facilities. The company says it can produce approximately 2,000 shields and masks per day.
- Last Friday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services distributed CARES Act funding for hospitals located in COVID-19 hotspots. In Connecticut, 12 providers in high-impact areas received a total of \$290 million to support their COVID-19 response. In addition, the state received more than \$38 million for treating low-income and uninsured patients and over \$16 million to support 16 clinics, health centers, and other providers in rural areas. [Click here](#) for more information about the federal program.
- If you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and did not file a tax return in 2018 or 2019 but have dependents, you must register with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by noon on May 5, 2020 in

order to have \$500 per child added to your \$1,200 coronavirus stimulus payment. [Click here](#) for more guidance.

For information on federal coronavirus relief, including help for small businesses, direct cash payments and more, visit [murphy.senate.gov/coronavirus](https://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](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus). For resources and information about Connecticut's response visit [ct.gov/coronavirus](https://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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