



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, May 5th:

- Senator Murphy and Senator Blumenthal [wrote a letter](#) to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), Michael Carvajal, demanding that he provide answers regarding the department's response to the COVID-19 outbreak at FCI Danbury. There are currently over 60 inmates and 50 staff who have contracted the disease, including one inmate who has died.
- Today, Governor Ned Lamont [announced](#) that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, he is ordering in-person classes at all K-12 public school facilities in Connecticut to remain canceled for the rest of the 2019-2020 academic year and continue providing distance learning during this period. Schools will also be required to continue providing meals to children under the school lunch and breakfast programs for consumption at home, as they have been throughout this emergency.
- It was announced that nearly 30,000 small business loan applications worth over \$2.5 billion have been approved for Connecticut companies as part of the federal government's second round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding, new data shows. The loan program announced that 29,559 low-interest loans were approved for in-state companies as of Friday.
- Today, Senator Murphy joined Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and 39 other Senate Democrats [in writing to President Trump](#) with concerns about the lack of detail and strategy in the White House's testing blueprint and calling on the federal government to develop a comprehensive national strategic testing plan within 30 days.
- Senator Murphy [signed on to a letter](#), led Senator Chuck Schumer and Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez of New York, to FEMA administrator Peter Gaynor in strong support of Puerto Rico's request to extend the incident period for the already granted major disaster declaration in response to the 6.4-magnitude earthquake on January 7 to include the aftershocks that occurred this past weekend. An extension of the incident period would allow Puerto Rico to access federal funds to respond to the latest aftershocks.
- Today, the Department of Treasury and Department of Interior reached an agreement regarding distribution of coronavirus relief fund dollars to Native American Tribes. Last week, Senator Murphy joined a bipartisan group of senators in [sending a letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, strongly urging the Department to immediately disburse the \$8 billion appropriated in the CARES

Act to support Tribal governments. You can read the Treasury's and Interior's joint press release [here](#).

- Yesterday, 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.

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.



Washington, DC
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4041

Hartford, CT
120 Huyshope Ave, Suite 401
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 549-8463