



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.

- This week, Senator Murphy gave a [speech on the Senate floor addressing Republicans' decision to ram through Judge Amy Coney Barrett's confirmation](#) to the United States Supreme Court, and push their unpopular agenda on health care, guns, and campaign finance through the courts after they've failed to do so legislatively.
- In Connecticut, Governor Lamont [announced](#) a program created to assist small businesses and nonprofits affected by COVID. For businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 20 employees and less than \$1.5 million on payroll, the program provides a one-time grant of \$5,000. The Governor is committing \$50 million dollars from the Coronavirus Relief Fund from the CARES Act to help local businesses through this tough time.
- Senators Murphy, Blumenthal, and their Democratic colleagues [sent a letter to Attorney General Barr urging him to stop trying to tear down the Affordable Care Act](#). The lawmakers emphasized how it was unconscionable to take away these protections for tens of millions of Americans during the greatest public health crisis in a century, especially since COVID-19 will likely become a [pre-existing condition](#).
- Murphy led a group of his colleagues to [call on Congressional Leadership for comprehensive testing and a mandatory mask policy in the Capitol complex](#). "With the limited tracking currently publicly available indicating more than 100 known positive cases amongst non-legislative employees or contractors alone," the Senators wrote, "it is critical that everyone has access to and the assurance of strong testing protocols to prevent the unidentified spread that has occurred in several instances over the past few months. Failing to provide this testing puts everybody within the Capitol complex at risk."
- Murphy, Schumer, Senate Dems [released a report](#) on what to expect on Election Day. Murphy stressed the importance of being prepared and knowing the law. In most states and under federal law voter intimidation is a felony. The report summarizes for the American people what to expect on Election Day and reinforces the Democrats' call to encourage everyone to vote. The report also makes it clear that voter intimidation is illegal and that federal law prohibits coercing or threatening anyone in order to interfere with their right to vote.
- The USDA has opened the enrollment period for the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program. DMC is a voluntary program designed to help dairy farmers protect themselves against drops in milk prices. Enrollment for the 2021 DMC

program year runs through Dec. 11. Visit USDA's Farm Service Agency's DMC page [here](#) for more information.

- On Thursday, Murphy, Blumenthal, and other Democrats [sent a letter to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos requesting that she ensure all students with federal loans can gain access to crucial assistance from the CARES Act](#). Despite providing assistance to loan borrowers whose loans were directly held by the U.S. Department of Education, 8.2 million federal student loan borrowers currently hold loans that do not qualify for CARES act relief but can through various options, such as consolidating them into qualifying loans. The group urged the of Education to immediately begin targeted and proactive outreach to help these borrowers.
- It's important to get a flu shot this fall. To find locations where you can get a flu vaccine visit: <https://vaccinefinder.org/>.

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



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