



# TOWN OF VERNON

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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**Daniel A. Champagne**  
*Mayor*

**Michael J. Purcaro**  
*Town Administrator*

**Dawn R. Maselek**  
*Assistant Town Administrator*

### **For Immediate Release:**

March 12, 2020

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## **VERNON DECLARES PUBLIC HEALTH AND CIVIL PREPAREDNESS EMERGENCY**

*Proactive Measures Taken to Protect Residents and Minimize Effects of COVID-19 Virus*

**(Vernon, CT)** Today, Mayor Daniel A. Champagne declared a public health and civil preparedness emergency throughout the Town of Vernon. The emergency declaration was made in coordination with the State of Connecticut's response to the global pandemic of COVID-19, a disease associated with a novel coronavirus.

"Consistent with information received from federal, state and local health officials, the Town has taken proactive measures to help slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19" said Mayor Champagne. "We are closely monitoring this emerging situation, and will continue to take the necessary steps to protect the health and safety of our residents."

"A Unified Incident Command System involving all Town departments and our public school system has been implemented to provide a coordinated response to this health crisis" said Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator and Emergency and Risk Management Director. "Town staff will report to work and remain available by telephone or email to serve the public. Residents are encouraged to conduct Town business remotely whenever possible."

"The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority" said Dr. Joseph Macary, Superintendent of Schools. "Based on guidance from local and state health officials and in collaboration with the Town of Vernon, the Vernon Public Schools will be closed for two weeks starting Monday, March 16, 2020."

"At this time, there have been no confirmed cases of the virus in Vernon, however, widespread community transmission is expected throughout the State of Connecticut", said Patrice Sulik, Director of the North Central District Health Department. "Taking proactive measures before widespread transmission occurs is a proven public health strategy to mitigate the severity of an outbreak."

The Town and Board of Education are taking the following actions:

- Effective Friday, March 13, 2020 at 4:00 pm, the Rockville Public Library, located at 52 Union Street will close until further notice.
- Effective Friday, March 13, 2020 at 4:00 pm, and in consultation with the Vernon Senior Center Advisory Board, the Vernon Senior Center, located at 135 Bolton Road will close until further notice.
- Effective Friday, March 13, 2020 at 6:00 pm, all Vernon Parks and Recreation Department programs and activities are cancelled until further notice.
- Effective Monday, March 16, 2020, all Vernon Public Schools will be closed for two weeks.

For more information on the COVID-19 virus, please visit the State of Connecticut's website <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>.

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