



Thursday, March 12, 2020

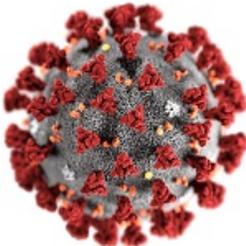
[Printer-Friendly Version](#)

In This Issue:

- [Coronavirus Update](#)
- [CHA Testifies on Hospital-Related Bills](#)
- [CHA Annual Meeting Awards - Call for Nominations](#)
- [Census 2020 Materials Mailed Today](#)

[Update Archives](#)

Coronavirus Update



One day before the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic, Governor Ned Lamont declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies in Connecticut in response to the increased public health and healthcare activities related to the virus.

The spread of the coronavirus across more than 100 countries now qualifies as a global pandemic, WHO announced on Wednesday, March 11.

The Governor's announcement comes days after the first positive test for COVID-19 was reported by state officials. To date, there are six confirmed Connecticut cases, with additional expected as the capacity for testing increases.

On Thursday, March 12, the Governor signed [Executive Order No. 7](#) that takes several actions for the protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID-19 Pandemic and Response. The order impacts issues related to social distancing, modifies the 180 day rule for schools, modifies visitor restrictions in all nursing and convalescent homes, authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles to extend licensing renewal deadlines, and relaxes attendance rules for police academy trainees.

The declaration of a public health emergency gives the Governor additional authority over quarantine, while a civil preparedness emergency grants the Governor broad powers over state institutions, allowing for the closure of public schools, buildings, parks, and other public spaces.

The declaration of the public health and civil preparedness emergencies can be found [here](#).

Earlier this week, the General Assembly's legislative leaders announced that the legislature's schedule of events have been modified for the balance of the week. Specifically, the Legislative Office Building, State Capitol, and the Old State House will be closed for cleaning on Thursday, March 12, and Friday, March 13. All non-legislative tours, meetings, and large gatherings are cancelled until further notice. Public hearings scheduled for next week have also been cancelled.

CHA Testifies on Hospital-Related Bills



During public hearings at the State Capitol this week, CHA and hospital representatives provided testimony on a number of hospital-related bills.

On Monday, March 9, the Public Health Committee held a public hearing on the following bills:

- [SB 243, An Act Prohibiting An Unauthorized Pelvic Examination On A Female Patient Who Is Under Deep Sedation Or Anesthesia Or Unconscious](#)**, a bill that would prohibit unauthorized pelvic examinations on female patients who have been administered deep sedation or anesthesia or are unconscious. CHA believes that pelvic exams should not be performed without a valid clinical purpose, and consent should be obtained when possible. However, the bill as written could unintentionally interfere with clinicians performing appropriate medical examinations or procedures. CHA [expressed](#) concerns about the bill.
- [SB 370, An Act Eliminating The Race Designation On Marriage Licenses](#)**, a bill that would eliminate the race designation on marriage licenses. CHA [proposed](#) an amendment to allow the marriage of patients in inpatient settings under certain circumstances.
- [SB 78, An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding The Clean Indoor Air Act](#)**, a bill that would make changes and expand the provisions of the clean indoor air act. CHA [supports](#) this bill, but requested technical changes specific to the definition of electronic nicotine delivery systems to avoid interference with the use of nebulizers and other medicines and therapies.
- [SB 379, An Act Prohibiting Health Care Institutions From Requiring Cognitive Testing For Health Care Providers Solely Based On Age](#)**, a bill that would prohibit hospitals from requiring cognitive testing of healthcare providers solely based on the age of the provider. CHA [opposes](#) this bill because current Connecticut law expressly states that the determination of a physician's competence can be connected to the aging process.
- [SB 380, An Act Requiring Notification Of A Family Member Of A Patient Admitted To A Hospital](#)**, a bill that would require hospitals to notify a patient's designated family member not later than 24 hours after admission. CHA [supports](#) this bill because patient- and family-centered care improves care and outcomes.
- [HB 5417, An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions To The Public Health Statutes](#)**, a bill that would make various revisions to the public health statutes. CHA [proposed](#) an amendment to allow the marriage of patients in inpatient settings under certain circumstances.

Also on Monday, the Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on:

- [SB 74, An Act Prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation](#)**, a bill that would establish the crime of mutilation of female genitalia of minors as a class D felony. CHA [opposed](#) this bill as it would prohibit critical clinical practices and procedures and interfere with access to legitimate healthcare services.



CHA Annual Meeting Awards - Call for Nominations

CHA is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the CHA Annual Meeting awards. The presentation of the awards is an important component of the CHA Annual Meeting and a valuable opportunity to showcase Connecticut hospitals, health systems, and staff achievements. Award applications/nominations are linked below.

The 2020 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data



recognizes outstanding achievement in patient care quality initiatives. It is sponsored by CHA's education and research affiliate, the Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation (CHREF). All CHA members are encouraged to apply. Note: There is a two-year period of ineligibility for previous John D. Thompson Award winners. Click [here](#) for an application.



The 2020 Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award is an excellent opportunity for recognition of outstanding achievements in community service. The award is sponsored jointly by CHA and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). Note: There is a two-year period of ineligibility for previous Community Service Award winners. Click [here](#) for an application.

CHA's Healthcare Heroes Awards celebrate the invaluable contributions of healthcare workers, both to their field and to the community at large. CHA is seeking nominations from both direct patient care and nonclinical areas of CHA member facilities. Ten healthcare heroes, selected by a panel of judges, will each be awarded a \$100 cash prize. Click [here](#) for an application.

All entries must be received by Friday, March 20, 2020. Winners will be honored at the CHA Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2020.

Census 2020 Materials Mailed Today



Ninety-five percent - or about 143 million households in the U.S. - will receive an initial invitation to respond to the 2020 Census in their mailboxes between today, Thursday, March 12, and Friday, March 20.

CHA is partnering with Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz and the U.S. Census Bureau on the statewide Complete Count Committee to ensure high levels of participation in the 2020 Census. Data collected in the Census will inform the distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds to states and communities each year for things like infrastructure, healthcare, and food assistance. Connecticut receives \$10.7 billion of federal aid per year based on Census data.

Depending on how likely an area is to respond online, households will receive either an invitation encouraging them to respond online or by phone (about 112 million households), or an invitation along with a paper questionnaire (about 31 million households).

All invitations will include a short phrase in English and 12 additional languages inviting people to respond online or by phone in their language.

All households receiving an invitation in the mail will receive a second letter in the mail shortly after reminding them to respond. Then, households that still haven't responded will receive a series of additional reminders, including a paper questionnaire in mid-April. Census takers will follow up with households that don't respond to collect responses in person.

More information about the Census, is available [here](#).