



Town of Berlin

240 Kensington Road
Berlin, Connecticut 06037

RESOURCES FOR BERLIN RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY COVID-19

Prepared by the Town of Berlin's Department of Social and Youth Services and Senior Services

This document will be updated regularly.

This is not an exhaustive list nor is it an endorsement of programs/services.

**Connecticut residents can call 2-1-1, text CTCOVID to 898211,
or go to www.211.org for 24/7 access to information, resources, and COVID-19 testing.**

The Town of Berlin's Department of Social and Youth Services, open Monday through Wednesday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Thursday 8:30 am-7:00 pm, Friday 8:30 am-1:00 pm and Senior Services open Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:00 pm are continuing to provide remote services to residents. We are monitoring inquiries and working closely with the Emergency Management Team to address the essential needs of residents in a timely fashion. **Please contact Social and Youth Services at 860-828-7007 or the Senior Center at 860-828-7006, if you or a neighbor has an emergency need of food or medications.** We are investigating ways to provide safe and efficient help to at-risk homebound seniors and/ or households without unnecessarily exposing volunteers and/ or recipients to COVID-19.

It is important to rely on natural supports of friends and neighbors at this time. Every resident should formulate a backup plan in case you or a family member falls ill. Many seniors, and other at-risk populations, are following CDC recommendations to practice social distancing or isolation. Some may need assistance in procuring supplies for extended self-isolation. We encourage residents to call their neighbors to offer help, taking care to follow CDC precautions by keeping a safe social distance. Remember that even if you are feeling well, you could still be a carrier of the virus. Seniors looking for local resources should contact the **Berlin Senior Center at 860-828-7006** or tdoyle@town.berlin.ct.us

Effective Monday, March 16th to March 31st

The Berlin Senior Center is closed to the public and all activities are cancelled. CW Resources congregate meals are cancelled. Transportation will continue to run, but only for medical appointments and the weekly grocery shopping trip. There are Grab & Go lunches available along with Homebound Meal Delivery. If you are interested in either of these two options, please contact the Senior Center. The Senior Center Staff will continue to be in the building during normal business hours and available by phone.

[The Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) was signed into law on March 18, 2020. The act provides funding for free coronavirus testing, 14-day paid leave for American workers affected by the pandemic, and increased funding for food stamps. The bill responds to the coronavirus outbreak by providing paid sick leave and free coronavirus testing, expanding food assistance and unemployment benefits, and requiring employers to provide additional protections for health care workers.

Food Assistance:

- Stop & Shop has set up special hours for seniors to shop every day from 6:00 am-7:30 am.
- Use local delivery services and/or grab-n-go situations when possible, and services such as [Insta-Cart](#) or [Amazon Prime](#).
- Support local businesses in the Berlin area by ordering takeout. For a full list of [restaurants](#) visit the Berlin Economic Development website.
- Berlin Public Schools is now providing meals to families Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7am-9am at Willard Elementary School (1088 Norton Road)
 - Eligible families include anyone that attends Berlin Public Schools and other children in the household under the age of 18. If you have any questions, please contact bbenigni@berlinschools.org
- Mobile Food Pantries are still operating. For details go to www.ctfoodbank.org
- The Berlin Food Pantry is still open. If you are in need please contact Jaymee Miller, Berlin Social Services at **860-828-7007**

Renters:

The Attorney General has suspended all evictions for the next 30 days. Contact your landlord now if you foresee this as an issue for your family.

Utility Assistance:

Connecticut's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) has ordered a moratorium on all utility shut-offs (electric, gas, and water) for the next 30 days, or as long as the Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergency is in effect. Residential customers are strongly encouraged to continue paying their bills, as they will ultimately be responsible for accrued services. This ruling applies to all residential customers and is therefore unlike the Winter Protection Program where income eligible households are protected from a shut off through May 1st.

AARP Tax Prep Assistance:

As coronavirus (COVID-19) developments change hour by hour, AARP Foundation is doing its part to flatten the curve of transmission. Therefore, the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is suspending services beginning March 16th until further notice. **The Federal Government has extended the tax filing day to July 15, 2020.** Check the web page www.aarpfoundation.org periodically or call 1-888-227-7669 for updates about the status of Tax-Aide sites.

Unemployment Compensation:

For workers and employers, please see Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding COVID-19 to determine if you are eligible for benefits including Unemployment Insurance (UI), Paid Sick Leave (PSL), Wages and Hours, Family Medical Leave (FML). <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/DOLCOVIDFAQ.PDF>

Berlin Police Department:

The Berlin Police Department issued a press release on March 18, 2020 about updates on the COVID-19. It can be read at: https://www.town.berlin.ct.us/egov/documents/1584621255_99467.pdf

Local Businesses:

The US Small Business Administration is working to provide low interest targeted loans to assist small businesses and nonprofits severely impacted by COVID-19. CDC recommended strategies for employers and businesses to reduce exposure and provide guidance to their employees will be updated as needed.

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Pages/Business-Resources>

Health Care:

- Call Connecticut's 2-1-1 hotline or text CTCOVID to 898211 for information on COVID-19 for information, resources, testing and treatment options.
- Healthcare providers are being granted a streamlined approval process to accelerate availability of treatment and services, including telehealth.
- Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) is working with its federal partners to modify the prescription refill processes in Medicaid/HUSKY Health and offer telehealth options.
- Hartford Healthcare has a 24-hour Hotline **833-621-0600** for patients and the community who have questions about COVID-19. Visit Hartford Healthcare's [webpage](#) for more information on the coronavirus.
- **COVID-19 testing is now available at several locations around Connecticut and can be accessed through the state's 24/7 2-1-1 hotline.**

Mental Health: If you or a loved one is having a mental health crisis:

- CT Information Hotline 211 or go to www.211ct.org for mobile crisis support for individuals and/or children.
- Kids in Crisis also has a 24-hour hotline for assistance **203-661-1991**.
- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health): If you need to talk to someone, text [NAMI](#) to 741741 or call the NAMI Helpline at **1-800-950-NAMI (6264)**.
- AA: Many AA meetings continue to meet. Please [contact your site](#) to see if they are continuing in your neighborhood.
- For non-emergency situations, call Berlin Social and Youth Services. Contact Jaymee Miller at **860-828-7007** or at jmiller@town.berlin.ct.us

HOW TO HELP

Volunteer

- Grass-roots efforts to help friends and neighbors is an essential component to our COVID-19 response.
- If you have chosen to help neighbors in need on your own, please be sure to follow CDC guidelines and honor recipients' privacy. There are many Facebook groups that have formed to help neighbors which the town cannot endorse, but we do applaud these efforts.
- Non-profit organizations or community members wishing to partner in providing resource or food resources, should contact Jaymee Miller at **860-828-7007** or jmiller@town.berlin.ct.us

RELIABLE WEBSITES FOR INFORMATION:

www.town.berlin.ct.us ccthd.org www.who.int
Ct.gov/coronavirus cdc.gov/

If you have not already done so, you are encouraged to sign up or follow these pages for updates:

Town Website: www.town.berlin.ct.us

Town Facebook: www.facebook.com/TownBerlinCT

Everbridge Updates: [sign up here](#)

**For 24/7 access to information and resources,
CT residents can dial 211 for the state information hotline.**

Please only use 911 if you are having a medical emergency.