

MARCH 30, 2020

FOOD IN HARTFORD DURING PANDEMIC

Resources and Policy Recommendations from the
Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy



THE HARTFORD ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FOOD POLICY

was formed in 1991 to advise the Mayor and City Council on ending hunger. We are working with many organizations during the coronavirus pandemic to ensure everyone gets food.

Community standing against COVID-19

People and organizations rally to protect each other during the pandemic

School lunch staff distributing meals to children. Food pantries receiving donations from shuttered restaurants. Activists delivering groceries. Urban farmers preparing gardens to feed neighbors. Grocery staff keeping shelves stocked. All this and more is happening in Hartford as we rally to protect each other during the pandemic. *The Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy applauds all the ways we have come together to care for each other in this crisis, but recognizes how the pandemic has revealed existing injustice in our community.*

Hartford Public Schools Providing Meals

Children can still get school meals while the schools are closed.

All schools in Hartford are closed until further notice.

HPS Health Services Hotline: (860) 695-8760

Any student, 18 years old or younger, can pick up a lunch and breakfast at any of the 16 locations. Practice social distancing at pick-ups for everyone's safety.

Meals are distributed **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 AM to 12 PM**. On Mondays and Wednesdays, two days worth of meals will be provided. On Fridays, three days worth of meals will be provided.



More information, including a map of pick-up locations, can be found here:

<https://www.hartfordschools.org/understanding-coronavirus/>

Achievement First (305 Greenfield Street)

Classical Magnet School (85 Woodland Street)

Rawson School (260 Holcomb Street)

Weaver High School (415 Granby Street)

Global Communications Academy (85 Edwards Street)

SAND School (1750 Main Street)

Wish Museum School (350 Barbour Street)

Hartford Public High School (55 Forest Street)

Kennelly School (180 White Street)

Moylan School - ELAMS (101 Catherine Street)

Parkville Community School (47 New Park Avenue)

Sanchez School (176 Babcock Street)

Bellizzi School (215 South Street)

Betances Early Reading School (42 Charter Oak Avenue)

Burr School (400 Wethersfield Avenue)

Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy (53 Vernon Street)

Foodshare Mobile Pantry

Foodshare is distributing food in Hartford.

To get updates about the mobile pantry schedule on your cell phone, you can **text FOODSHARE to 85511**. Check foodshare.org for updates.



MONDAYS: 3/30, 4/13, 4/27, 5/11 (every other Monday)

- 8:45 AM - 9:30 AM: **Charter Oak Community Health**, 225 Washington St. (Salvation Army parking lot)
- 12:15 PM - 1:00 PM: **UMC of Hartford**, 571 Farmington Ave.
- 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM: **Grace Worship Center Church**, 750 Wethersfield Ave.

MONDAYS: 4/6, 4/20, 5/4, 5/18 (every other Monday)

- 9:45 AM - 10:15 AM: **Family Life Education**, 46 Orange St. (George Day Park)

WEDNESDAYS: 4/8, 4/22, 5/6, 5/20 (every other Wednesday)

- 11:30 AM - 12:15 pm: **Cathedral of St. Joseph**, back parking lot, 809 Asylum Ave.

THURSDAYS: 4/2, 4/16, 4/30, 5/14 (every other Thursday)

- 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM: **Grace Church of God**, 235 Wethersfield Ave.

THURSDAYS: 4/9, 4/23, 5/7, 5/21 (every other Thursday)

- 10:15 AM - 11:00 AM: **New Mt. Moriah Baptist Church**, 222 Barbour St.
- 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM: **Church of the Good Shepherd**, 155 Wyllys St.

FRIDAYS: 4/3, 4/17, 5/1, 5/15 (every other Friday)

- 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM: **Church of the Most High God**, 692 Garden St.

FRIDAYS: 4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22 (every other Friday)

- 8:45 AM - 9:15 AM: **Nelson Street Salvation Army**, 100 Nelson St., corner of Barbour. Pre-register one day in advance: 860-543-8419
- 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM: **St. Augustine Church**, 31 Webster St.
- 9:45 AM - 10:30 AM: **Catholic Charities - Asylum Hill Family Center**, 60 Gillett St.
- 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM: **Bible Way Temple Nation**, 3053 Main St.

Other Food Pantries

Call 2-1-1 or visit 211ct.org to find other food pantries and their hours. Not all pantries are open due to coronavirus, please call the pantry at the number listed on 211 to double check.

Food Stamps, WIC, Unemployment, & Health Care

Benefits like SNAP (food stamps), WIC, Husky / Medicaid, and unemployment insurance are available during the pandemic.



SNAP / Food Stamps

- To get help applying for SNAP, call **End Hunger Connecticut!**, English & Spanish support, 866-974-7627 or visit ctsnap.org
- **Work requirements** for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD's) have been suspended. This means **it is possible to get SNAP even if you are out of work.**
- **Any SNAP renewal forms** due between March and May 2020 are automatically renewed up to September through November 2020. This means **no one's SNAP benefits will be cancelled** during the pandemic.
- In-person visits to Department of Social Services offices are canceled indefinitely.
- Call **1-855-6-CONNECT** for information.

WIC

- The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children helps families get healthy food.
- In-person appointments are being done by phone until further notice.
- To apply, call the Hartford WIC office at **860-757-4780.**
- **If you are not a WIC recipient**, a good way to help your neighbors is to **avoid items at the grocery store with a WIC label.** WIC recipients are restricted to certain kinds of foods that they can buy with their benefits. By leaving these items, you can be sure that your neighbors get what they need.

Unemployment Insurance (UI)

- If you have been laid off because of the coronavirus, you can apply for unemployment benefits.
- Work-search requirements have been waived for people receiving unemployment benefits.
- You can file on filectui.com. **Telephone assistance is not available for UI.**
- Additional information about is available here: ctdol.state.ct.us/DOLCOVIDFAQ.PDF

Health Care

- **Access Health CT** has a special enrollment period open through April 2 if you are a CT resident currently without healthcare coverage. Call 1-855-365-2428 or visit their website: accesshealthct.com. You can also apply for Medicaid / HUSKY there.
- More information for HUSKY patients is available here: portal.ct.gov/HUSKY/Special-information-and-resources-for-HUSKY-Health-members-about-coronavirus

Community Response

CT CORE - Organize Now! is one of the organizations doing **mutual aid** during the crisis. Foundations are also collecting funds to address the pandemic.



MUTUAL AID is about people helping each other. This can be done by donating food, money, and supplies; providing child care; sharing or offering rides and transportation, and more.

CT CORE - Organize Now! is an organization led by Black women in partnership with people of color, LGBTQ people, and disabled people.

You can use the **CT CORE Mutual Aid form**: <https://bit.ly/3dyjV3X> (Spanish and English) to share what you need and/or what you are able to give to others.

You can **donate to their efforts** by texting MUTUAL444 to 41444 or specifically contribute to a Hartford mutual aid fund through **Venmo** with the handle **@MutualAidHartford**

More information is available here: ctcore-organizenow.org

More Ways to Help

The **Hartford Foundation for Public Giving** has launched a **COVID-19 Response Fund**.

It will help organizations serve residents who have been harmed by the outbreak and crisis. More information is available here: hfpg.org/covid-19-response or call 860-548-1888.

United Way has a Neighbors in Need Fund. You can learn more here: unitedwayinc.org/neighbors-in-need or call 860-493-6800.

Foodshare is in need of donations (food and money) and volunteers to keep helping people during this crisis. Learn more at foodshare.org or call 860-286-9999.



Community Gardens

The **KNOX, Inc.** offices are closed to the public until further notice, but they are still accepting applications for their community garden plots. Contact **Kyle**: kyleb@knoxhartford.org. Opening dates and new practices to encourage social distancing may be in effect; KNOX will share updates.

Policy Recommendations

To reduce food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy makes the following recommendations:



- Hartford Public Schools should **IMPROVE SCHOOL MEAL DISTRIBUTION** by applying for a waiver from the US Department of Agriculture that would parents and guardians to pick up meals for children.
- Hartford Public Schools and community garden sites should **PERMIT FARMERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND GARDENERS TO FARM AND GARDEN** while using necessary protective measures such as social distancing. Food harvested from school gardens should be **donated** to support families during the pandemic.
- **HARTFORD FARMERS' MARKETS SHOULD USE SOCIAL DISTANCING PRACTICES** if the pandemic is still a threat when the farmers' markets open.
- We advocate for **PAID LEAVE AND HAZARD PAY** for food workers at grocery stores and restaurants.
- State government should **SUPPORT RESTAURANTS AND GROCERY STORES** with loans and other relief programs such as the recent Connecticut Recovery Bridge Loan Program.
- Hartford's representatives in Congress must **SUPPORT RELIEF MEASURES that increase SNAP, implement cash relief for individuals, bolster unemployment benefits**, and other measures that help Hartford families become financially secure during this crisis.
- Where possible, state and local authorities should take steps to **PROTECT INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS** from infection by: releasing incarcerated individuals where possible; stopping new incarcerations/detentions; and other recommendations put forward by the ACLU CT.
- The Governor should **DESIGNATE GROCERY RETAIL AND FOOD PROCESSING WORKERS AS FIRST RESPONDERS** to ensure they can access coronavirus testing, childcare, and paid sick and family leave.
- The Commission supports **RENT FREEZES, EVICTION MORATORIUMS, MORTGAGE FREEZES, AND SUSPENSIONS OF UTILITY CUT-OFFS** to help Hartford families defray costs.
- We encourage **FARMS AND RESTAURANTS** to donate any unused food to help families in need during this crisis.

More Information

Reach out to the Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy with questions and/or suggestions.



The Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy recognizes that the **COVID-19 Pandemic** is making existing problems, like food insecurity and income inequality, worse. We will work with residents, businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies to respond to this crisis and take steps to ensure that an emergency in the future would not have the same devastating effects on Hartford families and workers.

Contact us by emailing **Meg**, Meg@HartfordFood.org

General Information about the Coronavirus / COVID-19

- **Official Connecticut Government Coronavirus** Information Page: ct.gov/coronavirus
- **Connecticut Public's Coronavirus** Information Page: ctpublic.org/community-resources/coronavirus
- **Connecticut, Food, and the Coronavirus** from the **Connecticut Food System Alliance**: ctfoodsystemalliance.com/coronavirus-food-and-connecticut
- **US Centers for Disease Control Coronavirus** Information Page: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- **World Health Organization Coronavirus** Information Page: who.int/health-topics/coronavirus
- **211** is serving as a general hotline for information about the Coronavirus.