



**NEWS RELEASE
TOWN OF CHESHIRE
84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

FOR RELEASE: March 16, 2020

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Cheshire Town Manager Sean M. Kimball, in collaboration with Emergency Management Director Jack Casner and Chesprocott Director of Health Maura Esposito has declared a local State of Emergency in Cheshire due to the unprecedented public health threat of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This action does not indicate any immediate change in the local situation, but rather it is a necessary step that gives the Town the greatest operational flexibility, positions our community for eventual FEMA assistance and reimbursement, and potentially enables increased access to critical personal protective equipment for our first responders once available.

The Town of Cheshire has closed our municipal facilities to the public until further notice, although staff will be available during normal business hours to conduct necessary business electronically, by phone, and by mail, and by appointment for essential services. Information on accessing municipal services electronically can be found on the Town's website.

Town board and commission meetings are canceled for the week of March 16, 2020. The Governor has issued an executive order permitting municipal meetings to be held without public attendance; future essential meetings may be held using electronic communication, and every effort will be made to provide off-site access to our residents.

All non-essential Town-sponsored programs and events are cancelled through the end of March.

Updates and changes will be posted on the Town website at www.cheshirect.org. Residents and businesses are asked to limit gatherings and in-person contacts, and to follow public health guidelines. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping limit the spread of this serious and highly contagious virus.