

MAY 1, 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.

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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 locations. **Parents and guardians can also pick up meals for children.** 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 and any changes, can be found here: <https://www.hartfordschools.org/understanding-coronavirus/>

Achievement First

(305 Greenfield St.)

Classical Magnet School

(85 Woodland St.)

Rawson School

(260 Holcomb St.)

Weaver High School

(415 Granby St.)

Global Communications Academy

(85 Edwards St.)

SAND School

(1750 Main St.)

Wish Museum School

(350 Barbour St.)

Hartford Public High School

(55 Forest St.)

Kennelly School

(180 White St.)

Moylan School - ELAMS

(101 Catherine St.)

Parkville Community School

(47 New Park Ave.)

Sanchez School

(176 Babcock St.)

Bellizzi School

(215 South St.)

Betances Early Reading School

(42 Charter Oak Ave.)

Burr School

(400 Wethersfield Ave.)

Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy

(53 Vernon St.)

MD Fox School

(470 Maple Ave.)

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Selected Food Pantries

NOTE: This list may be inaccurate. The best way to check is to call 2-1-1 or visit 211ct.org for the most current information. There may be changes or cancelations caused by the coronavirus.

**Many more pantries listed
AND up to date information at
2-1-1 and 211ct.org.**



MANNA COMMUNITY PANTRY

55 Bartholomew Ave.

Monday through Thursday

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM; 1 PM - 5 PM

Walk-ins accepted during pandemic. Bring photo ID and proof of address. Households with appointments are priority. Call 860-246-6757.

SALVATION ARMY

217 Washington St.

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9 AM - 12 PM

Families can visit once per 30 days. Call for an appointment to keep lines down: 860-543-8413

HOPEWELL BAPTIST

67 Rockville St.

Wednesdays (except first Wednesday of the month)

8:30 - 9:30 AM

Available to anyone in need.

HELPING HAND

344 Blue Hills Ave.

Thursdays (except first Thursday of the month)

3 PM - 6:30 PM

Requirement: Resident of Greater Hartford Area.

LATTER RAIN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

3200 Main St.

- **First & Third Thursdays** (5/7, 5/21):
5 - 6 PM (bread and pastries)
- **Second & Fourth Saturdays** (5/11, 5/25): 10 AM - 12 PM (food bags, meats, fruits and vegetables, bread and pastries).

All Connecticut residents are eligible.

GLORY CHAPEL INTERNATIONAL CATHEDRAL

221 Greenfield St.

Second & Fourth Fridays (5/8, 5/22)

5 PM - 6 PM

Walk-in; must be able to "demonstrate need" and bring proof of residence (photo ID, utility bill, etc.)

KING'S CHAPEL

400 Woodland St.

Saturdays

10:30 AM - 12 PM

Must sign in and have ID.

EBENEZER PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

179 Seymour St.

Third Saturdays (5/16)

9 AM - 12 PM

Walk-in; emergencies by appointment. Deliveries available for the elderly or home-bound. Call 860-804-6687. Must fill out application and show ID for first visit.

More pantries and up to date information: visit 211ct.org or call 2-1-1.

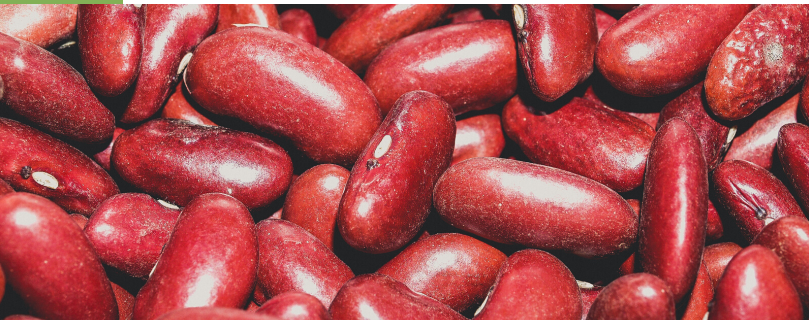
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Foodshare Mobile Stops

Foodshare is distributing food in Hartford.

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

NOTE: This list may be inaccurate. The best way to check on a stop is on Foodshare's webpage or call 860-856-4321.



MONDAYS: 5/11 (every other Monday EXCEPT 5/25 Memorial Day)

- 8:45 AM - 9:30 AM: **Charter Oak Community Health Center**, Salvation Army parking lot, 225 Washington St.
- 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.

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

- 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM: **Pope Park**, 30 Pope Park Dr. across from the Arroyo Rec Center
- 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM: **Cathedral of St. Joseph**, back parking lot, 809 Asylum Ave.

THURSDAYS: 5/14, 5/28 (every other Thursday)

- 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM: **Grace Church of God**, 235 Wethersfield Ave.
- 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM: **SANA Apartments**, 1630 Main St.

THURSDAYS: 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: 5/15, 5/29 (every other Friday)

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

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

- 8:45 AM - 9:15 AM: **Salvation Army**, 100 Nelson St., corner of Nelson & Barbour. **Pre-register 1 day in advance: 860-543-8419**
- 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM: **St. Augustine Church** at Webster Theater, 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.



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Other Ways to Get Food



Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is delivering lunches to homebound people 60 years old and over for a suggested donation of \$2.50 (this is optional). During the coronavirus pandemic, they also have some special deliveries of 3-week's worth of meals. To apply, call 860-560-5848.

Local Farms

Many CT farms are still selling produce, meat, dairy, and eggs. They may have items the grocery store has run out of. Check for farms here: guide.ctnofa.org

Food Not Bombs

Hartford Food Not Bombs serves **free food every Sunday at 3 PM in Bushnell Park.**

Foodshare Pop-up Produce Distribution

Foodshare is occasionally receiving large donations of fresh fruits and vegetables, which they need to give away quickly, so they distribute them at schools or other locations. Check with Foodshare to find out about the next fresh produce pop-up distribution to get **free fresh fruits and vegetables.** They usually announce the pop-ups a few days in advance. You can check on their website: foodshare.org, on [Facebook: Foodshare](https://www.facebook.com/Foodshare), or by calling 860-286-9999.

Upcoming Distributions:

Monday through Friday through May 8.
8:30 AM - 12 PM

Rentschler Field

(615 Silver Lane, East Hartford)
Drive up; no one turned away

About Grocery Shopping

We have to take extra precautions getting food. Here are some tips:

- Try to shop once every two weeks or less.
- Wear a mask or face covering.
- If possible, only send one household member to buy groceries.
- Seniors should look for "golden hours" - for example, Stop & Shop is having special hours from 6 AM to 7:30 AM for seniors.
- Wipe down containers with a disinfectant when you get home.
- Stay 6 feet away from others while shopping.



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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 now through May 2020 are automatically renewed up to September through November 2020. This means **no one's SNAP benefits will be cancelled** during the pandemic.

SNAP / Food Stamps

- Many application interviews are being waived. **This means you can get SNAP without completing an interview** through May 31.
- **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.



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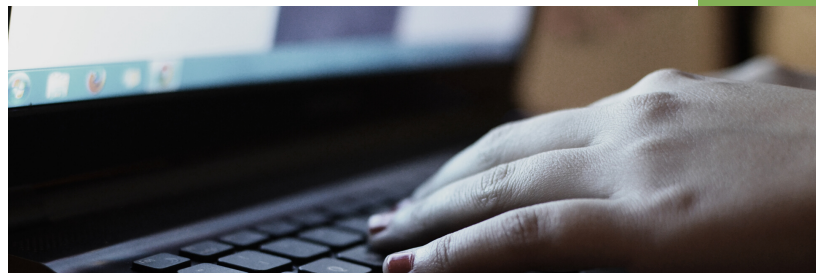


Health Care

- If you lost your health insurance due to the coronavirus or other reasons, you can purchase coverage through **Access Health CT**. Call 1-855-365-2428 or visit their website: [accesshealthct.com](https://www.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

Unemployment Insurance (UI)

- **If you have been laid off because of the coronavirus, you can apply for unemployment benefits.**
- If you have reduced hours, are forced to stay home because you are sick without paid leave, or your employer is asking you to take un-paid time off, you may also be eligible for unemployment benefits.
- Work-search requirements have been waived for people receiving unemployment benefits. **When filing your weekly UI claim, answer YES to question 1 even if you are not seeking work.** Only answer YES if you are not seeking work DURING the COVID-19 crisis. The CT Department of Labor will announce when this restriction is back in place.
- You can file on filectui.com. **Telephone assistance is not available for UI.**
- Many people are currently applying for unemployment benefits, and the CT Department of Labor is behind. **It may take 6 weeks or more to receive benefits**, but that will include benefits for those weeks of the delay.
- Recipients of UI are now receiving an additional **\$600 weekly benefit** for claims filed after March 29 through July 31, 2020.
- Additional information is available here: ctdol.state.ct.us/DOLCOVIDFAQ.PDF



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Community Response More Ways to Help

Many people are doing **mutual aid** during the crisis. Foundations are also collecting money 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.

In Hartford, funds for mutual aid are being collected through **Venmo @MutualAidHartford**. Email MutualAidHartford@gmail.com if you **need help or can help**. They have already helped dozens of families get food, rides, and more.

CT CORE - Organize Now! is an organization led by Black women in partnership with people of color, LGBTQ people, and disabled people. They are organizing mutual aid throughout the state. More information is available here: ctcore-organizenow.org

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, money, and masks) and volunteers to keep helping people during this crisis. Learn more at foodshare.org or call 860-286-9999.



Community Gardens

Although KNOX offices are closed to the public, gardens are set to open on schedule, with safety guidelines vetted through the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. Contact kyleb@knoxhartford.org if you are interested in space. Stay tuned to knoxhartford.org for updates about seed/plant distributions, volunteer opportunities, and more.

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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 with school gardens **PERMIT VOLUNTEERS TO MAINTAIN THE GARDENS** while using preventative measures such as social distancing. Food harvested from school gardens could be **donated** to support families during the pandemic.
- **HARTFORD FARMERS' MARKETS SHOULD USE SOCIAL DISTANCING PRACTICES** when they open. Ways farmers' markets can be supported include **additional funding for personal protective equipment, handwashing stations, online / call ahead ordering**, and other measures.
- We advocate for **PAID LEAVE AND HAZARD PAY for food workers** at grocery stores, food processing and distribution businesses, and restaurants.
- 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.
- State and federal government should **SUPPORT RESTAURANTS AND FOOD BUSINESSES 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 with financial security during this crisis.
- We support **allowing SNAP benefits to be used for GROCERY DELIVERY.**
- 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 Commission supports **RENT FREEZES, EVICTION MORATORIUMS, MORTGAGE FREEZES, AND SUSPENSIONS OF UTILITY CUT-**

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Policy Recommendations

- **OFFS** (including electricity, water, heat, and Internet) to help Hartford families cover expenses.
- We encourage **FARMS AND RESTAURANTS to donate any unused food** to help families in need during this crisis and further support measures that incentivize farms and restaurants to donate food.
- We encourage the **DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDLING KITS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN** to offer garden education at home and encourage residents to grow food at home.
- The City should **SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOME VEGETABLE GARDENS** whether by donating material or distributing information.
- We encourage pantries and meal distribution sites to coordinate activities and **STREAMLINE SERVICES** where possible to reduce the points of contact.
- We support efforts to **COLLECT AND DISTRIBUTE FOOD FROM FARMS AND WHOLESALERS** not purchased by grocery stores or restaurants to increase the amount of emergency food available.
- The State of Connecticut and City of Hartford should support **EFFORTS TO PROTECT UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE** who are not able to access many federal relief programs.

About these recommendations

- The Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy recognizes the need for public and private partnership in responding to this crisis. Our recommendations must be implemented by community organizations, individuals, schools, government agencies at all levels, and businesses in order to reduce the impact of the pandemic on our families.
- While advocating for food justice in the city of Hartford, we recognize the need to also support other justice-focused efforts, such as labor protections, prison and criminal justice reform, and housing security. These issues are intricately connected to food justice because issues such as housing insecurity, unjust labor conditions, and injustice in the prison system affect a person's ability to buy and grow food.
- The Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy recognizes that this pandemic exposes the need for more rigorous emergency planning and preparedness efforts. We will be taking steps to ensure that a future public emergency is not as detrimental for food security as the COVID-19 pandemic is proving to be.



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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 or call or text **(860) 348-3125**

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.