

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH  
Commissioner



Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

### DRINKING WATER SECTION

Circular Letter 2020-18

FROM: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief  
TO: Public Water Systems  
DATE: March 27, 2020  
SUBJECT: Social Distancing at Public Water System Recreational Areas

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Mathieu" followed by the year "2020".

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to provide information to public water systems (PWS) regarding COVID-19. [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) has advised that “large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States via travelers who attend these events and introduce the virus to new communities. Examples of large events and mass gatherings include conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings, and other types of assemblies.” CDC has provided to the public several [print resources](#) that provide information regarding the importance of social distancing, as well as how to best stop the spread of germs. CDC has also shared guidance on [Considerations for Postponing or Cancelling a Mass Gathering](#).

On March 22, 2020, following Governor Ned Lamont’s Executive Order 7H, Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) issued guidance to help the state’s businesses and nonprofit community better understand the Governor’s ["Stay Safe, Stay Home"](#) initiative. On March 26, 2020, Governor Lamont issued [Executive Order 7N](#), which prohibits social and recreational gatherings of six (6) or more than people.

During this public health emergency, DPH recommends that all PWS adhere to federal and state guidance regarding COVID-19, including “social distancing” guidance. In addition, for those PWSs with recreation areas that are open to the public, DPH recommends that the PWS post the attached sign. If large numbers of people are gathering at the PWS’s recreational area, the PWS needs to contact law enforcement to remove them from the area.

Attachment

c: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Department of Public Health  
Local Health Directors  
Certified Operators



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