



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION



**DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY**

**Severe Cold Weather Alert**

**Activation of Protocol December 16, 2020 to December 18, 2020**

**TO:** DEMHS Regional Coordinators, Local Chief Executive Officers, Fire Chiefs, Police Chiefs, Emergency Management Directors, and Other Local Officials

**FROM:** Commissioner James Rovella, DESPP  
Deputy Commissioner Regina Rush-Kittle, DESPP/DEMHS  
State Emergency Management Director William J. Hackett

**DATE:** December 16, 2020

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At the direction of Governor Ned Lamont, the Division of Emergency Management (DEMHS) within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), the Department of Housing (DOH), the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and the Department of Social Services (DSS), United Way 2-1-1, the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, and other partners are implementing the severe cold weather protocol to ensure adequate shelter space during the upcoming severe cold weather.

The protocol is being activated as a result of the forecasted possible blizzard conditions and overnight wind chill temperatures Wednesday and Thursday nights. **The current protocol activation will be in effect from 3 pm Wednesday, December 16 until noon Friday, December 18.**

Cities or towns opening warming centers or other facilities to help those in need should follow appropriate COVID sheltering protocols. **DEMHS has opened an incident on WebEOC, “Weather 2020-12-15 Winter Storm.”** If your town opens a shelter or warming center, please indicate its status on WebEOC. In addition, we want to continue to ensure that if local shelters or other facilities used during cold weather emergencies reach their capacities, there is a system in place to find out where there is space so they can direct individuals and families accordingly. If you receive a call from someone looking for shelter and you are not aware of any shelter space, please direct the person to 2-1-1. Working with local shelters, 2-1-1 will act as clearinghouse to ensure that shelter space is found for those that need it.

On behalf of the Governor, thank you for your efforts to keep the residents of Connecticut safe and warm, especially during these cold weather events.

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