



**Official Statement from the Office of the Mayor and the East Shore District Health Department
regarding North Branford's first COVID-19 related fatality**

North Branford Loses First Resident to COVID-19

Today, the Connecticut Department of Public Health has confirmed the first fatality from COVID-19 in North Branford. The deceased was a female between the ages of 30-40 years old.

Mayor Robert Viglione made the announcement just 6 days after learning of the first case, "we are deeply saddened to announce that a North Branford resident has died as a result of her contracting COVID-19. This terrible virus has taken a life in our community and that loss of life gives each of us pause and fills us with sorrow. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family during this difficult time" Mayor Viglione said.

"As we see more positive cases of COVID-19 reported in our community daily, we are saddened to hear of any fatalities from this virus" said Michael Pascucilla, Director of Health for the East Shore District Health Department. "My thoughts and prayers are with the family of the individual in our district who died from complications due to the coronavirus," he said in a release." Our local public health department also wants to inform our communities we are in regular communication with all of our senior living environment and facilities and we are working closely with state health officials in our investigations. We have also implemented the strictest public health interventions/residence protections in cooperation with every senior living environment within our health district communities.

Town Manager Michael Paulhus wants to express his deepest sympathies to the family and reassure the community that the Town of North Branford's main objective is to continue to keep residents safe and slow the spread of the virus. He also wants to assure our residents that his leadership staff and all town departments are working daily with the local public health department, along with state and federal officials. "The single best way to slow the spread is to practice social distancing, and the Town of North Branford is directing all individuals both adults and children, stay home and not interact with individuals outside of the household" said Paulhus. Social distancing is crucial in helping to reduce the spread of the virus and limit the number of people who are infected.

Town Manager Paulhus said, "We must remain diligent in exercising the prudent recommendations to slow the spread of the virus. These measures will help protect our community against a widespread outbreak. Our strength as a community is galvanized when tragedy occurs. The loss of a fellow resident underscores the fact that we must be united in taking preventative measures to protect our community."

Everyone should be taking the everyday preventative actions to help protect themselves. North Branford has closed all of our public buildings for in person appointments and has closed its outdoor recreational playgrounds and park/recreation facilities. School buildings also remained closed, however remote learning is occurring for our school-aged children. In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, please diligent and maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet, avoid crowds, wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds, stay home if you're sick. For the most current updates and recommendations, visit ct.gov/coronavirus. For general questions, please call 2-1-1.

Again, please follow our Governors directive – **STAY HOME, STAY SAFE!**

COVID-19 is a Novel Coronavirus which first emerged in China in December 2019, and is now considered a global pandemic outbreak. Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Other symptoms may include vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain. For more information, resources, hotlines, testing, and how you can support local businesses while practicing social distancing, please visit: <http://www.esdhd.org/coronavirus>.