



## **City of Meriden – Shelter and Warming Center Information** **Notice: December 18, 2019**

Governor Ned Lamont has directed state departments to activate the Severe Cold Weather protocol to ensure that the state's most vulnerable populations are protected from the severe cold weather. The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) works with Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), the Department of Housing (DOH), the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), the Department of Social Services (DSS), and United Way of CT/2-1-1 to implement this protocol.

**The Severe Cold Weather protocol is in effect from Wednesday, December 18, at 6pm through 9am on Saturday, December 21, 2019.**

This is the first time this season that the protocol has been enacted.

While activated, the protocol directs staff from the state's Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and the Department of Housing (DOH) to coordinate with 2-1-1 and Connecticut's network of shelters to ensure that the state's most vulnerable populations receive shelter and are protected from the severe cold weather.

**If you or someone you know is in urgent need of a place to keep warm, find your nearest warming centers** by calling 2-1-1. (Please note that you do not need to call 2-1-1 before entering a warming center. Once a person is safely in a warming center, staff can assist the person to call 2-1-1 and identify shelter or other longer-term options). If someone is in immediate medical danger, please call 911.

**Locally, people can find relief at Westfield Meriden Mall, the Meriden Public Library, and the Meriden Senior Center during their normal business hours.**

The Meriden Department of Health and Human Services is reminding people to please check on friends and family during periods of extreme cold.

For additional information on how to stay safe during extreme winter weather please visit:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/>
2. FEMA: <http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>