



TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR

FIRST SELECTMAN JASON E. BOWSZA

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For Immediate Release

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Town of East Windsor Working with Blue Bell Mattress Factory, State and Local Health Officials to Address COVID-19 Outbreak Among Employees

East Windsor – First Selectman Jason E. Bowsza today is notifying residents that the Town of East Windsor is working collaboratively with the North Central District Health Department (NCDHD), the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), and the leadership of Blue Bell Mattress CO, LLC to address a COVID-19 outbreak among employees of the manufacturing facility located on Thompson Road. Blue Bell employs approximately 190 individuals who come from several towns in Connecticut and Massachusetts. In addition to mattresses, the facility has also been manufacturing personal protective equipment (PPE) for front line health care workers and others and has therefore been qualified as an essential business that has remained open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

So far, 10 employees have tested positive for COVID-19 – none of whom are East Windsor residents. Over the weekend town officials coordinated with local and state health officials and leadership of the company to set up an in-person review of Blue Bell’s safety practices to be conducted by the NCDHD early this week as well as providing COVID-19 testing for all employees. There is no known connection between this outbreak and the other COVID-19 outbreak reported last week at a farm camp in East Windsor.

“We have been working with the company, DPH and NCDHD to make sure proper measures are being taken at Blue Bell Mattress to protect employees and the public,” said First Selectman Bowsza. “The company has been working closely with local and state officials to address this situation, but it is important to remember that the COVID-19 pandemic isn’t over. This can flare up again, even if you are doing everything right. Please remember to take every precaution to keep yourself and others around you safe, such as: wearing a mask when in settings with other people, maintaining at least 6 feet of distancing between you and others you don’t live with, and washing and sanitizing your hands often. These simple steps can help prevent transmission of the virus.”

“At the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency declared in March, Blue Bell immediately implemented robust employee safety protocols, which have been very effective in keeping the Blue Bell work environment safe for our employees and the community,” a company representative said. “Unfortunately, Blue Bell cannot control the conduct of its employees outside of the work environment. As soon as Blue Bell became aware last week that a number of its employees had tested positive for COVID-19, it immediately worked with the North Central District Health Department to coordinate our action plan to prevent community spread. East



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Windsor town officials and the NCDHD have been extraordinarily supportive and helpful in working with us to develop additional action steps. We are very confident that we will be able to control the recent incidence of individuals who test positive, but most importantly, we are 100% confident that our employees and our products will remain safe.”

The Town of East Windsor routinely offers testing for live virus infection and antibodies every Wednesday, from 10am-3pm at East Windsor High School. Anyone can participate, all insurances are accepted, and copays are waived. You can call for an appointment by calling 860-454-0678.