



Mayor Vieau - COVID-19 Situational Update

The City of Chicopee has transitioned to daily updates as the COVID-19 situation has warranted a centralized/increase in the distribution of information. These updates are intended to keep all informed of the actions being taken to reduce the impacts of Coronavirus on the community.

On Wednesday, April 22, 2020, the following City of Chicopee Departments has reported:

Mayor's Office

- Attended conference call with the Lt. Governor
 - Confirmed that the state is in the 'surge' of the virus with a spike in new cases in Worcester
 - People are reminded to continue with the guidelines on social distancing, washing hands, staying home and not working if feeling ill
- For City budgets it was asked for a level funded budget initially.
 - Department heads are tasked with developing a budget with a 15 to 20% decrease in funding
- Local and state receipts are down 20%
 - Spending freeze currently in place.
 - A 20% cut in budget lines based upon the worst case scenario is being predicted
- We continue to work for state and federal
- No plans for re-opening business
 - Continue to review options and monitor activities during the 'surge'.
 - Better guidance from Governor Baker is expected next week

Health Department

- We have 71 open cases and 88 people who have recovered as of 04/22/2020 - showing all demographics and ages.
- COVID-19 Task Force officers are still in place and working on issues even now with the school buildings closed through the end of the school year
- The Health Director and the Emergency Manager have been given authority to provide directives and guidance during the State of Emergency through the city charter and state law
 - The Governor supersedes any local order

- Nurses are continuing to trace contacts

Police Department

- No new officers in self-quarantine and staff is doing well
- Officers continue to enforce guidelines and are receiving cooperation from the stores and public
- Call volumes are down due to people are staying home
- Nationally there are some increases in domestic calls,
 - Seeing fewer arrests, even though there is no discretion in domestic violations to arrest a violator
- Received order of 1000 kn-95 masks from an order placed some time ago
- The Chicopee State Park was allowing cars to park on the grass off Burnett Road.
 - Contacted the DCR and boulders will be placed on the grass areas as the park does not want cars parking in these areas
- Police Academy Graduation approaching
 - Swearing in and appointment ceremony

Fire Department

- There is still one firefighter out with a positive test result under quarantine.
 - Two negative tests (required) to return to work
- 22 members have been tested so far
 - Only one positive to-date
 - PPE has been working well and firefighters are acting appropriately
- Received 1000 kn-95 masks from the order
 - Cost was about \$3.00 per mask, which while higher – *it was reasonable given the current market*
- The Big E testing center is working well with little waiting and by appointment testing.
 - First responders are only waiting a couple minutes to be tested

Emergency Management

- Masks have been distributed
 - school lunch providers need another 30 cloth masks - These will be provided
- EM is helping deliver meals a couple times a week with help from the CERT team
- COVID-19 expense reimbursement grant available
 - EM is putting together a list of items and expenses for reimbursement through the grant.
 - It is increased funding under the traditional state grant process
 - This will be a supplement to the annual grant which is comprised of federal monies passed through the state grant process
- Heard from the Red Cross that they have members willing to volunteer and help with COVID-19 tasks

COA

- 80 meals today
 - 4 required delivery
- Police Officers can assist on Friday - *extra deliveries on Friday*
 - Friday we will receive groceries from Lorraine's Soup Kitchen to deliver with meals and also received a donation of toilet paper which will be delivered on Friday
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- Still making referrals to Meals on Wheels and the process is better now for referrals

Veterans

- Working well with service providers and with clients
 - Continue to receive applications and process claims
- Conducted 115 client check ins
 - None were exposed to COVID-19 as of today,
 - None are in quarantine
- Providing food support through MA Military Empowerment and believe the end of the month we will see increased need.
 - Benefit checks and SS checks are distributed at the beginning of the month and sometimes funds do not last through the end of the month
- Working on events and ceremonies and will provide a Memorial Day celebration
 - May use taping and Chicopee TV to deliver the Memorial Day message this year
 - Optionally it may be virtual Memorial Day celebration
- Working with community partners and we're able to provide 20 iPads to the Soldier's Home for veterans to visit with families over the internet