



Mayor Vieau - COVID-19 Situational Update

We are in this together!

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 Friday, April 24, 2020, the following City of Chicopee Departments has reported:

Mayor's Office

- Mayor will conduct a robocall out to residents in lieu of a weekly media advisory today - to get the message out to all residents to wash hands, social distance, stay home if you don't feel well, etc.
- Have called Congressman Neal in support of the fourth federal stimulus package to provide funds for cities and towns. Also, reaching out to other Mayors
- No decision on reopening and waiting on May 4th date extension – Waiting on direction from the Governor, but realize we are still in the 'surge'

Health Department

- We have 75 open cases and 101 people who have recovered as of 04/23/2020 - showing all demographics and ages.
 - We had 10 new cases reported since yesterday's briefing
 - Chicopee has 2 deaths to-date
 - 11 are hospitalized
- The Board of Health is reviewing a proposed order to require the wearing of masks in public.
 - It is an advisory but many people are not following the advisory. Holyoke/Northampton has an order in place. Requiring people to wear a mask and we are looking at their enforcement.
 - Big Y has required masks and allows the use of turtle necks, scarves or other coverings.
 - Reminder to people of advisory added to Mayor's robocall
- Have gotten questions on automated car washes being allowed to open.
 - The Governor's order has deemed car washes as non-essential and not allowed to open.
 - They do not want people gathering at the locations or trying to use the vacuums.
 - People had been parking in the lot while waiting and congregating at the car washes.
- Looking for reliable information on the use of masks and reduction of risk of infection using a mask

- Nurses are tracing contacts and seeing more contacts with younger positive cases
- Received the \$14,000 Pioneer Valley Planning Council grant

Police Department

- All officers are healthy and no new officers in self-quarantine
- Continue to assist the COA and the Health Department
- If a store has a mask requirement and a customer refuses to wear a mask the Police could arrest the customer for trespassing
- Continuing to educate people to wear masks as a safety concern
- We had one barber shop open and trimming customers' hair.
 - The shop was closed and issued a warning
- The Police Department will continue to secure cloth masks
- Posted a message on message boards thanking our healthcare providers for their work

Fire Department

- There is still one firefighter out with a positive test result under quarantine.
 - All other firefighters are well and reporting for duty
- Doctors' have explained that research is showing individuals still testing positive up to six months after no longer exhibiting symptoms of the virus.
 - Will continue to research and may have the officer get a different type of test to see if the test may influence the result for a recovered person.

Emergency Management

- Have PPE available
- Cloth masks are being delivered
 - City Hall workers next week
 - Still need to provide some masks to the Parks Department
 - Need more cloth masks and will coordinate with Police Department

COA

- Preparing and Delivering Meals
 - Over 100 already ordered
 - Today's delivery will include a bag of groceries and roll of toilet paper to assist
- The Police Cadets will help with calls and items on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings

DPW

- Staffing is being maintained and beginning to question if they can get back to full staff after May 4th.
 - Employees want to return to full time work and a glad to have a job in this economic environment
- Cannot fill potholes due to the weather

School Department

- Getting a lot of questions on school registration for next year with families waiting for on-line registration to start.
 - Annual average is about 80 families registering children.
 - Vendor indicated the paperless system is estimated to be working in just over a week
- With schools closed for a year we are getting calls for parents and teachers to begin cleaning out lockers and classrooms.
 - Waiting til mid-May for cleaning and closing classrooms
 - May allow this in a staggered basis to not overwhelm buildings.
 - Need to continue to follow social distance guidelines – Will avoid having both parents and staff gathering in buildings.
- Working on plans for graduation and hope to finalize them soon.
 - Have developed a team with Chicopee TV to plan and facilitate some recognition and closure for seniors