



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, August 7, 2020, the following City of Chicopee Departments have reported:

#### **Mayor's Office**

- The CEL and crews did a great job and worked all night for two nights. The mutual aid from other areas and cities worked well
- The state COVID numbers are 162 new cases, 32 new deaths and testing is over 1.65 million with 111,533 cases

#### **Health**

- We have 51 active cases, 15 are from the cluster at the senior living facility so only 36 in community
- 457 are recovered
- 48 cases are N/A and 10 deaths
- The cases from the Chicopee Rehab home are being reviewed and probably have more recovered, but have not gotten the numbers from the state

#### **Police Department**

- Status quo on services and staffing

#### **Fire Department**

- Status quo with staffing and supplies

#### **Emergency Management**

- Services continue and status is good

- The level of COVID deaths in the county is low and we seem to be doing well with a minor spike in the infection rate. Individuals are being reminded to wear masks, wash hands, and social distance. The numbers may reflect the result of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events. CT has reported no deaths for the third day
- Chicopee Electric Light did a great job with downed power lines and downed trees. Our DPW Forestry Department and crews helped get the city cleaned up after the tropical storm. Chicopee had 5,000 power outages and after 24 hours was down to 200 outages. After 48 hours there were only two outages and those both have private home issues
- Westcomm had over 1,000 calls to the dispatch center and all were handled. Our first responders answered calls and kept people safe from downed lines. Many helped detour traffic to cleared roads
- The mutual aid we received helped and we are thankful for the assistance
- Part of Connecticut and other parts of the state are still without power and working on downed trees
- We had configured our crews and purchased adequate equipment so two crews were able to respond on clearing trees from blocked streets

#### **Safety**

- Status Quo on services and staffing
- The electrostatic sprayers we ordered are scheduled to arrive in August
- There is a reported shortage of nitro-gloves. We are working with the Fire Department to ensure we have firefighters and ambulance attendants supplied. This is our highest priority
- Have an adequate supply of masks, hand sanitizer and shields. Have some if schools needs them to provide to teachers and students

#### **COA**

- Status Quo on services and staffing
- Will be ready for Wednesday's event and food distribution
- We have ordered a refrigerator to prepare for senior lunches as the school department will no longer provide these meals at schools due to access and sanitation issues with the potential use of schools

#### **DPW**

- Status quo on staffing and services

#### **School Department**

- Vote on School reopening plan will be Wednesday, August 12th
- Large school districts are not physically reopening to students and receiving a lot of push back
- Our plans were reviewed with the School Committee on Wednesday, August 5th

- Focus is the health and safety of the students and staff as a collective
- Wanted to inform committee of the implications of the decision in terms of layoffs of Para, Librarians, crossing guards, bus monitors, custodians, administration and staff. While this is a consequence of decision the **main driver** is health and safety
- Another implication of the decision would be the ability to rent out buildings and use buildings for community functions. With school closed we would not have custodial staff to clean buildings and maintain them so we would have to cancel night school and all rentals of buildings
- **Springfield Schools** announced they are going to full remote learning as they do not have the space to maintain six feet social distancing.
  - They currently have three tiers of bussing and would not be able to expand to six tiers and make the beginning and ending of school work within the scheduling parameters. They also sought HVAC clearance from an outside company and were working on this but had not completed the assessment for all schools
  - Springfield also has outside providers of custodial and food services so less control over changes to contracts without reopening the contracts and bidding the services.
    - We have union staff so we are different.
- **East Longmeadow** has decided to go to remote learning because they are experiencing an increase in cases and felt they could not address all the health and safety requirements to reopen physically
- Will have a meeting on Wednesday, August 12th to cover remaining items with the School Committee and take final vote.