



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, December 2, 2020, the following City of Chicopee Departments have reported:

#### Mayor's Office

- The state COVID numbers are 2,845 new cases reported
- There were 30 new deaths and 1191 cases in hospitals with 239 in an ICU.
  - The average age of hospitalization is still 65 and average age of deaths remained at 81
- The seven day average positivity is at 4.61% which is high
- There are over 100 patients at Bay State Medical Center and the hospital staff are showing fatigue and stress
- The virus is also stressing our Health Department with tracing and follow-up as the numbers are increasing
- Britain has approved a vaccine for use today and will be distributing vaccine shots to its population on a priority basis. It is the Pfizer vaccine which requires an initial shot and booster one month from the initial shot
- We continue working with test providers to see if we can establish a drive through testing facility in the city

#### Health

##### City Case Counts

- We have 645 open cases.
    - These open cases continue to set new highs daily
  - 19 deaths in the City
  - 79 N/A
  - 830 recovered
- We continue to ask residents and employees to wear a mask, wash their hands frequently and do not go out if they feel sick
  - The state reporting transmission through churches, but we are not seeing that through local contact tracing
    - We have only one small church which had several cases and the church has transitioned to remote services
  - Our two congregate homes, with state epidemiologist, have not seen a significant increase in cases and are steady with restrictions and management in place

- It appears that employees at job site throughout the area are catching the virus and bringing it back home.
  - Unfortunately the virus is everywhere and remains highly contagious
- We had one building with six housing units where every unit had cases
  - People and management of housing units must disinfect common areas and be careful with each other in terms of interactions and social contact
- The Hampden County men's jail reported 79 inmates and 20 staff members tested positive and many did not have symptoms.
  - The virus is extremely contagious and protocols must be followed
- It is difficult through contact tracing to determine the cause of an infection as people are joining together in small groups, working together and visiting relatives.
  - The goal of contact tracing is to identify those an individual has been in contact with for the previous couple days and have them get tested to stop the spread

#### **Police Department**

- We are fully staffed and have one officer under quarantine

#### **Fire Department**

- Status quo on services and full staffing
  - One firefighter has a family member test positive
    - Is currently quarantined away from his family
- Quarantine is difficult as the Sheriff's Department no longer provides a quarantine facility
  - We are working with other municipalities and groups to establish a quarantine facility away from family

#### **Emergency Management**

- Services and staffing are continuing
- Working with two testing providers to determine if we can provide drive through testing for Chicopee residents
- Want to provide priority for first responders - to get them back to work quickly and reduce overtime expenses

#### **Safety**

- Status Quo on services and staffing

#### **DPW**

- Status quo on staffing and services
- Now have three employees that have tested positive and are in quarantine.
  - We are monitoring the sub-station to see if others are symptomatic.
  - Protocol was followed but the third employee will not be back probably until 2021 with quarantine and vacation time

## COA

- Status Quo on staff and servicing

## Human Resources

- Status Quo on services and employees
- Reminding Departments on the use of time and leave with regard to COVID and each case is different based upon facts even with standards for leave and protocols. These situations are fact determinant.

## School Department

- Continuing full remote learning based upon the infection rate and case numbers
- Won't be back to in-person learning until after the holiday break
- This decision is made by administration and a health committee made up of administration and CEA members, who work in consultation with the Chicopee Health Director.
  - At this time, it is simply in the hands of our community.