



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, March 24, 2021, the following City of Chicopee Departments have reported:

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

- According to Bloomberg News a company has been tasked with producing millions of doses of the J&J vaccination and asked to deliver 20 million doses by the end of March
- J&J indicated they would deliver 24 million doses but so far has only delivered 4.25 million and the US has administered only 2.4 million doses. J&J has fallen short of their delivery promises and the US is hoping to speed up production and administration of this vaccine
- We will hold a press conference tomorrow to discuss items including our frustration on vaccination efforts
- Chicopee has signed onto a letter to the President from the National Mayor's organization asking the President to send doses directly to municipalities
- At the MMA call it was explained that the regional sites and Mega sites have discretion on 25% of the doses supplied to administer them as they determine. That is why some cities with regional sites have inoculated their DPW workers, teachers, or other groups of individuals. That may also explain the high percentage of individuals inoculated in Northampton, Amherst, Longmeadow, and other communities
- The opinion in today's Chicopee Herald by Mike Dobbs illustrated the frustration in his "know a guy" piece where individuals who know a pharmacy worker, know someone at a regional site or other distribution site can obtain a shot, but elderly who are in need of a shot are unable to find an appointment and have been eclipsed by several additional categories of additional groups
- We continue to work with our homebound population getting them on the homebound list for state inoculation
- The Chicopee Housing Authority has also set up clinics for their resident to help them get vaccinated and should occur in the next couple weeks
- The UK variant is in Chicopee and surrounding communities which may in part have produced the increase in cases
- The state COVID numbers again were slightly increasing with 1,476 new cases reported for a total of 27,006 open cases

- The state numbers were 20 new deaths and 608 cases in hospitals, with 148 in an ICU. The average age of hospitalization remained at 61 years old
- The state seven day average positivity rate climbed above 2% with an increase to 2.20%
- Testing is active with 49,100 molecular tests reported bringing cumulative tests to 18,094,681 tests

### **Health**

- We have seen our city numbers trend in the wrong direction and will stay Red on the risk scale tomorrow
- City Case Counts
  - There are 144 open cases
  - There are 26 deaths
  - 115 N/A
  - 3,276 recovered
  - A total of 3,561 cases to date
- We were notified we have the UK variant in Chicopee and the state will stop checking for the variant now that it is present in the community
- The seven children who tested positive for COVID have spread the virus to their siblings and families

### **Police Department**

- Status Quo on services
- We still have one officer out on long-term recovery

### **Fire Department**

- Status quo on services with one firefighter out on long-term recovery
- Two officers have tested positive for the virus and are in quarantine

### **Emergency Management**

- Services and staffing continue

### **Safety**

- Status Quo on staffing
- There were 50 tests administered today before the meeting
- Yesterday's LEPC meeting with local hospitals showing an uptick in cases but with capacity to treat individuals
- The health care providers believe the next three weeks will produce an increase in cases with the variant in the community and the result of spring break and social functions
- We had 50 tests on Monday with six positive results resulting in a positivity rate of 12.24
- For the Chicopee only individuals, including repeat test takers we had a positivity rate of 9.30%

## **DPW**

- Status quo on staffing
- One employee has tested positive and will be in quarantine
- A group of employees that were in contact with him were tested and we are awaiting results

## **COA**

- Status Quo on staffing and services
- We are continuing to help seniors with obtaining appointments
- We are working on getting rides for individuals who have difficulty driving to the Eastfield Mall or other locations
- The 100 food boxes arrived and are ready to distribute to individuals in quarantine or homebound
- We are calling out to homebound for information and inputting them into the state site for homebound vaccination
- Going forward the state has established a call in number for homebound and we are providing the number to individuals to call directly

## **Human Resources**

- Status Quo on services

## **Treasurer**

- A MMA Zoom call will be held on use of the American Recovery Act funds and we will participate on the call to obtain information on the allowed uses of funds