



## Mayor Vieau - COVID-19 Situational Update

*We are in this together!*

The City of Chicopee has 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, September 22, 2021, the following City of Chicopee Departments have reported:

### **Mayor's Office**

- The national news reported that there are now more deaths from COVID-19 than Spanish Flu deaths from the 1918-1919 pandemic
- We are seeing a steady level of COVID infections in our area
- There is an average of 20 a day which is high but slightly lower after the Labor Day spike
- We are concerned about the winter as that tends to be a time of increased infections and we may see the flu also present
- The state had 1,283 new cases which is slightly lower but still at a higher rate
- The state numbers indicated 25 new deaths yesterday which is stable from last week and too high
- The state had 636 cases in hospitals, with 173 in ICU which is also stable from last week and there is still a concern about hospital capacity locally and maintaining staffing levels
- The state seven day average positivity remains below 3% at 2.10%
- Testing is continuing with 43,033 molecular tests reported which is a slight decrease over last week and brings the cumulative tests to 27,841,784 tests

### **Health**

- City Case Counts
  - There are 283 open cases which is steady from last week
  - There are 29 deaths
  - 126 N/A
  - 5,071 recovered
  - A total of 5,511 cases to date
- We are seeing infections at a daily average of 20 new cases a day which is steady but high
- The new cases continue to be split among older adults and children with no drop in the rate of child infections

### **Police Department**

- Status quo on services with one new case which is severe
- The Department is taking all precautions for protecting employees and the public
- Officers performed well at the test center on Monday
- It was noted that COVID is now the #1 cause of deaths among Police Departments in the US

## **Fire Department**

- Status quo on services with the one new case
- PPE is adequate
- Fire personnel performed well at test center on Monday
- State COVID leave provisions will expire on September 30<sup>th</sup> and we will need direction on how to process leave requests

## **Emergency Management**

- Status quo on services and staffing
- We continue to see high infection rates throughout the Hampden County area
- The testing center at the River Mills on Monday was appreciated by residents with low wait times

## **Safety**

- Status Quo on staffing
- Inventory of PPE is adequate after receiving 10,000 masks
- Will be ordering more gloves for testing site
- There were 85 tests administered on Monday
- We had seven positive cases and one inclusive which we treat as positive
- Four were vaccinated and four were unvaccinated
- One vaccinated person had no symptoms and other vaccinated had reported minor symptoms
- The lab had changes some of their protocols but we worked through them

## **DPW**

- Status quo on staffing and services with one new case and two individual returning from quarantine
- Other DPW workers who had contact with the worker were tested and all negative

## **COA**

- Status Quo on staffing and services
- We continue to have about 100 visitors per day
- The Senior meals remain grab and go and is consistent with individuals appreciating the service
- Senior Center was not impacted by the Monday COVID testing at the upper level
- The COA vaccine clinic is tomorrow, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm walk-ins are welcome

## **Human Resources**

- Status Quo on services

- The state COVID leave is being tracked with both the House and state Senate looking to extend the COVID leave, but it expires September 30<sup>th</sup>
- We have processed leaves under the current requirements
- The employee flu clinic was successful with slots filled all day

### **Library**

- Status Quo on services
- Continue to see 7,000 to 8,000 visitors a month which is about half of our usual visitors
- Working on more remote programs to offer patrons

### **Treasurer**

- Status Quo
- We have the schools promoting vaccinations, Council on Aging clinics, review of COVID at televised City Council meetings and website. Are there any other activities we can use to promote vaccination as the winter approaches?
- State vaccination rate is approaching about 80% and Hampden County and Chicopee are not even 60%