



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, October 6, 2021, the following City of Chicopee Departments have reported:

Mayor's Office

- We are seeing a stable rate of COVID infections in our area, but still too high in the number of infections
- There City is now at an average of 12 cases a day
- The state had 1,184 new cases which is down slightly from last week
- The state numbers indicated 21 new deaths yesterday which is stable from last week and too high
- The state had 584 cases in hospitals, with 166 in ICU which is also stable from last week
- The state seven day average positivity dropped below 2% at 1.79%
- Testing is continuing with 54,597 molecular tests reported which brings the cumulative tests to 29,036,479 tests
- Our discussions about imposing an indoor mask mandate continued and Holyoke instituted a mandatory indoor mask mandate
- Vaccination numbers show that individuals over 65 have an 81% vaccination rate, individuals who are 20 – 29 years old are only 42% which is a problem range for us
- We have been working with Latino churches on vaccination programs
- One healthy, strong public safety individual who was not vaccinated got COVID. His family was told to visit him as he was failing and probably would only last several days. Luckily the person turned around and survived. He indicated he was fortunate and wanted to urge everyone to get vaccinated
- Merck has developed a pill to treat COVID, but we would like everyone to get vaccinated and not get sick
- Booster shots are available and we will seek to offer more vaccination sessions as the holidays are approaching

Health

- City Case Counts
 - There are 252 open cases which is slightly down from last week
 - There are 30 deaths which is steady
 - 130 N/A
 - 5,339 recovered
 - A total of 5,751 cases to date
- We are seeing infections at a daily average of 12 cases a day
- With regards to a vaccination mandate for municipal employees, we know masks work and have a mandatory mask requirement

- If we require vaccinations for employees, would there be an alternative for weekly testing? We need to really think through options and objectives to make sure we can accommodate those with an inability to get vaccinated and alternatives
- Chicopee's positivity rate is decreasing and enforcement of a city wide indoor mask mandate would be difficult to enforce
- We are seeing other communities with widespread non-compliance and non-enforcement of mask mandates

Police Department

- Status quo on services with one new breakthrough case and one officer who was discharged from the hospital and is home recovering
- Contacts for the breakthrough case were all vaccinated so they do not need to quarantine
- The PD agrees that an indoor mask mandate would be difficult to enforce and would pull our limited staff further with calls and complaints for enforcement. If vaccinations work it would be better to focus on vaccinations at this time with decreasing infection rates

Fire Department

- Status quo on services with one firefighter out and returning soon
- Fire agrees with difficulty to enforce indoor mask mandate
- We would need the Law Department to weigh in on an employee vaccination mandate. Suggest alternatives of personnel sick time use for unvaccinated individuals
- A mandatory vaccination requirement may impact staffing and overtime budget

Emergency Management

- Status quo on services and staffing
- Thanks to the employees volunteering to work the test site as demand for tests is high

Safety

- Status Quo on staffing
- Inventory of PPE is adequate for all departments
- Appreciate everyone's work and support for the testing site with 88 tests administered Monday and six positive cases
- For employee vaccination mandate how would we treat natural immunity for individuals who recovered from the virus?

DPW

- Status quo on staffing and services
- No new cases and service levels are good

COA

- Status Quo on staffing and services
- We continue to have about 100 visitors per day

- We conducting a COVID vaccination clinic on October 14th with second doses rom the last clinic, walk-in first doses, and booster shots
- We will have another COVID vaccination clinic on November
- A flu shot clinic will be held on November 3rd and will be open for employees
- The last flu shot clinic administered 130 flu shots
- The Senior meals remains grab and go

Human Resources

- Status Quo on services
- The state COVID leave was extended by the Governor until April or the exhaustion of funding

School Department

- Status Quo on services
- Mask mandate is working with general compliance with younger K-8 elementary students and staff
- Some push back on mask requirements in the High Schools but dealing with issues
- Requested staff provide proof of vaccination as we have few substitute teachers and substitute staff. About 800 provided vaccination proof, which is a majority of staff and waiting for others

Treasurer

- Status Quo