



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, February 9, 2022, the following City of Chicopee Departments have reported:

Mayor's Office

- The city appears to be on the down swing of the Omicron virus but we still need to be vigilant
- The statewide numbers for infections likewise are decreasing and hospitals are not reporting capacity issues
- Our city test site is continuing to see a decrease in the number of individuals being tested daily even with the reduction to only two days
- The state had 1,792 new cases reported which is about 1,000 lower than last week's 2,628 cases
- The state numbers indicated 128 new deaths yesterday which is steady with the 127 deaths reported from last week. The death rate trails the infection rate and we hope this number will reduce next week
- The state had 1,325 cases in hospitals which is a decrease of about 600 cases from last week. Of those hospitalizations, there were 217 in ICU which is 90 less than last week indicating a reduction in the rate of ICU cases
- The state's seven day average positivity remains just above 4% at 4.53%. This is well below last week's 7.13% positivity rate
- Testing is continuing with 45,036 new test, reduced from 49,034 molecular tests last week and brings the cumulative tests to 39,711,896 tests.
- Vaccination opportunities are available to residents and we remain at 63% for two doses, 71% for one dose and we are lagging with booster shots with only 30% receiving boosters
- The group of 20-40 year olds remain the largest group of new cases based upon reports
- There is a report of a new Omicron variant now present in 4% of Massachusetts cases. This variant is more contagious than Omicron (1) but less severe. We need to be careful and keep safe from infections
- Mask mandates are being lifted in Connecticut and other states, but Chicopee is not in a position to lift mandates based upon our vaccination levels and infection rates
- We must continue to watch our numbers before making any changes and continue to encourage vaccination
- Chicopee Schools will continue self-testing distribution on Fridays so students can test on Monday mornings before going to school. This will help keep schools safe

Health

- City Case Counts
 - There are 227 open cases substantially below the 404 open cases compared to last week. There are 172 cases of individuals 18 and older and 55 cases of individuals less than 18 years old
 - There are 32 deaths
 - 141 N/A
 - 9,282 recovered
 - A total of 9,682 cases to date
 - This reflects the infection rate on the downward slope from the Omicron variant. We still need to increase vaccinations and follow CDC guidelines of social distancing, hand washing, and staying home if you feel ill
- We continue to recommend mask mandates in public buildings based upon our low vaccination rates and children vaccination rate. Adults 65 and older are at 87% and children 5 to 11 years old are only at 22%
- We are recommending another vaccination clinic and encourage students and parents to take advantage of the mobile vaccination opportunities at our schools

Police Department

- We have no officers or personnel out with COVID and continue services and patrols
- We are working the test site which is still slowing

Fire Department

- Status quo on services with one firefighter out on COVID leave
- The numbers at the test center are decreasing and agree with visiting the number of days we are open

Emergency Management

- Status quo on staffing
- They agree with reducing testing to one day, Monday, in a couple weeks if numbers do not increase

Safety

- Status quo on staffing
- There were 29 tests administered on Monday compared to 55 tests last week, with 2 positive, (6.9% and one was a repeat tester), Tuesday we did not test and so far today there were 22 tests administered.
- The test center is slowing compared to last week which continues a downward trend
- Based upon demand and staffing we will maintain Monday and Wednesdays this coming week but reduce the testing to Monday only after President's Day week

DPW

- We are managing to be status quo on services with all employees returned

COA

- Status Quo on staffing and services with everyone reporting to work

- The vaccine clinic at the COA for February 3rd had 55 doses administered. Many were walk-ins
- The second doses will be administered at the Holyoke Health Center for first dose individuals
- There will be another vaccination clinic on March 8th, Tuesday, run by the state. We want to continue offering vaccination clinics and promoting vaccinations
- Based upon public attendance, vaccination rates and infection rates, the COA recommends continuing with the mask mandate for public buildings

Human Resources

- Status Quo on services
- There are currently no COVID leaves requested
- HR recommends we continue with a mask mandate in public buildings as we are not ready yet to lift a mandate

Library

- There is one staff member out with COVID and has been having difficulty with the condition
- The Library also recommends continuing with the mask mandate in public buildings based upon library usage and programs. There are a large number of visitors every day from all age groups. Based upon vaccination data and infection rates the staff would want the mandate to continue

Treasurer

- Status Quo on services