



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 16, 2022, the following City of Chicopee Departments have reported:

Mayor's Office

- The city continues on the down swing of the Omicron virus but we still need to be careful
- Our city test site is continuing to see a decrease in the number of individuals being tested daily
- The state had 1,459 new cases reported which is about 350 lower than last week's 1,792 cases
- The state numbers indicated 90 new deaths yesterday which is lower than the 128 deaths reported from last week. The death rate is beginning to reduce which further indicates Omicron has turned downward in our community
- The state had 882 cases in hospitals which is a decrease of about 400 cases from last week. Of those hospitalizations, there were 168 in ICU which is 50 less than last week indicating a reduction in the rate of ICU cases
- The state seven day average positivity remains just below 4% at 3.09%. This is well below last week's 4.53% positivity rate
- Testing is continuing with 37,062 new test, reduced from last week and brings the cumulative tests to 40,172,070 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
- We are watching our numbers and will make changes based upon the numbers

Health

- City Case Counts
 - There are 119 open cases, below the 227 open cases last week. There are 90 cases of individuals 18 and older and 29 cases of individuals less than 18 years old
 - There are 32 deaths
 - 141 N/A
 - 9,297 recovered
 - A total of 9,589 cases to date
 - This reflects the infection rate continuing on the downward slope
- We continue to recommend wearing a mask, especially if not vaccinated, but a mandate may not be necessary in public municipal buildings based upon our infection rates

- We are recommending another vaccination clinic and encourage students. Another vaccination clinic will be held at every school to get our child vaccination rates up in our schools

Police Department

- We have one officer out with COVID and continue all services and patrols
- We are working the test site which continues to slow
- We believe wearing a mask should be a personal choice based upon your individual circumstances and vaccination status

Fire Department

- Status quo on services with no firefighters out on COVID leave
- The numbers at the test center are decreasing and agree with reducing the number of days we are open to one
- Agree that mask wearing should be a personal choice based on the individual's situation

Emergency Management

- Status quo on staffing
- They agree with reducing testing to one day, Monday, but having a Wednesday session on the 23rd

Safety

- Status quo on staffing
- There were 23 tests administered on Monday compared to 29 tests last week, with 3 positive. So far today there were 14 tests administered.
- The mask mandate should be changed to an encouragement to wear a mask
- We should move to only testing on Mondays and drop the Wednesday testing. Holyoke Community College and Eastfield Mall have testing available as well as pharmacies

DPW

- We are managing with all employees working
- Agree with reducing the test site to one day a week
- Would strongly encourage mask wearing but not a mandate at this point

COA

- Status Quo with everyone reporting to work
- The next vaccine clinic at the COA is scheduled for March 8th Tuesday
- The COA recommends wearing a mask but believes a mandate is not necessary. Individuals may choose if they want to wear a mask

Human Resources

- Status Quo on services
- There are currently two individuals on COVID leaves
- No new leaves were requested this week

- HR recommends we encourage wearing a mask but not mandate them in public buildings

Library

- There are no staff members out with COVID
- The Library also recommends encouraging the wearing of masks but not mandate them in public buildings. There are Plexiglas barriers up at all stations and hand sanitizing throughout the Library

Treasurer

- Status Quo on services
- Recommend closing the testing site as we have five individuals working there and few people getting tested. Other options are available. Mayor wants to keep the test site going until after the St. Patrick's day parade gatherings