



Mayor Vieau - COVID-19 Situational Update

We are in this together!

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, April 15, 2020, the following City of Chicopee Departments has reported:

Mayor's Office

- Members of the Financial Team listened to the State Administration and Finance briefing to the Massachusetts Mayor's Association.
 - It was indicated that the state had no guidance to cities and towns with regard to Chapter 70, Chapter 90 or 9C cuts for the remainder of the 2020 fiscal year.
 - This is a health issue and cannot project if the recovery will be in June, July or later. Also, they cannot project if there will be a second outbreak of the virus which could cause another lock down. This is making projections difficult and guidance impossible at this time.
 - A decrease in funding is expected but severity of the decrease cannot be determined at this time
 - Economic growth is expected to return by the 4th quarter of 2021
- Mayor and staff - with Police and Fire representatives visited Sheriff Cocchi's facility for first responders who test positive for the Coronavirus.
 - It was impressive and all new sheets, blankets, and towels were purchased.
 - The facility offers TV's internet, a library, activity rooms, an exercise area, and dining facilities.
 - Snacks and meals are/were provided.
 - A nurse was on staff and a doctor was also available.
 - First responder's family members that tested positive - would also be accommodated in the facility.
- There may be a media briefing later this week to update the residents and citizens

Health Department

- 84 active cases as of 04/15/2020 10:15 AM - 46 recovered – 1 deceased = Totaling = 131
- It has been difficult to determine Chicopee numbers because non-Chicopee Assisted Living Facilities patients may be included in numbers reported to us. These cases did not occur in Chicopee and they do not count in Chicopee's #s.

- Reporting for some are the last known residence and one individual had been out of their home for 5 years
- Large number of recoveries
- No cases reported in the Willimansett Nursing Home
- Nurses continue to work to identify contacts and provide self-quarantine notices

Police Department

- No new officers in self-quarantine
 - One officer sent for testing but no symptoms and low chance of exposure and all at work
- Dispatch is well staffed and using masks
- Stores are still following our numbers for customers
 - Some business want to increase the number of shoppers allowed into the store
 - One store felt overwhelmed at the registers but aisle was narrow and those moving between aisles appeared close to those in line
- Have PPE but watching burn rate.
 - Have masks but ordered more. Some reuse of masks if stored in a paper bag and not soiled
 - Hand sanitizer have some supply
 - Need nitro gloves
- Call volumes remain down and arrests are still down

Fire Department

- One firefighter sent for testing and awaiting results
- Waiting for PPE orders from MEMA to be completed
- Other communities are requesting people wear masks when outside.
 - Northampton issued request today

Emergency Management

- Still seeking to reduce the curve and feel we have not seen a reduction in cases to justify removal of stay at home guidance
- The State Department of Public Health will begin listing cases by city or town instead of by county
- PPE Orders/Needs
 - EM is placing all orders into MEMA.
 - If a department orders directly it is through a PO.
 - Treasurer is coordinating requests with EM
 - Reliable vendors of PPE are being shared with other departments
- We have a few cases of hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray
- Wash station near C-3 Police being used by homeless and maintained

DPW

- Need more cloth masks for workers
- Sanitation Dept. rotation going well with services maintained with limited staff
 - Moral in group is good
- Following hygiene protocols and disinfecting vehicles
- Today working on filling potholes as weather is dryer
- Continuing to sweep streets
- Clothing boxes
 - Outside vendors are being removed and closed as vendors due to overflow of items
 - Chicopee white boxes will be opened and materials will be collected
- Second robo-call on pink bags being suspended to be queued

Parks

- Working with limited staff and parks are being cleaned
- Starting to work on fields to prepare them for spring
- Programs are still postponed and reaching out to vendors on postponing and possible dates for programs in the fall
- Working on Camp Opee for the summer and pools/spray parks will be ready for summer
- Contacting fireworks vendor for late June and possibly end of summer
- Playscapes are still taped off and not being used

Veterans Services

- Continuing weekly wellness calls to clients and some food drop-offs
- Did a food drop off at Soldier-On
- Benefits are being maintained and assistance is provided
- Guardians to Graduates is being planned out for students entering the service

Treasurer's Office

- Still getting calls on large item drop off at transfer station so asking that be included in DPW robo-call
- Document expenses to reimbursement through FEMA
- Processing POs for PPE and coordinating with EM