



## 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 Tuesday, April 28, 2020, the following City of Chicopee Departments has reported:

### Mayor's Office

- With mandatory mask order causing some pain to our residents and businesses and moving along the learning curve on how to approach this situation it is helpful to look at history
  - The San Francisco response to the Spanish Flu in 1918 and 1919 provides us with an understanding of taking action quickly, being persistent and not lifting restrictions too soon
- We will watch the states that are re-opening without seeing a decrease in cases and look for an surge in cases and infections
- It feels like we are flattening the curve from our reports and early numbers, but it is still too early to tell as we get through the surge here

### Health Department

- We had our third death reported and have 118 open cases and 101 people who have recovered as of 04/28/2020.
  - The LBOH system is overflowing with new cases due to the additional tests available – it is taking longer to update the numbers as the nurses are going through each case one at a time for accuracy.
- The COVID disease does take a toll on employees in terms of stress and emotional impact and is difficult to treat

### Police Department

- All officers are healthy and holding steady on services and calls
- The task force is out visiting businesses and generally stores are cooperating
- We are allowing customers to purchase non-essential items but do not want them browsing or touching merchandise while in the store

- A customer can ask a store associate [who CAN get] an item for them and have it at register or courtesy desk for their purchase.
  - Some stores do not want to have employees retrieving items or dealing with customers in this manner – that would be the stores decision to implement.
- The MA Attorney General sent out an order which clarifies the local Board of Health’s ability to issue orders and guidelines on wearing masks
  - Some store employees are not wearing masks correctly with masks at their necks or not covering nose and mouth
  - We have gotten questions about the Post Office employees not wearing masks and were told by employees as federal workers the local order does not pertain to them.
    - They have shields and are utilizing social-spacing
    - Will do research on effectiveness of local orders on federal workers
  - Some other businesses are being asked to wear masks today as they are not following order
  - Using an educational approach and not issuing cease and desist orders to businesses yet
    - Also, can issue a fine up to \$1,000 but have not issued any yet
  - Many stores are not letting customers in without a mask

#### **Fire Department**

- The Fire Department is fully staffed and providing services
- Supply of PPE is steady

#### **Emergency Management**

- MEMA is talking with us about the KN95 masks and will replace the ones tested at only 53% effectiveness. We had 3000 masks from MEMA
  - Our masks are in grey bags and we will see if they replace them
- We are low on N95 masks and are looking for a reliable manufacturer
- The PPE supplies we had ordered will be delivered by MEMA tomorrow
- Individuals using the remote radio traffic service can use the service from home

#### **COA**

- Submitted a food order and are concerned about the ability of suppliers to fill the order for chicken, pork and beef
- Looking for mask for seniors to be distributed with meals
- Will be adding a sign at Senior Center for mother’s day and for encouragement

#### **DPW**

- Department is status quo with staffing being maintained and no issues with services

## School Department

- Education is continuing and meal services continue
- Some students are struggling with on-line learning and want to get good grades
- Resource officers are doing Google Meetings with students and message is to relax and do your best
- The schools completed an emotional “well-being” week with students and reminded them to walk and continue learning. Said there is more than just video games