



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 Monday, December 14, 2020, the following City of Chicopee Departments have reported:

Mayor's Office

- The state COVID numbers are 4,677 new cases reported
- There were 41 new deaths and 1,707 cases in hospitals with 342 in an ICU. The average age of hospitalization remained at 69 and average age of deaths remained at 82
- The seven day average positivity is at 5.61% which is somewhat steady
- In the US there now are over 16,200,000 cases and 300,000 deaths
- Chicopee had 496 cases in the last fourteen days
- We do not want people are getting a false sense of comfort with vaccines being shipped. The phased in approach will not provide adequate herd immunity for some time
- Mercy Hospital reported they should receive Pfizer vaccines today and begin inoculating medical staff
- The Moderna vaccine is scheduled to be reviewed and up for potential approval next week
- The Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca vaccines are expected to be reviewed at the end of January
- If these vaccines are approved we may have sufficient immunity in the community by April or May. The J&J and AstrZeneca do not require refrigeration
- Testing and vigilance is needed until then
- Local hospitals and providers are almost at maximum capacity and ICU beds are increasing towards capacity
- We believe that testing will save lives

Health

City Case Counts

- We have 143 open cases as of this morning
- The deaths in the City have increased and we need to call the state to verify the number. There is some difficulty with numbers received from a nursing home and we want to verify the numbers
- 86 N/A

- 1080 recovered
 - A total of 1930 cases to date
- We have two clusters at congregate care facilities. The state has epidemiologist at both sites and the National Guard at one facility
 - We have warned staff to please stay at home and not venture out after hours as it may put patients at risk
 - One employee in the Health Department has tested positive and is quarantined with no spread to other employees
 - We will be opening testing for residents but need volunteers to man the site
 - Volunteers will perform data entry, residency checks, work as runners between sections, print labels and apply them to kits, and other duties. We also need qualified volunteers to administer the tests
 - If Chicopee COMP phases in in person learning with the return of students, the testing is flexible and through WiFi so we can move the testing site

Police Department

- Status Quo on services
- There still is one officer out with issues
- We are ensuring masks are worn
- Appointments will continue to be required for services

Fire Department

- Status quo on services
- We had one Firefighter test positive and is quarantined. There was no spread to other employees

Emergency Management

- Services and staffing are continuing
- Working on logistics for the COVID testing at Chicopee COMP and potential snow storm on Wednesday

Safety

- Status Quo on services and staffing
- We have downloaded a listing of residents from the Register of Voters census data into the test data and reporting system
- The additional shipment of gloves and PPE for testing should arrive today
- We are assembling a schedule of volunteers and taking in additional volunteers for the program

DPW

- Status quo on staffing and services

COA

- Status Quo on staff and servicing

Human Resources

- Status Quo on services and employees
- It is important to note that the determination of leave status depends on the variable of each individual case
- We are working with the Health Department on Doctor recommendations and time frames for quarantine
- The determination of “essential employee” status is difficult when doctors are making recommendations and orders
- Our review is based on keeping the community and society safe. If an employee can stay at home and not impact essential services we want them to stay at home and isolate. Each employee is looked at on the service and management they provide and the city’s ability to continue functions
- For example the Health Director is different from a health inspector. A sanitation worker is different from a park worker, even though they may have the same grade and pay scale. Also, with winter and snow potential the person assigned plowing may be different from one that is not assigned that duty
- Still have not gotten any indication on the extension of the COVID FMLA leave and if it will continue past December 31st. Our current action plans are based upon the federal government not extending the COVID FMLA benefits