



Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's City of Springfield COVID-19 Situational Update

Friday, April 17, 2020

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, in the best interests of our residents and business community, continues his daily morning meetings with his cabinet heads as they work 24/7 to facilitate and coordinate with all of our local, state, federal, and public and private partners in response to the COVID-19 situation.

Below are the most recent updates as reported from each City Departments.

Mayor's Office

- Continues to coordinate the city's efforts with all stakeholders (state, federal, hospital and medical facilities, public and private partners, etc.) in response of services and relief and recovery measures.
- Continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely so that we do not reopen and ease our prudent measures too early, which could potentially expose our residents to second wave of the virus.
- Held zoom conference meeting with Springfield state delegation to discuss the city's and states ongoing response and needs during the COVID-19 situation
- Following up on the President's plan to Governors about reopening the country and economy, Mayor Sarno and HHS Commissioner Helen Caulton-Harris stressed the importance that we are currently nowhere close to being ready to open. There is still a dramatic need for testing kits. It is estimated that the city would need over 50,000 testing kits for target testing (roughly 1/3rd of the city's population) before any talk about reopening could be considered, in order to build strong public, business and hospital confidences to identify, isolate, contact trace, mitigate and heal potential hot spot areas.
- Will continue to hold Monday morning COVID-19 Situational Update briefing this upcoming Patriots Day Monday, April 20, 2020.
- Heartfelt thank you to our Springfield Community for stepping up with PPE donations, allowing the city to outfit our dedicated police, fire and frontline workers with the appropriate safety equipment
 - Ocean State Job Lot donated 200 surgical masks
 - Aaron's, Inc. donated 300 surgical masks

Health

- Announced 47 new cases of Springfield residents testing positive for COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
- Total positive cases now at 669
 - City continues to see a surge of cases

- Continues to monitor potential COVID-19 cluster locations across the city, especially at our long-term care facilities.
- School nurses continue to help with contact tracing
- Announced the continued need and importance of adhering to all public health, personal hygiene and social distancing procedures.
- Homeless tenting full facilities and operations up and running
 - Count currently at 15 individuals at facility, but potentially will rise as testing results come back and more testing takes place
- City of Springfield COVID-19 hotline - (413) 750-3250

Elder Affairs

- Continues to do wellness checks on a daily basis with people in senior housing complexes and associated with senior centers.
- Continues to deliver meals to seniors in need, including over the weekend.

DPW

- Down 2
- Trash and recycling continue to be picked up
- Streets and Engineering continue to provide services
- Yard waste collection continues but is running behind schedule – will continue into Saturday if necessary
- Weekly construction update for the week of April 20, 2020
 - Sidewalk work – Bristol Street
 - Utility work – Magaziner Street
 - Milling work – Mill Street
- Continues to assist at Central High School Oasis Foodbank aspects

Eco Dev

- Continues to review and secure additional funding for restaurant and small business assistance grants.
- Reviewing application for second round of the restaurant and small business “Prime the Pump” grant program - \$500,000 funding available – over 110 applications submitted
- Continues to review and identify Federal stimulus funding to focus on local efforts for relief and recovery for our residents and small businesses
- Funding for the first round of Prime the Pump grant program is being distributed and contracted. Checks started going out today.

Finance

- Provided an update to Mayor and cabinet heads on the projected revenue shortfalls by the federal, state and municipal levels. Reviewed the expected budgetary constraints for the city’s FY 20 and FY21 budgets
- Continues to explore all public and private means in which to secure additional PPE’s for our Police and Fire Departments and our first responders and frontline personnel
- Continues to monitor all federal and state relief and recovery funding and reimbursement mechanisms
- Implementing strategic spending measures to identify areas of need, relief and recovery while also trying to maintain city services for residents and business community.
- Continues to monitor lost revenue – city and state

- Continues proactive meetings with Josh Norman of GP Strategies to track, identify, and implement relief and recovery reimbursement aspects.

Parks and Facilities

- Consulting with Bob Kirchherr, CSP, Principal and Indoor Air Quality and Industrial Hygienist for O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Engineering Associate to review the city's air systems at all municipal buildings – police and fire HQ, City Hall, Schools, etc.
- Continuing the deep cleaning of all city buildings and facilities
- Continuing to monitor our parks on social distancing aspects
- Installing signs at city parks recommending residents wear face coverings

Public Safety

Fire

- Down 3
- Announced Food Drive to help residents in need. Non-perishable food items can be donated and dropped off at city fire stations. Residents are encouraged to call ahead or ring the door bell and to leave items at the door for social distancing aspects.
- Desperate need for thermal infrared thermometers

Police

- Down 16
- Continue to provide anti-crime activity
 - Increase in mental health related calls for service – more Behavioral Health Network (BHN) staff added
- The National Guard and State Police continue to work alongside SPD
- Desperate need for thermal infrared thermometers
- Continues to assist at Central High School Oasis Foodbank aspects

Schools

- To date, Sodexo has served 280,182 meals to Springfield Public Schools students since the program began on March 12th (meals included breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks).
 - Will continue to distribute meals on Patriots Day, Monday, April 20, 2020
- Continues to distribute laptops to students for remote learning – over 10,000 are currently being given out, including to our homeless students, on top of the 7,000 our students had already been using prior to pandemic

Law/HR/Labor

- Continues to assist and advise all departments on pertinent city business
- Continues to review and monitor all federal and state legislation