

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

**Tuesday, April 14, 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.
- Heartfelt thank you to the private sector for donating PPE, allowing the city to outfit our dedicated police, fire and frontline workers with the appropriate safety equipment.
  - AMR donated thermal infrared thermometers for our police and fire departments.
  - Caring Health Center donated 1,000 KN95 masks for city frontline personnel.
- Announced with the Spirit of Springfield that the City's Pancake Breakfast event will be postponed
- Requested from MEMA an Abbott testing machine in order to test our homeless population directly
- Mayor Sarno and Health Commissioner Helen Caulton-Harris indicate that in order to start to think about phased aspects of re-opening – federal and state government must increase testing tremendously

## **Health**

- Announced 22 new cases of Springfield residents testing positive for COVID-19 (Coronavirus).
- Total positive cases now at 563
  - Though hospital numbers seem to be flattening – city must continue to stay vigilant with all mitigation efforts to flat line and knockdown city numbers
- 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
- 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 1
- Trash and recycling continue to be picked up.
- Streets and Engineering continue to provide services.
- Yard waste collection continues.

### **Eco Dev**

- Continues to review and secure additional funding for restaurant and small business assistance grants.
- Currently accepting applications for the second round of the restaurant and small business “Prime the Pump” grant program - \$500,000 funding available
  - Reminder that the deadline for applications are due Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.
- Continues to review and identify Federal stimulus funding to focus on local efforts for relief and recovery for our residents and small businesses.
- The first round of Prime the Pump funding is schedule to be distributed this week.
- Encourages businesses to register with the state and feds

### **Finance**

- The City of Springfield 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 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**

- 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
- Forestry Division working to clear damaged trees and branches from yesterday’s storm
- Monitored and secured city’s homeless tent triage facility during yesterday’s storm. No damage reported.

### **Public Safety**

#### **Fire**

- Down 6 – 5 firefighters and 1 dispatcher

- 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 18
- Continue to provide anti-crime activity
- The National Guard and State Police continue to work alongside SPD
- Desperate need for thermal infrared thermometers

### **Schools**

- To date, Sodexo has served 216,790 meals to Springfield Public Schools students since the program began on March 12<sup>th</sup> (meals included breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks).
- Continues to distribute laptops to students for remote learning – over 10,000 are currently being given out on top of the 7,000 our students had already been using prior to pandemic