



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

**Wednesday, March 25, 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 provide leadership in coordinating the city's response to adhere to all state and federal public health emergency recommendations and orders.
- Coordinates with all cabinet and department heads to assure city services for our residents and business community continue with minimum interruption.
- Coordinates with all cabinet and department heads to assure that the safety and health of all city employees are monitored and addressed to the best that possibly can be done.
- Continues to provide and share news, updates and information between our local, state and federal government officials.
- Continues contact with cabinet heads and department heads on the city's continued response and measures being taken to address the COVID-19 situation for the public health and safety of our employees, residents and business community.

## **Health**

- Providing updates to Mayor and cabinet heads on the status of COVID-19 in the city, state and across the nation.
- Continue contact and communication with local medical facilities including Baystate Health and Mercy Medical
- Monitoring the COVID-19 status and situation across the city and any contingency plans that may be needed
- Working with all city departments, and public and private partners to coordinate action plans and response actions that might be needed
- Continuing meeting and coordinating with local, state, federal, and public and private on multiple platforms to address the needs that might arise due to the COVID-19 situation including but not limited to: homeless population, elderly population, families, mental

health, medical needs, food needs, following and practicing the recommended public health emergency guidance and orders, etc.

## **Public Safety**

- **Fire**
  - Continue to operate under modified operations and deployment while maintaining full public safety services
  - Emergency Communications fully staffed
  - Emergency Management continuing to monitor Federal communications, and opportunities to procure safety and medical gear
- **Police Dept.**
  - Continue to operate under modified operations and deployment while maintaining full public safety services
  - One police officer per vehicle
  - Cruises and vehicles continue to be cleaned on a daily basis
  - Number of first responders on the street were given safety and precautionary equipment such as safety goggles thanks to Smith & Wesson.
  - Arrest are still being made and anti-crime measures are still taking place.
  - Recent arrest made on a warrant for a person wanted for murder

## **A & F**

- Established and monitoring new fund to track all COVID spending within the City and School Department, necessary for potential reimbursement and/or three year repayment period
- Established specific pay codes in order to tracking all employee time related to COVID
- Extended due date for trash fee by one month
- Communicating with DOR in regards to special legislation specific to municipal finance and end of year accounting, extension of tax due dates, interest and demand fees
- Adjusting projections for all revenue collection and expenses through the end of the fiscal year
- Monitoring and managing the reimbursement and drawdown requests on grant funds
- Developing FY21 departmental budgets with provisions in place to allow for flexibility when the State's budget is eventually finalized

## **311 Call Center**

- Call reps have been divided between to different physical locations - City Hall and Tapley
- Call reps continue to take calls for city services

## **Assessors**

- Minimum staffing to continue services needed to process abatements, address changes, and other assessing needs

## **Clerk**

- Minimum staffing to continue services needed for birth certificates, death certificates, etc

## **Collector**

- Minimum staffing to continue services needed to process tax and fee payments, and municipal lien certificates

## **Building and Code**

- Minimum staffing to continue services needed to provide essential building and code needs

## **DPW**

- Trash and recycling continue to be picked up
- Changes made for the Bulk Pickup Collection of mattresses and box springs – which must now be placed in plastic mattress bags
- Yard waste is scheduled to be picked up starting April 7<sup>th</sup>
- Pot hole operations will begin soon
- Minimum staffing to continue to provide essential DPW services
- Has reduced the number of occupants per vehicle to just the driver

## **Eco Dev**

- Released the “Prime the Pump” grant program for our local restaurants to provide immediate financial relief to help with the transition to the take out service model.
- Continues to update a dedicated COVID-19 business assistance and resource webpage
- Minimum staffing to continue services needed to provide essential business resources and assistance

## **Housing**

- Minimum staffing to continue services needed to provide essential housing needs

## **HR**

- Minimum staffing to continue services needed to maintain HR functions
- Continued contact with the city’s 24 unions that represent the large portion of the city’s workforce
- Continue to monitor an process changes in state and federal laws as they apply to our employees
- Continue to work with our partners in handling worker’s compensation matters and are evaluating moving to a tele-medicine platform for evaluating minor injuries in the workplace.

## **IT Department**

- Minimum staffing to continue IT needs and services for the City of Springfield.
- Staff separated into multiple locations
- Employees encouraged to contact IT remotely for any IT assistance
- Establishing two conferencing platforms for city internal use and needs
- Coordinating with department heads to help employees work remotely with proper resources and equipment if needed.

## **Law**

- Minimum staffing to continue services needed to maintain legal services

## **Mayor’s Office of Consumer Information**

- Minimum staffing to continue services in support of the Attorney General’s mission of serving local consumer needs and concerns.

## **Parks**

- Minimum staffing to continue services needed to provide essential park, building and facility maintenance and upkeep.
- Providing deep cleaning services for all municipal buildings including police and fire stations, and all vehicles and playgrounds are routinely cleaned and disinfected.
- Parks remain open and residents are encouraged to visit our parks for walking, jogging, biking, dog-walking, and casual recreational activities
- Field permits are not being issued and the basketball (hoops taken down) and tennis courts are closed as to adhering to social-distancing policies and to discourage players from congregating in groups greater than ten individuals.

## **Schools**

- Minimum staffing to continue services needed to provide educational needs.
- Beginning today, Boland School has been added as a meal site for Springfield youth.
- Free breakfast and lunch are available every weekday for all Springfield students during the current school closure. The meals are grab-and-go and are available between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday – Friday and food for the weekend is provided on Fridays.
- The meals are served at the following 16 locations: Boland, Bowles, Brookings, Chestnut Middle School, Commerce, Dorman, Glickman, Indian Orchard, Kensington, Liberty, Lincoln, Rebecca Johnson, South End, Talmadge, Warner and Washington schools.
- No identification is required, and parents, guardians or grandparents may pick up meals for their Springfield students.
- Served over 10,000 meals to date with the programs popularity growing each day.
- Remote teaching aspects continue to expand through technology and hard copy kits are available at all meal site locations.

## **Veterans**

- Minimum staffing to continue services needed for our veterans.