

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

Monday, August 23, 2021

Week of August 15 – August 21

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 Coronavirus pandemic.

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 efforts, measures and initiatives
- City Hall and all municipal buildings are fully reopened effective June 1, 2021
- Mayor Sarno urges residents young and old to get vaccinated
- Springfield Police Department's Clerk's Office closed due to COVID-19
- Mayor Sarno and Way Finders urges residents impacted by the pandemic to tap into emergency rental and mortgage assistance
- New North Citizens Council host vaccine clinic
- Summer grab-and-go meals service comes to a close
- Spirit of Springfield holds World's Largest Pancake Breakfast
- Mayor Sarno and Clerk Oyola joined with Secretary of State Galvin for 2020 Census press conference
- Mayor Sarno and HHS Commissioner Caulton-Harris meet with Baystate Health President and CEO Dr. Mark Keroack
- Mayor Sarno and Mayoral Aide Mini Marrero attend New North Citizens Council back to school party
- City of Springfield raises the Native American Flag
- Mayor Sarno joined with state and city officials for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of Iona's Café and Grill
- Mayor Sarno and state and city officials joined with US Senator Ed Markey for press conference at Union Station on federal Infrastructure bill
- Mayor Sarno and cabinet heads provided situational update on Tropical Storm Henri

Health

- City of Springfield's weekly COVID-19 cases:
 - Week of April 18, 2021: 504
 - Week of April 26, 2021: 425
 - Week of May 2, 2021: 265
 - Week of May 9, 2021: 154
 - Week of May 16, 2021: 156
 - Week of May 23, 2021: 118
 - Week of May 30, 2021: 65
 - Week of June 6, 2021: 30
 - Week of June 14, 2021: 27
 - Week of June 21, 2021: 17
 - Week of June 27, 2021: 23
 - Week of July 4, 2021: 37
 - Week of July 11, 2021: 64
 - Week of July 18, 2021: 119
 - Week of July 25, 2021: 122
 - Week of August 1, 2021: 279
 - Week of August 8, 2021: 374
 - Week of August 15, 2021: 477
- Total positive cases: 24,147
 - 246 deaths of Springfield residents related to COVID-19
 - 60 deaths reported from long term care facilities
 - 186 residential deaths
 - Ethnic breakdown of deaths:
 - 99 White – 40.2%
 - 55 Black – 22.3%
 - 85 Hispanic – 34.5%
 - 7 Asian – 2.8%
- 85% of positive cases are under the age of 50 (as of August 23, 2021)
 - 54% are under the age of 30
 - 31% are between the age of 31-50
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and CDC has listed Hampden County as high-risk for COVID-19 cases
- Announced the continued need and importance of adhering to all public health, personal hygiene and social distancing procedures
- Reported that as of August 19th, 4,438,499 individuals have been vaccinated in Massachusetts.
- Will continued contact tracing efforts for foreseeable future

Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management

- Continues to maintain the \$1.5 million in Covid-19 prevention equipment that was previously installed across the city in school and municipal buildings. The upgrades have brought the buildings into compliance with the ASHRAE standards.

Eco Dev

- Continues to review costs associated with COVID-19 response for relief and recovery reimbursements.
- Tracking local, state and national unemployment trends and numbers

- City of Springfield unemployment rate (2020)
 - 4.8% - March
 - 21.1% - April
 - 21% - May
 - 21.6% - June
 - 16.3% - July
 - 15.3% - August
 - 15.2% - September
 - 13.6% - October
 - 12.8% - November
 - 12.6% - December
 - 12.3% - January (2021)
 - 12.2% - February (2021)
 - 11.2% - March (2021)
 - 10.9% - April (2021)
 - 9.6% - May (2021)
 - 10.6% - June (2021)
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts unemployment rate (2020)
 - 3.1% - March
 - 16.3% - April
 - 15.4% - May
 - 14.8% - June
 - 10.1% - July
 - 9.1% - August
 - 8.9% - September
 - 8.1% - October
 - 7.7% - November
 - 7.3% - December
 - 7.8% - January (2021)
 - 7% - February (2021)
 - 6.7% - March (2021)
 - 6.4% - April (2021)
 - 5.0% - May (2021)
 - 4.9% - June (2021)
 - 4.9% - July (2021)
- National unemployment rate (2020)
 - 4.4% - March
 - 14.8% - April
 - 13.3% - May
 - 11.1% - June
 - 10.2% - July
 - 8.4% - August
 - 7.8% - September
 - 6.9% - October
 - 6.7% - November
 - 6.7% - December
 - 6.3% - January (2021)
 - 6.2% - February (2021)
 - 6% - March (2021)
 - 6.1% - April (2021)

- 5.8% - May (2021)
- 5.9% - June (2021)
- 5.4% - July (2021)
- Continues to review and work on economic development projects across the city.
- Continuing to review funding program for workforce training development
- Continues to monitor federal relief and stimulus funding measures

Finance

- Continues to monitor all federal and state relief and recovery funding and reimbursement mechanisms
- Continues to review costs associated with COVID-19 response for relief and recovery reimbursements
- Continues to monitor lost revenue and deficit spending due to pandemic
- Continues proactive meetings with Josh Norman of GP Strategies to track, identify, and implement relief and recovery reimbursement aspects.
- Continuing to review and monitor all city capital projects to keep them on track to the best of our ability and to extend deadlines if needed

Schools

- To date, Sodexo has served over 8.7 million meals to Springfield Public Schools students since the program began on March 12th (meals included breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks)
- Over 20,000 laptops have been distributed to students for remote learning
 - 10,000 laptops were given out over the summer, including to our homeless students
 - 7,000 laptops were already distributed to our students before the pandemic
- iPads distributed to Pre-K students
- Continues to prepare for safe return of students, families, and staff to schools
- Out of an abundance of caution, social distancing will be implemented along with pre-packaged lunches.
- In addition to in-person learning, SPS will have a Virtual School option in accordance with state education requirements.

Law/HR/Labor

- Continues to review and monitor all federal and state legislation pertaining to COVID-19

Veterans

- The VA Central Western Mass & VA Connecticut Healthcare Systems are working together to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to VA Enrolled Veterans of all ages

Misc.

Food Bank

- Continue Oasis Food Pantry operations on Friday's 10-2pm through John Foley, Sodexo, School Department, Mayor's Office, DPW, SPD and Food Bank of Western Mass – serving families in need with food and milk distribution at Eastfield Mall (by former Sears Building)