



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

**Monday, July 19, 2021**

*Week of July 12 – July 18*

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
- City of Springfield holds Shot for Shot basketball and vaccination clinic event
- Mass Health Connector to offer zero-dollar health plan
- Springfield public libraries reopen
- Mayor Sarno urges residents young and old to get vaccinated after surge in cases
- Mayor Sarno and HHS Commissioner Caulton-Harris continue to meet with Vax Force
- Mayor Sarno welcomes residents back to Farmers' Market at Forest Park
- Movies in the Park returns
- Springfield Public Library celebrates Summer Reading Program
- Mayor Sarno, Congressman Neal and other state officials joined with the state Health Connector to highlight new health insurance benefits created by the American Rescue Plan

**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
- Total positive cases: 22,776
  - 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%
- 86% of positive cases are under the age of 50 (as of July 19, 2021)
  - 55% are under the age of 30
  - 31% are between the age of 31-50
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has listed Springfield as low-risk (Green) for COVID-19 cases
- Announced the continued need and importance of adhering to all public health, personal hygiene and social distancing procedures

### **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)
    - 11.6% - May (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)
- 6.1% - May (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)
- 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 – city
  - Over \$9.6 million in lost revenue due to COVID-19
    - \$4.8 million in lost revenue FY21
  - \$40.7 million in total deficit spending related to COVID-19 response
    - \$31.4 million of deficit spending has been eligible for COVID-19 related grants and reimbursement aspects
    - \$9.3 million of deficit spending still being reviewed for relief and reimbursement aspects from state and federal funding sources
- 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 8,053,576 meals to Springfield Public Schools students since the program began on March 12<sup>th</sup> (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 being distributed to Pre-K students

#### **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)