

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

Wednesday, April 8, 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.
- Continues to hold daily morning cabinet head meetings utilizing remote platforms to encourage social distancing.
- Held press conference urging federal and state agencies to secure and distribute PPE's to Police, Fire and first responders such as N95 and KN95 masks appropriately and fairly instead of having Governors and Mayor's bidding against each other.
 - Stated that the Defense Production Act should have been fully implemented over a month ago to ramp up production of these much needed PPE
- MassMutual immediately donated N95 masks in response to the Mayor's press conference imploring for additional supplies to be delivered to the city for our first responders and frontline personnel
- Holyoke Medical Center donated 400 KN95 masks, 540 face shields and additional surgical masks too.

Health

- Announced 86 (31 reported in today's morning cabinet meeting and 57 reported late this afternoon) new cases of Springfield residents testing positive for COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
- Total positive cases now at 342
- Continues to monitor potential COVID-19 cluster locations across the city, especially at our long-term care facilities.
- Continuing to implement mapping aspects to track virus areas and demographics
- School nurses continue to assist with contact tracing
 - Currently monitoring and tracing 504 +
- Announced the continued need and importance of adhering to all public health, personal hygiene and social distancing procedures.

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

DPW

- Down 2 DPW employees
- Trash and recycling continue to be picked up.
- Streets and Engineering continue to provide services
- Yard waste collection started but is running behind schedule
- Columbia Gas is starting restoration paving projects

Eco Dev

- Continues to review and secure additional funding for restaurant and small business assistance grants.
- 80% of first round restaurants have responded to their notice and should be contracted by next week
- Second round of restaurant and small business assistance grants totaling \$500,000 is being formalized and program guidelines being drafted. Announcement to be made later this week.
- Continues to review and identify Federal stimulus funding to focus on local efforts for relief and recovery for our residents and small businesses.

Finance

- Announced that the city has four pending orders with private vendors for a total of 15,000 N95/KN95 masks – order status is in the queue
- 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

Public Safety

Fire

- Down 7 Fire Department personnel
- Desperate need for N95/KN95 masks

Police

- Down 26 officers
- Continue to provide anti-crime activity
 - Made a murder arrest – Whiting Street
- Continue to coordinate logistics with the National Guard to compliment SPD operations.
- Desperate need for N95/KN95 masks
- State Department of Children and Families have suspended their home visits citing a lack of PPE's. Springfield Police Officers have now been tasked with providing DCF home visits – even with a lack and dwindling supplies of PPE's for SPD officers

Schools

- 12,068 meals served (meals included breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- 134,100 meals have been served overall.
- Continues to deliver and distribute over 10,000 laptops to be distributed to students this week

School Committee

- Will begin to conduct their April meetings virtually.
 - The Budget and Finance Subcommittee Meeting will take place Wednesday, April 8th at 3 p.m. and the meeting of the full School Committee will take place on Thursday, April 9th at 6:30 p.m.
 - Both meetings will air live on Focus Springfield Channel 17. The meetings will also be livestream at <http://focusspringfield.com/watch/government> and on the Springfield Public Schools website at www.springfieldpublicschools.com. Re-runs of the meeting will be available on demand on both websites and as regularly scheduled programming on Focus Springfield Channel 17.