



**MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Saturday, March 28, 2020

Contact: Lorey Schultz

(716) 851-5545

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## **MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN ANNOUNCES IMPORTANT UPDATES TO BUFFALO'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

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Buffalo, NY - Mayor Byron W. Brown and the City of Buffalo continue to work to ensure public safety, prioritize the health and welfare of residents and visitors, and reduce circles of exposure to COVID-19 in our community.

Mayor Brown stated, "City employees, while working remotely whenever possible, continue to effectively deliver services to the residents of Buffalo. I am working with all of my partners in government to ensure that our City receives its fair share of federal and state support and resources to protect our healthcare system and support our business community. This situation is ongoing and evolving, and we will need to be proactive and flexible while waiting for that much needed support to arrive. I still have grave concerns with the level of support state and local governments will receive as part of the federal government's relief bill and will continue to advocate for Buffalo's residents to other elected officials."

Mayor Brown continues to work closely with members of Governor Andrew Cuomo's Administration, including Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, as well as members of the Western New York State and Federal Delegation, Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Buffalo Common Council President Darius Pridgen, other members of the Common Council, and City Comptroller Barbara Miller-Williams.

Today, he again thanked the many City workers for the extraordinary work they've been doing to keep City services operating, as well as those on the front-line in the fight to stop the spread of COVID-19.

He stated, "EMS workers, doctors, nurses, hospital support staff and many other healthcare workers are undertaking a superhuman task during the most difficult circumstances. The best way we can show our appreciation to them is by staying home, practicing social distancing and doing our part to help flatten the curve. This will help prevent our hospitals from being overwhelmed and risking the health and safety of our healthcare workers."

**THE FOLLOWING LIST INDICATES THE LATEST UPDATES, CHANGES AND REMINDERS TO CITY OF BUFFALO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS THAT AFFECT THE PUBLIC, EFFECTIVE SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020.**

- To help stop the spread of COVID-19, Bird Island Pier, from Broderick Park to the Peace Bridge, is closed until further notice. The path is too narrow for residents to safely practice social distancing.
  - Mayor Brown re-emphasized: City parks remain open for passive use only
  - Please continue to practice social distancing to prevent community spread of COVID-19

- All playgrounds, athletic fields and courts, skate parks and park buildings are closed until further notice
- Please do not congregate around park benches for the health and safety of our community during this public health emergency
- All City golf courses are CLOSED. That includes practicing or hitting golf balls on the courses. The greens are usually closed until the end of April
- The NFTA has temporarily suspended fare collections on all bus routes, paratransit service, and Metro Rail, effective immediately.
- COVID-19 continues to impact our local workforce. Mayor Brown today encouraged anyone looking for work to contact the Buffalo Employment Training Center at 856-JOBS. Employment counselors are working remotely so you can make an appointment to set up one on one counseling sessions. A number of City residents have already been connected to jobs.
  - For employment assistance, contact the Buffalo Employment Training Center at 856-JOBS/buffalony.gov/jobs
- Locally, the Buffalo area community is seeing low response rates for the 2020 Census. Today, Mayor Brown asked more residents to participate. An accurate count ensures our fair share of federal funding, which will be needed during the recovery phase of this emergency.
  - Mayor Brown stated, “Please - it only takes a few minutes to complete and can really help your community.”
  - For Census assistance, including to be connected to multilingual operators, visit 2020census.gov.
- If you are healthy, please consider helping ConnectLife maintain a healthy blood supply. Donating is quick, easy and social distancing is in place at as a precaution at collection sites. Call and make an appointment to donate today.
  - To make an appointment, call 716-529-4270 or connectlifegiveblood.org

## POSITIVE NEWS!

- In the last 48 hours, 15 babies were born at the John R. Oishei Children’s Hospital! Mayor Brown stated, “That’s 15 new smiles we will see in our fantastic, friendly community. We remain united in this, we must continue to take care of ourselves and each other. We are the City of Good Neighbors. We are Buffalo Strong. God bless all of you.”

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