



MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

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*Mayor Brown welcomes new Kaleida Health COVID-19 testing site to Buffalo's East Side*

Buffalo, NY – Mayor Byron W. Brown today thanked Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz for working with Kaleida Health to expand its laboratory testing capability for COVID-19 by adding a clinic on the East Side of Buffalo. The new testing site, Leroy Coles Library, located at 1187 East Delavan Avenue, opened Friday, April 24th. Mayor Brown, in partnership with County Executive Poloncarz, Erie County Legislature Chairwoman April Baskin, the Erie County Health Department, the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, the African American Health Disparities Taskforce and the faith community, worked together to bring a testing site to the 14215 zip code, which currently has the highest number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Erie County. Today, Mayor Brown released a public service announcement video via social media, informing symptomatic residents of this new testing option, which is part of the Brown Administration's ongoing, multipronged approach to stem the spread of Coronavirus in the City of Buffalo.

Mayor Brown said, "We recognize that people need to have complete information about their health so they can seek treatment and take the necessary precautions to protect themselves, their loved ones and the entire community. In order to begin to return to "normal," we need access to more testing in our community. By expanding testing, particularly for residents with the most health challenges, is essential to slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus and saving lives. Please stay safe and healthy. We are all in this together."

The Department of Public Works developed a traffic control plan for the site, which is located on City of Buffalo property. Signage has been created and installed to help direct residents.

Mayor Brown stated, "Since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, my Administration has continued to provide the essential services that our residents rely on. Our police and fire, impact team, public works, sanitation, sewer and water workforce have not wavered, and our other Departments continue to serve residents as they work from home."

All individuals must have an appointment to receive a test as the clinic cannot accommodate unscheduled testing. Individuals can schedule a test by calling (716) 859-3222 and should have a prescription from their primary care provider to get tested if possible.

Test results can be returned in about 48-72 hours through the ordering healthcare provider.

If individuals do not have a healthcare provider in which to obtain a prescription for testing, they can still follow this process, but their results will be communicated via the Erie County Department of Health. At that time, information about primary care physicians in the area who are currently accepting new patients will be shared with these individuals.

The Coles Library site will initially be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Kaleida Health will consider adding more hours and/or more nurses as testing demand escalates.

Those that are in need of a COVID-19 test (symptomatic with fever >100, cough, shortness of breath), can call Kaleida Health's hotline number (716-859-3222) to review their symptoms and be scheduled for a test over the phone.

The Kaleida Health Laboratories team has analyzed over 4,700 COVID-19 tests year to date.

For testing questions, the Kaleida Health Coronavirus Hotline remains open 7 days a week from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. at (716) 859-3222 or visit [www.kaleidahealth.org](http://www.kaleidahealth.org).

### **Mayor Brown provides COVID-19 update on the Fire and Police Departments**

Mayor Brown announced today that the number of Coronavirus infections at the Buffalo Fire and Police Departments continue to improve.

- 7 Firefighters are currently positive for the virus, and 18 others are on administrative leave as a precaution, 33 firefighters have recovered and returned to work;
- 4 Police Officers are currently positive for the virus while 22 officers are out on administrative leave. 53 officers have recovered and returned to work.

The emergency response services provided by both Buffalo Police and Fire remain operational without an interruption in services. The administration continues to take precautions, including deep cleanings of Police Stations, Firehouses and vehicles, to protect our first responders.

### **City of Buffalo 2020 paving season begins Monday**

The 2020 City of Buffalo Residential Street Paving season begins on Monday, April 27th. This year, 120 streets will be paved citywide, as part of an over \$10.5 million investment. During construction, signs will be posted alerting residents to parking restrictions on impacted streets from 7am to 7pm.

Weather permitting, construction will begin on the following streets starting Monday, April 27:

- Moselle Street between E. Ferry Street and E. Delavan Avenue
- Thatcher Avenue between Kensington Avenue and E. Amherst Street
- Amherst Street between Main Street and Manhattan Avenue
- Midland Street between McKinley Parkway and Abbott Road
- Kimmel Avenue between McKinley Parkway and Abbott Road
- Barnard Street from Clinton St. to the South end of the street near the Buffalo River

To view a tentative list of streets being paved this season, visit [www.buffalony.gov](http://www.buffalony.gov).

### **2020 census: The push is on to “Strive for 45%” this weekend**

The City’s census response rate, as of April 24th, stands at 40.7%, far behind the 51.8% national response rate. Mayor Brown continues to urge residents to help meet the goal of achieving a 45% response rate by Sunday, April 26, by completing their census questionnaires. Failure to secure an accurate count can result in the City of Buffalo missing out on hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding that can be used to power community programming. Please complete your questionnaire at [2020Census.gov](http://2020Census.gov).

### **The Buffalo Employment and Training Center connecting residents to work amid COVID-19 crisis**

Local employment counselors continue to help residents impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. If you are looking for work, call the Buffalo Employment and Training Center (BETC) at 856-JOBS. Employment counselors are available for remote one-on-one counseling sessions. So far, more than 50 residents have been placed in open positions since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency.

### **Growth continues: Mayor Brown welcomes new company to One Seneca Tower**

Mayor Brown stated, “I am very pleased to welcome Odoo, a Belgium-based technology company to Downtown Buffalo. Odoo joins M&T Bank and other businesses as they establish their East Coast headquarters as part of Buffalo’s emerging technology hub in Seneca One Tower. Even during the COVID-19 emergency, the City of Buffalo continues to attract innovative companies from around the world to locate in the City of Good Neighbors.”

### **Thousands of young residents apply Mayor Brown’s Summer Youth Employment Program**

The application period for Mayor Brown’s innovative Summer Youth Employment Program has ended. As of this morning, around 2,000 City youth, ages 14-21, applied for the program, which gives young residents the opportunity to gain work experience while earning money.

### **Helping families during COVID crisis**

Mayor Brown thanked volunteers at the Belle Center for giving away bags of free groceries to 175 families in need at the center, located at 104 Maryland Street.

### **Help local veterans in need**

Mayor Brown encourages residents to help local veterans by supporting the Buffalo Blues for Veterans Livestream Concert Series this Sunday, April 26, from 3:30 to 4:30pm. Prior to the on-line concert, Mayor Brown will deliver a virtual message of thanks to those who have supported our Veterans through the concert series since the start of the COVID-19 emergency. The weekly show features local musicians and has raised more than \$3,000 to help veterans over the last 5 weeks. For more information, visit the Buffalo Blues Live Stream Series Facebook page.

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