



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

Kaleida Health expands COVID-19 testing hours on Buffalo's East Side

Buffalo, NY – Mayor Byron W. Brown today thanked Kaleida Health for expanding hours at its testing site at Leroy Coles Library, located at 1187 East Delavan Avenue. The site is now open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mayor Brown stated, "Testing is a critical resource in our fight against COVID-19. I thank Kaleida Health for immediately recognizing the need and for making the proper adjustments to enable more residents to be tested for this deadly virus."

All individuals must have an appointment to receive a test. Residents can schedule a test by calling (716) 859-3222 and should have a prescription from their primary care provider to get tested. If individuals do not have a healthcare provider to obtain a prescription for testing from, they should still call (716) 859-3222 to schedule an appointment and they will receive their results from the Erie County Department of Health. When residents call to set up an appointment and do not have a primary care physician, they will receive information about primary care physicians in the area who are currently accepting new patients.

If a person has COVID-19 symptoms (having a fever greater than 100 degrees, cough, shortness of breath) they can call Kaleida Health's hotline number (716-859-3222) to review their symptoms and be scheduled for a test over the phone.

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.

Impact Team continues to improve neighborhoods

Mayor Brown recognized the City of Buffalo's Impact Team for quickly responding this morning to concerns by residents on Good Street. Complaints were called into 3-1-1 about drug use at an abandoned house located at 25 Good Street. The City immediately secured an inspections order to allow crews to clean and seal the property. Mayor Brown thanked the Division of Citizen Services, The Impact Team, The Buffalo Police Department and the Department of Permit and Inspections Services for working together to quickly resolve the matter. If residents need non-emergency assistance of any kind, please call 3-1-1.

The City of Buffalo marks National Water Week

It is National Water Week, and today Mayor Byron W. Brown is recognizing two public agencies, Buffalo Water and the Buffalo Sewer, for ensuring residents of the City of Buffalo enjoy safe, clean water.

Mayor Brown stated, "This week, we recognize essential workers many residents rarely see but rely on daily in order to receive treated, clean water. I thank the men and women of Buffalo Water and Buffalo Sewer for their innovative water

quality efforts, which has become a model for other municipalities nationwide.”

Buffalo Water is investing \$29.5 million in capital improvement projects this year to continue to ensure that we are delivering safe and clean water. Buffalo Sewer is in its 6th year of its 20 year long term control plan and has spent \$170 million on capital improvements to the City’s sewer system and the Bird Island Treatment Facility.

OJ McFoy, Chair of Buffalo Water, stated, “Water utilities provide an essential service. While essential, water infrastructure is largely invisible, the quality of life we enjoy in Buffalo would not be possible without water and the infrastructure that powers it. Investments in water infrastructure that benefit public health are seen as critically important, especially in this environment. I would like to encourage all residents to get service line protection for their external water line. Buffalo Water is partnering with HomeServe to offer residential customers a repair service program to help save money and time on repairs to the water service line connection.”

Last weekend, the Buffalo Sewer Authority was awarded the National Planning Achievement Silver Award for Environmental Planning from the American Planning Association for its Rain Check 2.0 Opportunity Report that expands equitable green infrastructure to manage runoff, improve waterways, increase climate resilience, and protect public health. In the past year, Buffalo Water has implemented initiatives like Replace Old Lead Lines to help residents to replace broken or damaged water lines.

Buffalo Water has also launched their Pathways to Affordable Water Program. If eligible, Buffalo residents can receive a 20% - 60% reduction on their water bills. To find out if you qualify for this financial assistance program, visit getwaterwisebuffalo.org.

Mayor Brown calls on residents to reverse Census slump by completing questionnaires

The City of Buffalo’s census response is slowly rising, but all residents must complete their questionnaires in order for the City to obtain critical federal funding for programming, education, infrastructure and much more. The City’s census response rate, as of April 29th, stands at 41.7%, far behind the 53.7% national response rate. Please complete your questionnaire today at 2020Census.gov.

New COVID-19 website provides residents with important information

Mayor Brown encourages residents to visit the website, covid19.buffalony.gov, a one-stop destination with the latest COVID-19 related news, policies and resources in the City of Buffalo. The website includes information for small businesses, where to find free food distribution and meal sites, how to access support for older residents, help for those seeking employment, health and mental health guidance, ways people can help others through volunteering and donating, and a special “In Memoriam” section which pays tribute to those who lost their lives during this pandemic.

The page also features data and dashboards that show the impact of coronavirus at the city, county, state, national, and global level. For more information, please visit, covid19.buffalony.gov.

Happening Tomorrow: The Beverly Gray Business Exchange Center hosts “Recovery and Resiliency Virtual Workshop” for small businesses

On Thursday, April 30th, the Beverly Gray Business Exchange Center is hosting a virtual workshop from 1:30 pm to 3 pm to help small businesses jump-start their recovery and resiliency efforts.

Business owners can register for the workshop at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beverly-gray-center-small-business-recovery-resiliency-workshop-virtual-tickets-102491970242>

Connecting residents to jobs

Mayor Brown continues to encourage residents looking for work to get assistance through the Buffalo Employment and Training Center by calling 856-JOBS. Employment counselors are available for remote one-on-one counseling sessions. So far, more than 60 residents have been placed in open positions since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency.

National Donate Life Month: Mayor Brown encourages residents to give blood

National Donate Life Month is coming to a close and ConnectLife says a single blood donor can save up to three lives.

Mayor Brown urges residents who are healthy and COVID-19 symptom-free to give blood to ensure that our region maintains an adequate supply. To make an appointment, visit connectlifegiveblood.org. Donating blood is safe and social distancing measures are in place to protect donors.

Tonight, in partnership with the Buffalo Landmark Illumination Team (BUFFALOLIT), our City's landmark buildings and structures will be lit BLUE and GREEN in recognition of National Donate Life Month.

BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York delivers snacks to Buffalo firefighters

Mayor Brown thanked BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York for providing healthy snacks—prepared by Buffalo Strive and Jake's Café—to members of the Buffalo Fire Department. The snacks were delivered today to firehouses citywide. The organization provided snacks to Buffalo Police on Tuesday. BlueCross BlueShield also donated \$100,000 to the Western New York COVID-19 Community Response Fund to help with local COVID-19 pandemic relief efforts.

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