



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 continues to provide masks to protect our most vulnerable  
and prevent the spread of the Coronavirus in the City of Buffalo*

Buffalo, NY – Mayor Byron W. Brown today distributed hundreds of masks to seniors at the Msgr. Geary Apartments, a Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (BMHA) senior community located at 1250 Bailey Avenue. The masks were part of donations made earlier this month. The remainder will continue to be distributed to residents in need across the City. Volunteers from the Good Neighbors Network, a new initiative launched by Mayor Brown to help assist residents in need during the COVID-19 emergency, and BMHA Executive Director Gillian Brown, assisted in distributing the masks.

Mayor Brown stated, "I thank the many organizations and individuals that have really come forward to assist my Administration in our ongoing efforts to protect the most vulnerable members of our community. I encourage others to get involved and do something to positively impact others during this pandemic. We are a City of Good Neighbors and we will continue to take care of one another during this difficult time."

Two weeks ago, Marrano Homes and the Marrano Family, donated 10,000 masks to the City of Buffalo to help protect residents during the pandemic.

Dave and Nathan Gordon, with the assistance of Former City of Buffalo Corporation Counsel Larry Rubin, also donated a total of 10,000 masks to assist in the effort.

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

Mayor Brown announced today the number of COVID-19 infection recoveries at the Buffalo Fire and Police Departments.

- 1 Firefighter is currently positive for the virus, and 3 others are on administrative leave as a precaution, 41 firefighters have recovered and returned to work;
- 2 Police Officers are currently positive for the virus while 16 officers are out on administrative leave. 65 officers have recovered and returned to work.

The emergency response services provided by both Buffalo Police and Fire remain operational without any interruption in services.

### **Border crossing restrictions extended**

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau today announced that all non-essential travel between the United States and Canada will continue to be restricted until at least June 21st. Essential travel over the border is permitted for medical or emergency purposes, work, commercial vehicles including tractor trailers and those on government business.

### **Mayor Brown unveils new Uncut video**

Mayor Brown today announced the release of the fifth video in the new online series, "City of Buffalo Behind the Scenes Uncut Videos," a collection of videos shot by City employees on their cellphones, providing residents with tips and insight on City services and ways to stay safe during the COVID-19 emergency. The videos are posted on Mayor Brown's Facebook page on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The fifth video features Buffalo Sewer Authority Treatment Plant Superintendent David Rossney who explains one simple way residents can keep our water clean. For more information, "Like" @MayorByronBrown on Facebook, follow him on Instagram via @MayorByronBrown716, and on Twitter @MayorByronBrown.

### **Be counted! Mayor Brown urges residents to participate in the 2020 Census**

Mayor Brown continues to call on residents to complete their 2020 Census questionnaires. The City's Census response rate as of Tuesday is 47.4%. Mayor Brown set a goal of 100% participation. An accurate count gives the City the chance to access hundreds of millions of dollars in federal aid that fund infrastructure improvements, education, critical community programming and much more. Complete your questionnaire at [2020Census.gov](https://2020Census.gov).

### **Buffalo City Hall remains closed during Phase One**

Buffalo City Hall remains closed to the general public at this time. If you are a business eligible for gradual reopening in Phase One and you require assistance or documentation from the City, you must call or email our offices. You can find contact information at [buffalony.gov](https://buffalony.gov).

### **The City of Buffalo ready to assist companies eligible to reopen**

For businesses allowed to reopen on Tuesday, May 19th, the Office of Permits and Inspection Services will begin assisting companies with any specific permit and licensing needs that cannot be met online at [www.buffalony.gov/435/Permit-Inspection-Services](https://www.buffalony.gov/435/Permit-Inspection-Services) starting Tuesday, May 19th. For licenses, call 851-6583 or 851-4951. For permits, call 851-4935 or 851-5033.

### **Save a life, give blood**

ConnectLife says that all of the blood it collected in March has been used and over the last two weeks, the need for blood by local hospitals has increased by 20%. Mayor Brown encourages healthy, COVID-19 symptom-free residents to consider donating to help maintain an adequate blood supply. Donating is safe and social distancing precautions are in place to protect donors. To make an appointment or if you are interested in holding a blood drive, visit [connectlifegiveblood.org](https://connectlifegiveblood.org).

### **Connecting residents to COVID-19 testing**

If you are interested in getting tested for COVID-19, find the closest test site near you by visiting [covid19.buffalony.gov](https://covid19.buffalony.gov). The map contains a complete listing of all COVID-19 testing sites, with addresses, which are located throughout the City, contact information for setting up an appointment, hours of operation and whether the site requires a prescription by a doctor for testing. Additional locations to provide this vital service can be added to this resource by visiting [www.buffalony.gov/SubmitTestSite](https://www.buffalony.gov/SubmitTestSite).

### **Last call: Applications for 2020 Love Your Block due Wednesday**

Mayor Brown urges community groups, block clubs and other organizations to get their applications in immediately for the Love Your Block grant program. The deadline is Wednesday, May 20th. Community-based groups and local, small businesses can apply for mini-grants, up to \$1,500, to develop and implement volunteer-led neighborhood beautification projects that focuses on blighted areas. For more information, visit [buffaloveyourblock.org](https://buffaloveyourblock.org).

### **Water restorations continue**

The City of Buffalo is restoring service to all residents who have had their water turned off. To restore service call 847-1065 or 3-1-1. Since March, Buffalo Water has restored water to more than 120 residences in the City of Buffalo.

Buffalo Water also offers a program that makes water bills more affordable for city residents. Qualified residents can see a reduction in their bill by 20-60%. To learn more, visit [GetWaterWiseBuffalo.org](https://GetWaterWiseBuffalo.org)

### **Mayor Brown asks residents to "Stand Out to Salute"**

The City of Buffalo is partnering with Consumer Beverages and other sponsors to hold Buffalo's "Stand Out to Salute" this weekend. A number of businesses in our community wanted to pay tribute to frontline Health Care workers in the form of

a fireworks display on Saturday, May 23rd.

The fireworks will be set off from different, undisclosed locations across the city so residents can enjoy the display safely from their homes without mass gathering. Mayor Brown is encouraging residents to step outside their homes with members of their household this Saturday at 9:30 pm, to show their appreciation.

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