



MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2020

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

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.

“The number of Covid-19 cases are rising more rapidly than we originally anticipated and that is why we really need to focus on practicing social distancing to the greatest extent possible,” stated Mayor Brown. “Stay home as much as possible. You should only leave for a limited number of reasons, including to shop for necessary items like food or personal care items, to go to work if you are considered an essential service and you cannot work from home, and for limited amounts of outdoor exercise that do not require you to gather in groups and where you can observe a distance of 6 feet between yourself and others.”

He continued, “My team is working round-the-clock to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone in the City of Buffalo. Our City’s services, including 311, are operating and responding to residents’ needs. If you have questions or need non-emergency services please call 311 and we will be able to assist you.”

THE FOLLOWING LIST INDICATES THE LATEST UPDATES, CHANGES AND REMINDERS TO CITY OF BUFFALO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS THAT AFFECT THE PUBLIC, EFFECTIVE TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020

Buffalo's Response to COVID-19

- Code Blue 32 is in effect tonight. The following shelters will be open tonight: Holy Cross at 412 Niagara Street and the Belle Center, 104 Maryland
- City payments can be made online by visiting the City’s website or by calling the following numbers:
 - 851-5719
 - 851-4399
 - 851-4331
- City meetings, internal and those involving external parties, are being held virtually or cancelled
 - Meeting organizers are utilizing alternatives like conference calls, live streaming and other group communication tools
 - Mayor Byron W. Brown has been in regular communication with his partners in government and other key sectors of our City’s operations, including the clergy and non-profit social service providers, providing people with critical information and helping them assess their needs and getting them resources as quickly as possible
 - Daily updates are posted on all City communication platforms and shared with the media
- In keeping with the recommendations of state and local public health officials to limit non-essential public gatherings, playgrounds and athletic courts in parks citywide remain closed, until further notice, in an effort to encourage people to practice social distancing; parks remain open for passive use

- Buffalo Water will restore service during the COVID-19 pandemic to those who had it turned off for extended non-payment
- Garbage and recycling collection continue on their regularly scheduled days in Buffalo
- Buffalo Police Traffic Officers, Resource Officers, members of the Neighborhood Engagement Team, and members of the Police Athletic League of Buffalo continue to assist Buffalo Public Schools, as needed, as well as other food delivery services, in a continued effort to provide meals to thousands of children and seniors in Buffalo
- The City is continuing to issue alerts and other information through its BuffAlert system. This is the quickest way to get information. Text “Join BuffAlert” to 30890 to enroll and receive the latest information regarding closures, events and notifications on your mobile device
- Hundreds of residents have responded to Mayor Brown’s call for volunteers. Volunteers who have signed up will be available to help our City’s direct service providers meet critical needs, like food deliveries and dropping off other materials to residents’ homes. Sign up by visiting the City’s volunteer registration website, buffalony.gov/volunteer.
- Parking Update
 - Until further notice, parking is available in all Buffalo Civic Auto Ramps free of charge, 7 days a week and 24 hours a day
 - All on-street parking will be free of charge until further notice. Motorists may park in any legal spot in the City of Buffalo without having to pay
 - The no parking from 6 pm Monday until 6 pm Thursday (and the corresponding No parking from 6pm Thursday until 6 pm Monday) is the only major regulation still in effect. It is very important that people adhere to this.
 - Overnight parking on bus routes has been suspended
 - The City of Buffalo Division of Parking continues to work with restaurants and businesses interested in the City’s On-street Drive-thru program. For more information, email parking@buffalony.gov

Other Important Information:

All non-essential travel between the United State and Canada is no longer allowed, until April 20th

There is still an urgent need in our area for blood donations. If you are healthy and able to donate, make an appointment by visiting ConnectLifeGiveBlood.org or by calling 529.4270.

Completing the Census is important and having an accurate count will help our City in the recovery phase of this emergency. Go to 2020Census.gov to fill out your form.

Both the federal and state governments have moved the tax deadline from April 15th to July 15th.

All major telecommunication companies have pledge to the Federal Government that they will NOT disconnect service for the next 60 days due to the lack of payment. This includes Spectrum, AT&T, Verizon, Spring, T-Mobile and more;

Governor Cuomo recently announced that the Department of Financial Services has directed mortgage servicers to provide 90-day mortgage relief to borrowers impacted by the coronavirus; it includes waiving mortgage payments based on financial hardship; no late or online payment fees and no negative reporting to credit bureaus.

New York State’s application to be eligible for the Small Business Administration’s Disaster Loan Program has been approved. For more information, business owners can visit sba.gov.

Continue to keep checking on those who are most vulnerable in our community, including older adults, homebound individuals, persons with disabilities, and those who live alone are in danger of social isolation.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

- Join BUFFALERT: 30890
- Erie County COVID Hotline: 716.858.2929

- New York State Department of Health: 888-364-3065
- Childcare Resource Network: 716.877.6666
- ConnectLife Blood Donations: 716.529.4270
- Senior Meal Services: 716.858.8526 OR 211
- Buffalo Impound: 716.851.5369 or 716.851.5832
- Buffalo Public Schools Meal Service: 716.816.3688
- Mayor Byron Brown's 311 Call & Resolution Center: 311
- Buffalo City Clerk's Office: 851-5431
- BETC Employment Assistance Hotline: 856-JOBS
- [Buffalony.gov/pantries](https://buffalony.gov/pantries)
- 2020Census.gov
- parking@buffalony.gov
- buffalony.gov/volunteer

For general questions, email questions@buffalony.gov. To combat false information, go to the City's FAQs page about COVID-19 on the City's website.

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