



MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 2, 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 following list indicates the latest updates, changes and reminders to City of Buffalo government operations that affect the public, effective Thursday, April 2, 2020.

As this emergency constantly evolves and the City continues to adapt its response, Mayor Byron W. Brown provided an update on how the virus is impacting Buffalo's First responders:

- 24 Firefighters have tested positive for the virus, and 52 others are out on administrative leave as a precautionary measure
- 17 Police Officers have tested positive, while 25 officers are out on administrative leave
- Services remain unaffected; there's still enough staff to respond to any needs by the community
- Cleaning crews continue to perform deep cleaning at all firehouses and police stations

Mayor Brown stated, "We will continue to take whatever precautions are necessary to maintain and protect the health and safety of our First Responders."

With sunshine today and a relatively pleasant forecast through the weekend, Mayor Byron W. Brown continued to call on residents to practice physical distancing.

- New links have been added to the City's website to great information about how to minimize physical contact, quarantining and social distancing, as well mindfulness exercises to help ease tension, focus and improve your mental well-being. Go to: www.buffalony.gov
- Physical distancing means that people should stay in their homes unless it is absolutely necessary for them to leave
- If you or your place of business have been deemed non-essential, then you should not be going to work
- If you need something from the store, consider using a delivery service or if that is not available then minimize the time you are out and pick up only the essentials
- Do not congregate in groups; stay six feet apart from other people

Mayor Brown stated, "I cannot stress enough about the importance of social distancing. With the arrival of sunshine and warmer temperatures, many of you will want to spend more time outdoors. We continue to hear reports of residents congregating in large numbers—playing basketball or other sports. These activities involve physical contact and can aid in spreading the coronavirus, which poses a serious threat to everyone in our community. Your health, your family's health, your neighbor's health, everyone's health is on the line right now."

Mayor Brown provided an update on the local Census Response Rate to date.

- As of this morning, only about 30% have responded in the Buffalo community—an increase of almost 2% from yesterday—but Mayor Brown is asking more residents to participate
- An accurate Census count will ensure that our community will get its share of federal funding in the wake of this emergency
- During the last census in 2010, there was a serious undercount of our population, which meant we lost out on federal dollars to help power vital programs
- Fill out the Census by going online to my2020census.gov or calling 844-330-2020

REMINDERS

- Mayor Brown reminded City residents to cooperate with the City's alternate parking rules.
- Please obey the "No Parking 6 pm Thursday to 6 pm Monday" signs. We need to ensure that emergency vehicles can get down these streets
- Mayor Brown reiterated that the City will restore service to all residents who have had their water turned off. To restore service, please call 847-1065

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR COMMUNITY

If you or anyone you know is looking for work, the Buffalo Employment and Training Center is ready to help.

- Employment counselors are available for one-on-one counseling sessions, just call and make an appointment
- 856-JOBS

April is National Donate Life Month. Mayor Brown called on City residents to again help replenish the shortage of blood in our community.

- ConnectLife is holding an emergency blood drive on Wednesday, April 8th
Noon to 6 pm
Location: Big Ditch Brewing Company, located at 55 East Huron Street
To make an appointment, call 716-529-4270 or connectlifegiveblood.org

You can help veterans while enjoying some great music this weekend!

- On Sunday, April 5th, Buffalo Blues is hosting a concert featuring local musicians to benefit local veterans and military families in need
- It is from 3:30 to 4:30 pm
- For more information visit the Buffalo Blues Live Stream Series Facebook page

If you are healthy and want to help our community through this crisis, Mayor Brown encourages people you to sign up to volunteer with Mayor Brown's Good Neighbors Network. Sign up at buffalony.gov/volunteer.

Mayor Brown concluded, "This emergency is truly testing us as a community but I know that if we continue to follow guidance by our federal, state and county officials, we will get through it, together. We must continue to take care of ourselves and each other. We are the City of Good Neighbors. God bless all of you."

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