



**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 advances effort to prevent community spread  
of COVID-19 on the East Side*

Buffalo, NY – Mayor Byron W. Brown today distributed protective masks at Evergreen Health's new COVID-19 testing site, located at 3297 Bailey Avenue in one of the neighborhoods where high numbers of positive cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Buffalo.

Mayor Brown stated, "Testing continues to be one of our most critical tools in our fight against COVID-19. I encourage residents to use this resource and get tested if they feel they have been exposed or are experiencing symptoms. We must continue to take care of ourselves and each other during this crisis and knowing whether we have the virus is a key step we can all take to protect our entire community."

While this is primarily a drive-thru testing site, Evergreen Health will accept some walk-ups. Testing is open to anyone age 16 and older, and while prescriptions are not required residents must provide proof of health insurance to schedule an appointment. To schedule testing, call 716-847-2441 option 7.

You can also find additional COVID-19 test site options by visiting the City's testing site map at [covid19.buffalony.gov](https://covid19.buffalony.gov).

### **May is Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Buffalo**

Mayor Brown proclaimed May Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Buffalo. Statistics show that on average, one in five people in the United States will experience a mental illness during their lifetime. The unique challenges we are facing as a result of the COVID-19 emergency are making a greater number of us aware of the importance of maintaining our mental and emotional health. If you or someone you know is struggling, help is available. The City of Buffalo's new website, [covid19.buffalony.gov](https://covid19.buffalony.gov), features a special Mental Health page to connect any resident in need to important information and resources available to help them.

### **The City of Buffalo park system receives national recognition**

Mayor Brown today announced that the Trust for Public Land ranked the City of Buffalo number 43 in its comprehensive evaluation of park access and quality in the 100 largest U.S. cities. Buffalo's ranking is up from 47 last year and 48 in 2018. The Trust for Public Land's annual ParkScore is based on four characteristics of an effective park system: access, investment, acreage, and amenities. According to the report, 90% of residents in the City of Buffalo live within a 10 minute walk of a park. The Brown Administration has made an over \$67 million capital investment in our parks since 2006. To read more about Buffalo's ParkScore, visit <https://www.tpl.org/city/buffalo-new-york>.

### **Feeding families in need**

On Friday, May 22nd, the Belle Center will be giving away bags of free groceries to families in need at 104 Maryland Street. The distribution runs from 9 am to 1 pm.

### **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 today, is 47.5%. Mayor Brown set a goal of 100% participation. An accurate count ensures the City an opportunity to access hundreds of millions of dollars in federal aid for 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 is ready to assist companies eligible to reopen**

For businesses allowed to reopen, the Office of Permits and Inspection Services is 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). For licenses, call 851-6583 or 851-4951. For permits, call 851-4935 or 851-5033.

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

ConnectLife says 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 physical distancing precautions are in place to protect donors. To make an appointment or to host a blood drive, visit [connectlifegiveblood.org](https://connectlifegiveblood.org).

### **Reminder: Memorial Day Service at Forest Lawn Cemetery is canceled**

Organizers say the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Forest Lawn, which honors fallen members of the U.S. Armed Forces, has been canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The event was set to take place on Monday, May 25th. Organizers are working on alternative ways the community can pay tribute to military members who made the ultimate sacrifice this year.

### **City of Buffalo golf course and tennis courts are open**

Mayor Brown is reminding residents that the three City golf courses, Delaware, Cazenovia and South Park, are open for use, weather permitting, with New York State guidelines in place to maintain public health and safety. Tee times run from 7 a.m. through 8 p.m. For more information visit [www.bfloparks.org/golf](https://www.bfloparks.org/golf).

City of Buffalo park tennis courts are open in limited capacity to ensure safe physical distancing. The City is monitoring use and will make changes as necessary.

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