



**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 launches new social media campaign to encourage residents to wear a mask*

Buffalo, NY – Mayor Byron W. Brown today announced a new social media campaign, called “Ask Why I Wear a Mask,” to emphasize the importance of continuing to wear protective face coverings to prevent community spread of COVID-19. Mayor Brown stated, “With the arrival of warm temperatures, there has been an increase in residents being out in the community without masks. We must remain vigilant. COVID-19 continues to spread, and is still a very real danger to everyone in the City of Buffalo. We must wear masks and practice physical distancing so we can continue the gradual reopening of Buffalo and Western New York.”

Residents can help spread the message by taking photos of themselves wearing masks and explaining why they are wearing protection. Use the hashtag #AskWhyIWearAMask for a chance to be featured in Mayor Brown's campaign to help protect and maintain public health and safety.

### **Mayor Brown advances efforts to help protect residents from COVID-19**

The Brown Administration continues to help prevent the community spread of the Coronavirus in the City of Buffalo. This morning, masks were handed out to residents in need during the weekly grocery giveaway at the Belle Center, located at 104 Maryland Street.

Mayor Brown also provided 1,000 masks to the Buffalo Peacemakers, an organization committed to ending violence in our community. Peacemakers will distribute the masks to anyone in need and also provide information about the importance of participating in the 2020 Census.

### **Do your part to help Buffalo's COVID-19 recovery: Complete your Census**

Buffalo's Census response rate continues to slowly climb. The City's response rate as of Friday, May 22nd, is 47.7%, but Mayor Brown is aiming for 100% participation. An accurate count is essential to allowing the City to access hundreds of millions of dollars in federal aid that fund infrastructure improvements, education, critical community programming and much more. Complete your questionnaire today at [2020Census.gov](https://2020Census.gov).

### **Mayor Brown provides update on COVID-19 infections at the Buffalo Fire and Police Departments**

Mayor Brown announced today the number of COVID-19 infection recoveries remains unchanged 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.

### **Mayor Brown to unveil new Uncut video Saturday**

Mayor Brown today announced the release of the sixth 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 insights 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 sixth video features Police Athletic League of Buffalo Director Nekia Kemp with a COVID-19 message for City youth.

For more information, "Like" @MayorByronBrown on Facebook, follow him on Instagram via @MayorByronBrown716, and on Twitter @MayorByronBrown.

### **The City of Buffalo lights up for Bike to Work Day**

Tonight, in partnership with the Buffalo Landmark Illumination Team (BUFFALOLIT), our City's landmark buildings and structures will be lit GREEN in recognition of Bike to Work Day, an annual event to promote the bicycle as an environmentally-friendly option for commuting to work.

### **New Seniors Connection Line returns Wednesday**

Mayor Brown invites City Seniors to participate in Senior Connect, a new biweekly call-in line devoted to Buffalo Seniors. It takes place on Wednesday, May 27th, from 11am to 11:45 am. The telephone forum features the latest update on the City of Buffalo's response to the COVID-19 emergency, information relating to health topics, exercise, and recipes, and advice on how to stay socially connected while being physically apart. To join the discussion, call 1-214-459-3653 and use the access code 36400661#.

As part of National Older Americans Month, Mayor Brown challenged all residents to check on an older resident every day an ongoing effort to prevent the potential for social isolation, while also keeping the City of Good Neighbors a tight-knit, age-friendly community.

### **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](http://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](http://www.buffalony.gov/435/Permit-Inspection-Services). For licenses, call 851-6583 or 851-4951. For permits, call 851-4935 or 851-5033.

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

Residents looking to get tested for COVID-19 can find the closest test site by visiting [covid19.buffalony.gov](http://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.

### **Help local hospitals by giving blood**

ConnectLife says one pint of blood can save up to three lives. Mayor Brown is asking healthy residents to donate blood to help maintain an adequate local blood supply. Donating is safe and social distancing measures are in place to protect donors. To make an appointment or if you are interested in holding a blood drive, visit [connectlifegiveblood.org](http://connectlifegiveblood.org).

### **Help local veterans Sunday**

Mayor Brown encourages residents to help local veterans by supporting the Buffalo Blues for Veterans Livestream Concert Series this Sunday, May 24, from 3:30 to 4:30pm. The weekly show features local musicians and has raised nearly \$5,000 to help veterans since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency. For more information, visit the Buffalo Blues Live Stream Series Facebook page.

### **Enjoy the great outdoors safely in the City of Buffalo this Memorial Day Weekend**

Mayor Brown continues to urge residents to get outside and safely enjoy the City's many great parks this Memorial Day Weekend. The City of Buffalo's "Walking Parks and Trails" is the ultimate guide, providing maps of 25 different walking, jogging and cycling paths residents can utilize for exercise and recreation. The guide was produced in partnership with the Olmsted Parks Conservancy and the Tiff Nature Preserve to give people more options for passive outdoor activities as they continue to maintain safe physical distancing while they engage in their exercise routines. The free guide is available at: [www.buffalony.gov](http://www.buffalony.gov).

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