

**City Administration: Efforts to  
Support Schools and Reduce Daily  
New Cases of COVID19**

September 15, 2020

Major Projects and Smart Government Committee

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# I. CITY / CPS PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

**The City Administration and Mayor have been available throughout this summer to assist Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) with the transition to fall and digital programming, from offering the utilization of space at Rec Centers, an expedited permit process for expanding CPS facilities to a range of supplemental support efforts.**

- To support Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) fully remote start to the school year, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) is offering all day childcare, 7am to 6pm, at 18 facilities; and, after-school care, 2pm-6pm, at 4 additional locations
- CRC is prepared to continue the program if CPS extends virtual learning
- Administration requested CPS help promote the program to their families, and to contribute funding to defray the cost of recreation operational expenses to include recreation center wi-fi upgrades. The Administration had several calls with CPS Administration and responded in writing to answer questions. CPS has yet to respond to the City Administration request
- The City also created the Safe and Healthy Schools program, allowing CPS to receive expedited approvals to expand their facilities; however, as of August 24, 2020, CPS has yet to take advantage of this opportunity
- The City of Cincinnati is committed to supporting Cincinnati Public Schools. A successful partnership requires mutual effort and cooperation by both parties



## II. SUPPORTING AND PARTNERING WITH CPS ON REOPENING

### A1. ALL-DAY CHILDCARE SITES

- Registration launched August 21, 2020 and runs through September 18, 2020
- Program can take approx. 950 children city-wide; still not fully subscribed to date
- Each facility serves as a food distribution site, serving CPS school breakfasts and lunches to all program participants
- Masks and temperature checks are required for entry at each facility and physical distancing guidelines are observed with no more than 15 youth per room at any given time
- 11 facilities accept Ohio Department of Job and Family Service vouchers through the Publicly Funded 2 Child Care (PFCC) program with 7 other locations charging \$150 per week, per child, for enrollment. Only a portion of the voucher covers the total cost accrued by CRC for all-day childcare. It costs \$32k per week to offer the program, not covered by voucher subsidy
- Again, CRC stands prepared to continue the program if CPS extends virtual learning past the initial period or if CPS adopts a blended model learning environment where students will attend classes on campus and conduct virtual learning within the same school week

# II. SUPPORTING AND PARTNERING WITH CPS ON REOPENING

## A2. ALL-DAY CHILDCARE SITES

- **All Day Childcare voucher sites:**  
Bond Hill, Bush, Corryville, Evanston, Lincoln, Madisonville, McKie, Millvale, Price Hill, Saylor Park, and Winton Hills  
7am-6pm, Monday – Friday  
Weekly fees vary per site based on state ratings
- **All Day Childcare non-voucher sites:**  
Clifton, College Hill, Dunham, Hirsch, Oakley, Pleasant Ridge, and Mt. Washington  
7am-6pm, Monday-Friday  
\$150/child/week
- **Afterschool care only sites:**  
Hartwell, LeBlond, North Avondale, and Westwood Town Hall  
2pm -6pm, Monday – Friday  
\$65/child/week



## II. SUPPORTING AND PARTNERING WITH CPS ON REOPENING

### B. CINCINNATI BELL PARTNERSHIP

- CRC has developed a short-term and long-term plan for WiFi access at CRC centers
- To ensure that students can securely connect to their virtual classrooms, CRC has partnered with Cincinnati Bell to purchase WiFi access points for its facilities
- Estimated cost for the one-time installation fees to permanently wire and install 21 Centers with new access points and needed equipment is \$120k, which we have addressed using fund balances (excluding Dunham and Winton Hills which will require \$78k total to run fiber/cable). Total short-term cost ~\$200,000. The monthly cost for the permanent wi-fi upgrades is estimated at \$4k per month, ongoing
- The long-term plan in place is permanent WiFi upgrades for our Recreation Centers. CRC is working with ETS to complete the necessary improvements. The monthly cost for the permanent wi-fi upgrades is estimated at \$4k per month, ongoing
- CRC projects that permanent wi-fi upgrades in approximately 7 recreation centers will be completed by September 18, 2020 with the remaining centers expected to be completed with permanent wi-fi upgrades by October 15, 2020

## II. SUPPORTING AND PARTNERING WITH CPS ON REOPENING

### C. SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS PROGRAM

- To allow existing schools providing pre-K through 12 grade instruction to temporarily expand their facilities for the 2020/2021 school year, the City launched the “Safe and Healthy Schools” program
- The Safe and Healthy Schools program suspends certain City laws that govern the use and development of land in order to address public health concerns
- Some requirement suspensions include conditional use hearings, parking requirements, and a review by the zoning administrator
- However, the program does not supersede applicable building codes, fire codes, health codes, or other laws that govern the construction or operation of schools
- Launched August 6, 2020, following the joint emergency order No. 13, issued by Mayor John Cranley and City Health Commissioner Melba R. Moore and still in effect
- Approvals under the “Safe and Healthy Schools,” program are subject to revocation at the conclusion of the 2020/2021 School Year



# III. INCREASED ENFORCEMENT TO ADDRESS NON-COMPLIANCE

## A. CINCINNATI HEALTH DEPARTMENT (CHD) ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ENFORCEMENT

- Throughout the pandemic, CHD Sanitarians have responded to complaints relating to business operation violations, lack of social distancing, and since July the State and City's public facial covering orders
- As of September 9, 2020, CHD Sanitarians responded to approximately 1117 complaints with over 90% of these complaints addressed and closed
- Complaint response includes:
  - ✓ Contacting the business owner to communicate that a complaint has been received
  - ✓ Educating the business owner regarding compliance requirements and confirming that the business owner has a plan to comply, which may include a requirement for compliance documentation
  - ✓ Following up with the business owner to close the complaint or to issue a letter or civil fine if non-compliant
  - ✓ To date no civil citations have been issued and only 5 letters have been released, with contacted businesses resolving their violation without further action needed



# III. INCREASED ENFORCEMENT TO ADDRESS NON-COMPLIANCE

## B. CINCINNATI POLICE DEPARTMENT (CPD) ENFORCEMENT

- CPD handles local enforcement of State liquor laws; therefore, since July 31, 2020, CPD has taken the lead on enforcing Gov. DeWine's executive order to require all bars and restaurants in Ohio close by 10 p.m.
- Enforcement of this order is a complaint-driven process and mirrors existing CPD policy for the enforcement of State liquor laws
- To date, CPD has received only a small number of reports regarding after-hours liquor service. When received, such reports are referred to CPD Vice Squad and the Ohio Investigative Unit for further investigation
- CPD also often responds to complaints of large house parties
- CPD, specifically District 5, is collaborating with UC to disseminate COVID19 materials to the student body, proactively patrolling locations likely for large gatherings, and continues to engage off campus students about good neighborly skills and the potential administrative and/or criminal sanctions that could be of consequence, while communicating with property owners about the City's chronic nuisance program to address large parties, disorderly conduct and curfew violations
- CPD will continue to work with local universities and neighborhoods as necessary to address similar concerns

# IV. MAKE IT EASIER TO OPEN OUTDOOR SPACES

## A. OUTDOOR DINING

- This pilot program is an expedited permit process that enables restaurants and bars to temporarily expand their outdoor dining and service areas onto the public right-of way (public sidewalk or street) or into privately owned parking facilities
- This effort requires a cross departmental team of City staff to expedite application review and onsite inspections
- To date, the City has approved 59 street dining applications and 14 private property applications
- The Outdoor Dining Pilot and the Safe and Healthy Schools program are examples of reduced or eliminated permitting fees and bureaucracy; and, although it is a goal of the City Manager's Office to pursue future opportunities for promoting access to outdoor spaces, it should be noted, that the City is limited by state building codes and similar laws in what barriers may be removed by local authority. Further, because permit fees offset City expenses incurred in delivering services, there is a direct budgetary impact associated with eliminating fees



# IV. MAKE IT EASIER TO OPEN OUTDOOR SPACES

## B. SPECIAL EVENTS

- Although many large events have been canceled this year or do not mirror prior year experiences, the City continues to work with the events community to find creative solutions when possible
- To help event producers navigate restrictions by the State and make necessary changes to their event proposals for permitting, the City Manager's Office, CPD Special Events Unit, Health and Law conference as needed over applications
- For example, the Cincinnati Heritage Event, "Black Family Reunion," is typically a large two day festival; however, due to COVID19 concerns and restrictions, the City worked with the event producer to permit the event as a motorcade type COVID19 testing site with the distribution of sponsorship gift bags to participants
- Finally, as State restrictions lift, CMO forwards such notices to the appropriate City permitting offices and the City's special events contact list

# IV. MAKE IT EASIER TO OPEN OUTDOOR SPACES

## C. OTHER EFFORTS

- For April, May, and June the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) deferred all loan payments under its MicroCity Loan program and helped propagate messages by area partners about available funding (grant opportunities, relief funding, and small business administration and paycheck protection program assistance)
- DCED also partners with the African American Chamber and other partners to plan virtual conferences aimed at educating local businesses on strategies for handling times of crisis
- And, the City's Office of Performance and Data Analytics created a public dashboard detailing where local businesses may obtain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) resources. These resources can be found at <https://restartcincinnati.com/>



# V. EXPAND & COORDINATE PUBLIC TRACING EFFORTS

## A. CINCINNATI HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- As of August 3, 2020, the Cincinnati Health Department (CHD) has hired 26 new contact tracers, for a total of 50 Full-time-employee positions (FTE)
- Included within the 50 FTEs are trained contact tracers provided by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to supplement CHD internal resources. The number of ODH staff may shift depending on jurisdiction need and surges in other city or county jurisdictions
- Internal staff include: 5 communicable disease nurses (CHD FT staff); 12 dental staff (CHD FT staff reassigned while the dental sites are not open)
- Within the slated 50FTE contact tracers, 5 contact tracers are specifically assigned to CPS, 3 to non-public schools and 3 to area universities. UC is conducting their own contact tracing as well; however, CHD is working with UC to determine how UC/City contact tracing information will be shared
- As of September 8, 2020, contact tracing efforts are now also supported by a full-time liaison from the City Manager's office

# Summary

- The City of Cincinnati stands committed to supporting Cincinnati Public Schools, and to working with community and economic partners to tackle the public health and economic impact of COVID19.
- Residents seeking more information about City's efforts to combat COVID19 are encouraged to visit the City's website at: <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/covid19/>





THANK YOU

Q&A