

April 8, 2020 | Mayor Adrian O. Mapp, Live Facebook Chat Q&A

1. *I realize for privacy, areas of persons infected cant be revealed, and I realize people would judge or perhaps be unkind out of fear, but is there an outstanding or unusual reason for hundreds of cases?*

No, this is a disease that is spread through personal contact and through community contact. And Plainfield is affected just like all of the other communities across union county.

2. *Who is in charge of quarantined individuals?*

We don't have a quarantine police who goes around to these homes to check if people are in their homes. It is in the best interest of those individuals that they adhere to the quarantine requirements.

3. *We really need to speak to the city about caring for their properties at this time. Since people are home, they can clean the trash around their homes.*

think it is a good idea for us to communicate to people the need to care for their properties especially because they're at home.

4. *Do we know who the new Business Administrator (BA) will be?*

The BA at this time is Abubakar Jalloh who is acting in that role. We will be conducting a search for a new BA.

5. *Why do we not have Latinos as directors or the face of our city? When will we get the true face of administration that represents the face of residents?*

We have from the very inception of my administration had people who represent the faces of the community. We've had a Latino business administrator; we have other Latinos in different levels of government in the city. But I must say, I am the kind of person who wants every opportunity to bring Latinos into the process, and I will not stop until we're able to give more Latinos a seat at the table. Just be reminded that Carlos Sanchez was the City's BA a year or so ago. I have also appointed several Latinos to boards and commissions

6. *Wouldn't it be a good idea to completely quarantine the city for a couple of days?*

We cannot go beyond any of the executive orders being put out by the governor. And we are doing our best every day to communicate to our residents that they should stay at home and off the streets. And I know that our police department has been sending out messages several times during the course of the day to remind people to stay at home.

7. *Are there any stores or organizations that have face masks to supply to residents?*

I know one place was Rapps pharmacy. I don't know of the different stores that may have these supplies. But you can try Rapps pharmacy on Park Avenue for the face masks.

8. *When are you going to order the closing of Hub Stine field? There are too many people walking on the track at the same time.*

Hub Stine is currently closed until further notice.

9. *Is there a shelter in place order in the City of Plainfield?*

There is no more a shelter in place order than what the governor already put out in his executive order. That is to encourage people to stay indoors, off the streets, and to go out only when it is absolutely necessary, and when you do, wear a face mask or some other facial covering.

10. *Will organizations affected by the budget have an opportunity to comment and present concerns?*

We at this time do not know which organizations will be affected by the budget, but if an organization is to be affected, I am confident that that organization will have the opportunity to plead its case.

11. *Can you please share with us if there are any talks to have a [COVID-19] testing site erected locally?*

I have not been involved in any talks about a test site. I have been told that testing has occurred at the Plainfield health center.

OEM Coordinator, Kenneth Childress: The health center has been doing random testing, but because of limited testing kits, they have preferred to prepare for the surge instead of testing. There are various testing sites like Kean university and PNC bank arena.

12. *I called PMUA and was told to separate trash and recycling. This needs to be made clear to all PMUA employees answering the phone.*

I can safely say that if someone was told that, it was an error; the information was not correct. You do not have to separate your recyclables from solid waste. It can all be combined or you can roll it to the curb in separate containers, but it will all be combined into one receptacle. Recycling is on hold. You can combine all of your household waste.

13. *The Latino community doesn't understand the purpose of census. Will you be able to explain in this platform?*

We have a video that was recorded by myself and Hector Camacho Jr., but let me say this to the Latino community in particular: there is no need to be fearful of completing the census. None of the information that is submitted to the census bureau is shared with any other government agency. None of it. The census bureau is prohibited by the U.S. constitution from sharing anyone's personal census information. I mentioned earlier the importance of completing the census. It is important because the funding we need to rebuild our roads, to provide social services, to generate community development block grants and other resources depend directly on the census. So, in other words, the more people we have living in the City of Plainfield, and the more people that are counted, the more money we will receive from the federal government. I'm calling on all Plainfielders, especially our Latino brothers and sisters, to sign onto [census.gov](https://www.census.gov) and complete the census form. Everyone in your household from the littlest baby to the oldest person should be counted in the census.

Visit my2020census.gov to complete the census today!

14. *What does the city plan to do with all the small businesses that are facing rent issues due to businesses closing? How is the administration going to assist these businesses moving forward despite SBA assistance?*

The city will provide the links to the resources that are available from the federal government to the NJ economic development authority. But the city does not have any funding of its own to bail out any small businesses. We will connect you with these resources through our website, social media, and our weekly resource newsletter which goes out every Wednesday.

The assistance to small businesses is coming from the federal government through the NJEDA. The application for assistance can be found on the NJEDA's website. We will continue to connect businesses to known resources throughout this.

Economic Development Director, Valerie Jackson: We have been sending out email blasts with information about grants and loans available through the NJ economic development authority. As Mayor Adrian Mapp said, all of this information is on the website, plainfieldnj.gov. Finally, the African American chamber of commerce, the Hispanic chamber of commerce, and the gateway chamber of commerce for Union County provides technical support to small businesses, so make sure to go to their websites as well.

15. *Are you monitoring the nursing homes?*

OEM Coordinator, Director Kenneth Childress: We have been in touch with nursing homes in regards to making sure they have PPE and their cleaning regiments are kept. We don't have any information on positive persons who may have the COVID-19 virus.

16. *Will the CBAC still provide findings on budget?*

Finance Director, Ron West: I have not heard a final ruling yet as to whether or not they're going to do that. I know that the council president is talking to lots of people to see if we can give them adequate time to get involved in process. There are a lot of things on table, we'll know more next week.

Mayor: I think the challenge in having the CBAC participate pertains to the logistics of how that would happen.

17. *Will there be a bit of leniency on the certificate of compliance (CC) so I can catch up on my bills and invest money back into my property?*

We are not currently conducting inspections, so we are encouraging people who have a need of CC to call the city hall and to rely on guidance from that department. However, we still have an obligation to make sure that every property is up to code, and at the right time, we will do that.

18. *Should we be worried about rent?*

Evictions are on hold for 90 days.

19. *Is there one part of the city more affected than others?*

No, it is in all wards across the city from east to west.

20. *In regards to school registration, can we mail in documents?*

You can currently register online at:

http://plainfield.ss12.sharpschool.com/parents/student_registration

21. *Do you have any advice for families that are feeling stressed being quarantined for so long?*

Families should take this opportunity to come together as a unit, read more, play games, write, use their creative energies and work on those special projects that we are usually too busy to get to. The time should be used to teach, to bond and to plan for the future, a future that will be very different from the past.

22. *Where is a local food bank or pantry that I can send a small donation to?*

The list of local food pantries is as follows:

The Salvation Army 615 Watchung Avenue Tuesdays thru Thursdays 9:30 - 11:30 AM

The Lord's Kitchen 515 West 4th Street 3rd & 4th Saturdays 9:00 AM - 12 Noon

New Covenant Church 1st & 3rd Saturdays 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Plainfield Action Services (Star Fish) 510 Watchung Avenue Thursdays 9:00 AM

Church of the Living God 3rd Saturday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Angels for Action Thursdays 1:00PM - 3:00PM

23. *Are you going to enforce persons in a business at once like grocery stores?*

Yes, the Plainfield PD will be enforcing the latest Executive Order from the Governor. If you suspect or know that it is not being done please reach out to Police Director Burgess or text Mayor Mapp at 908-380-2241.

24. *Is it true that the supermarkets will close in Plainfield?*

There is no truth to that rumor, supermarkets are deemed to be essential. However, they must provide for social distancing or the state of NJ could take very strong actions against them.

25. *I did not understand the requirements for masks to be used when walking outside. Many are walking in Sleepy Hollow without masks but keeping more than the minimum distance. Is a mask required to walk your dog?*

Most health professionals, the city, and the state have recommended wearing a mask when going out in public. It provides greater protection from community spread.

26. *Who should the tapes/links of churches be sent to?*

Please send the links/video links to communications@plainfieldnj.gov

27. *What is the surge that you speak of?*

The surge is the peak of the pandemic that is expected to hit the state in the next one to two weeks. It's the worst that the state is expecting from the COVID-19 virus.