



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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City of Cleveland Provides Coronavirus & Other Important Updates - **Update #294**

The City of Cleveland continues to take numerous precautions across multiple departments and divisions amid increasing cases of coronavirus (COVID-19). Below are some important updates. **Mayor Frank G. Jackson signed an order on Jan. 26 extending the City's Proclamation of Civil Emergency through Feb. 28, 2021.** [Click here to view the order.](#) Essential services such as Police, Fire, EMS, waste collection and Utilities will remain operational.

58 New Confirmed Coronavirus Cases, 2 Fatalities Reported in Cleveland

CDPH has been notified of 58 more confirmed coronavirus cases and two fatalities in city residents on February 18. This brings the total to 24,705 confirmed cases in the City of Cleveland and 253 fatalities. The new confirmed cases include males and females whose ages range from under 2 years old to their 80s. CDPH is working to identify their close contacts who would require testing or monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms.

As of February 18, there are 816,057 confirmed cases and 14,132 confirmed fatalities in the State of Ohio. There are more than 27.8 million cases and 491,411 deaths in the U.S.

Reminder: The City of Cleveland will disseminate Saturday and Sunday COVID-19 numbers on its Facebook and Twitter pages when they become available.

The City of Cleveland COVID-19 Dashboard displays the most recent preliminary data from the Ohio Department of Health about COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, deaths and recoveries in Cleveland by selected demographics. [View the dashboard here.](#) For individuals' privacy, CDPH will not release additional demographic info related to COVID-19 cases aside from age range and gender.

Mayor Jackson Swears In the Interim Commissioner of the Division of Health

On February 18, Mayor Frank G. Jackson administered the oath of office to Frances Mills, swearing her in as the Interim Commissioner of the Division of Health.

Mills joined the Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH) in 2015 as its Grants Administrator with Moms First before becoming the CDPH Director of Minority Health. In 2017, she became the Director of Community Health Initiatives. In 2017, as the Director of Community Health Initiatives, she provided leadership and oversight of the Cleveland Office of Minority Health and the Healthy

Cleveland Initiative. Prior to her employment with the City of Cleveland, Mills served in diverse non-profit and government roles in substance abuse prevention, alcohol and other drug treatment, mental health, homelessness, crisis and trauma services. She has consulted in the HIV sector and maternal and child health.

Mills also served as the Deputy Director of the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County where she was responsible for directing the Board's \$38M business, program and planning operations and leading a staff of management personnel to fulfill the Board's short and long range goals. She led the Board's procurement process, including contracting, policy and protocol development and implementation. In this capacity, Mills represented the Board in the development of special initiatives and was a principal in key collaborations to develop and improve service planning and service delivery for individuals impacted by the use, misuse and addiction of alcohol and other drugs.

Mills is a Doctoral Candidate (ABD) at Ashland Theological Seminary in the area of Transformational Leadership. She holds a Master of Divinity with a focus in Practical Theology from Ashland Theological Seminary and a B.A. in Communications from John Carroll University.

[Click here to view Mills' headshot.](#)

City of Cleveland Announces Resignation of Chief of Public Affairs

Mayor Frank G. Jackson and the City of Cleveland announced that Chief of Public Affairs Natoya Walker Minor is resigning after serving with the City of Cleveland for more than 17 years. Walker Minor's last day with the City is Wednesday, February 15. She will continue to serve the Cleveland community as the Deputy General Manager, External Affairs, at the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA). [Click here to view Walker Minor's headshot.](#)

"On behalf of the citizens of the City of Cleveland, I want to thank Ms. Natoya J. Walker Minor for her work as the Chief of Public Affairs and congratulate her on her new role as the Deputy General Manager, External Affairs for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority," said Mayor Jackson. "I know that she will do a great job in her new position, as she has done as a member of my Administration and Cabinet for the last 15 years. I wish Natoya well in her new position at RTA."

Her career as a public servant spans over 25 years in public administration and policy in municipal government, non-profit, and government consulting. In her capacity as Chief of Public Affairs, Walker Minor provided executive leadership, drove policy and facilitated the execution and implementation of Mayoral priorities to meet the vision established by Mayor Jackson.

"I thank Mayor Jackson for the opportunity to serve the City of Cleveland," said Walker Minor. "I look forward to working with the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority in continued service of the people of Northeast Ohio."

A priority over the six years, has been Walker Minor's role as champion and facilitator to advance economic opportunity and inclusion through Community Benefit Agreements as a tool for responsible economic development and how it impacts the workforce, communities and the career pipeline. These experiences have provided her with a unique capability of recognizing the value proposition of public and private partnerships and building public will. This is a valuable skill set that she has utilized as a former Co-Chair of the GCP Diversity & Inclusion Committee and also as convener for First Year Cleveland, Lead Safe Cleveland, the Homeless Continuum, and most recently on Racism as a Public Health Crisis.

Mayor Frank G. Jackson Shares Winter Safety Tips for Seniors

Today, Mayor Jackson sent out a voice call to senior residents regarding winter weather safety. As winter weather conditions continue we encourage residents to use extra caution when traveling and to check on senior neighbors. [Click here to listen to the audio.](#)

Cleveland Police Update on Officer Disciplinary Charges

On February 9, 2021, Cleveland Police Lieutenant Joseph DiMuzio was notified of administrative charges filed against him and of a pre-disciplinary hearing scheduled for February 19, 2021. The alleged administrative violations occurred on separate incidents between February of 2019 and May of 2020. The alleged administrative violations of Cleveland Police General Police Orders and Manual of Rules and Regulations including: Wearable Camera System, Ammunitions and Firearms Regulations, Standards of Conduct and Courtesy, Intermediate Weapons, Vehicle Pursuits, Bureau of Integrity Control Call-up, Emergency Response Driving, Uniform and Clothing Regulations and Bias-free Policing. Director of Public Safety, Karrie D. Howard will preside over the administrative pre-disciplinary hearing. [Click here to read the disciplinary letter.](#)

Cleveland Water Responds to Customer Billing Concerns

Several years ago, Cleveland Water launched its Clear Reads project, a major initiative to install automated meter reading (AMR) equipment throughout our system. AMR technology wirelessly transmits meter readings every hour, eliminating the need to read meters manually. Water bills based on estimated meter readings have been reduced from 17 percent before AMR to 2-3 percent now. Additionally, the oldest two-thirds of the physical water meters were also replaced on this project with brand new meters. As a result, Cleveland Water bills are more accurate than ever.

While the vast majority of homes now have AMR installed, there are a small number of accounts that still require manual reads. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, manual meter reading efforts were reduced as appropriate safety protocols were put into place. Additionally, many customers were understandably reluctant to let meter readers inside where internal meter reading is required. When an actual meter reading is required but not obtained, the billing system will generate an estimated meter reading based on the customer's historic consumption patterns. Because of the pandemic, more people are staying home and residential water consumption has increased. Since the estimates would have been based on usage before the pandemic, actual recent usage may be higher in some cases than the system-generated estimates.

Cleveland Water has now begun to reinstitute its manual meter reading where needed, and some customers' accounts are now being reconciled to actual usage. This, in combination with the higher overall residential water consumption, has led to some customers receiving a water bill higher than some of their recent bills.

We are ready and willing to work with any customer wishing to review their account. We can set up manageable payment plans where needed. In addition, we can help direct customers in need to utility bill assistance programs.

City of Cleveland Statement on Cardboard Waste Generation

There has definitely been an increase in cardboard waste generated in recent months as a result of online ordering during the pandemic, and especially around the holidays. Fortunately, there are also increasing domestic markets for recycled paper and cardboard, and there are more than 100 locations throughout the City of Cleveland where residents can drop off paper and cardboard. See the full list [here](#).

City of Cleveland Provides Update on Snow Removal Operations

The City of Cleveland continues snow removal operations to clear streets as snowfall continues. The Department of Public Works is equipped with a total of 51 plows, 10,595 tons of salt and 17,980 gallons of liquid deicer to clear streets.

In addition, the Division of Streets is monitoring its Automated Vehicle Locator system, which allows the city to track its fleets and be more efficient in the systematic snow removal operations.

Other Important Reminders (Previous Announcements)

Cleveland City Council Finance Committee Holds 2021 Budget Hearings

Mayor Frank G. Jackson addressed Cleveland City Council on Feb. 16, kicking off the 2021 budget hearings. The hearings will continue through **Thursday, Feb. 25 at 9 a.m.** Council will convene with City departmental leadership to hear more about the 2021 budget and have the opportunity to ask questions. To view the Mayor's 2021 Budget Estimate, [click here](#).

[Click here to view the Mayor's Letter of Transmittal and the 2021 Budget Hearing Schedule.](#)

City of Cleveland Commemorates Black History Month with Series of Virtual Events

The 2021 City of Cleveland Black History Month celebration kicked off on Monday, February 1 with a virtual opening ceremony. This year's theme, "Strengthening Black Families through the Quest for Equity and Equality," celebrates the contributions and achievements made by residents and leaders in the Black community with a series of virtual events. All of these virtual events are free and open to the public.

"Each year, our Black History Month celebration serves to recognize Cleveland's long-standing history of Black leadership and honor Black individuals who contribute to our city's legacy of cultural diversity and equality," said Mayor Frank G. Jackson. "We continue this tradition by celebrating the men and women of the Black community who strive to make Cleveland a great place to live, work, play and do businesses, for our residents and their families."

Some of the events, though virtual, offer Facebook Live viewers the opportunity to interact with panelists by asking questions in the comments. [Click here to view a calendar of events](#). Please note that some events will be livestreamed to Facebook and some will be available to the public via WebEx, though registration is required via Eventbrite. To participate in Facebook events, visit the City of Cleveland Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CityofCleveland.

Students Invited to Apply for Mayor Frank G. Jackson Scholarship Program

The Mayor Frank G. Jackson Scholarship Program is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 academic year. The deadline to submit your application is March 28, 2021. To learn more and to apply, [click here](#).

The Mayor Frank G. Jackson Scholarship Program was created by the City of Cleveland in 2007 to provide scholarship funds to the following individuals:

1. City employees
2. Dependents of City employees
3. High school seniors graduating from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District
4. High school seniors in the Youth Development Program or involved with the City of Cleveland Department of Recreation

The program provides scholarships of \$1,000 per year for up to 4 years. Selected scholarship recipients must be a full-time (minimum 12 credit hours each term) student at a four-year, public or private, not-for-profit higher education institution.

Scholarships are renewable for up to three additional years from the first awarded academic year. To be eligible for renewal of the scholarship, students must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA and full-time status.

The City of Cleveland's Mayor Frank G. Jackson Scholarship program is administered through [College Now Greater Cleveland](#). For questions about the scholarship applications, please contact College Now at (216) 635-0324.

City Of Cleveland Establishes Call Center to Answer General Vaccine Distribution Questions

The City of Cleveland has established a call center that is currently available to answer general questions pertaining to the City's vaccine distribution efforts and assist eligible individuals in scheduling an appointment to receive the vaccine.

- Call Center Number: (216) 664-2222
- Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As a reminder, only individuals who meet the Ohio Department of Health's criteria are eligible to receive the vaccine at this time. Due to limited supply, it will take time for eligible individuals to receive the vaccine. We ask for your patience. As we receive additional supply, we will be opening up additional vaccination sites and scheduling appointments for eligible individuals to receive the vaccine.

Calls Regarding COVID-19 Complaints

With the passage by Cleveland City Council of an ordinance authorizing penalties for non-compliance with Mayor Jackson's mask mandate, enforcement is now in effect. There are two numbers Clevelanders should call regarding non-compliance:

- **Business complaints:** CDPH hotline at (216) 857-7165
- **Individual or private residence complaints:** Cleveland Police non-emergency line at (216) 621-1234

Cleveland City Council recently approved the mandatory use of masks in public spaces as well as certain penalties for individuals and businesses that do not comply. On July 3, Mayor Jackson signed an amended order mandating the use of masks in public in the City of Cleveland to slow the spread of the highly contagious coronavirus. This includes mandatory use in bars, restaurants, shared office settings, rideshares and other shared spaces.

Citations may be issued with fines for the following:

- Any business or person violating the mask or safe-seating order (which maintains social distancing of at least six feet between patrons) is subject to civil penalties in accordance with Ordinance No. 556-2020, specifically chapters 602 and 236.
- Any business in the City of Cleveland with an employee who becomes ill with the coronavirus is required to immediately disinfect and sanitize the premises. Following a warning, they may be subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 for the first offense and a civil penalty of \$3,000 for each subsequent violation.

Upcoming Cleveland Transformation Alliance Meetings

The Cleveland Transformation Alliance Committee (CTA) is currently hosting public meetings via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. For more information on these meetings, please visit <http://www.myCLEschool.org>. See details for upcoming meetings below:

Charter Review Committee

Feb. 24, 2021 at 2 p.m. via Microsoft Teams

[Click here to join the meeting on your computer or mobile app.](#)

Or call in (audio only): [+1 216-815-0098,916557569#](tel:+12168150098916557569) United States, Cleveland

Phone Conference ID: 916 557 569#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

CTA Executive Meeting

Feb. 26, 2021 at 4 p.m. via Zoom

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_C7wveMryR4KC6qKn-Glo6A

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

CTA Executive Meeting

Feb. 26, 2021 4 p.m. via Zoom

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_C7wveMryR4KC6qKn-Glo6A

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Finance Committee

March 11, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams

[Click here to join the meeting on your computer or mobile app.](#)

Or call in (audio only): [+1 216-815-0098,707589369#](tel:+12168150098707589369) United States, Cleveland

Phone Conference ID: 707 589 369#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Cleveland Transformation Alliance Board Meeting

March 15, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eq22wuvaSMvTS0x1dmgQkw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

CodeRED

Sign up for CodeRED alerts to receive calls and emails with important info regarding the coronavirus. To sign up online, visit <https://bit.ly/CLECodeRED>, get mobile alerts by downloading the CodeRED app via the Apple or Google Play stores. Seniors who need assistance signing up are welcome to call the Department of Aging at (216) 664-4383 for periodic phone call messaging.

Previous COVID-19 Updates from the City of Cleveland

[Click here to view previous updates.](#)

For more information about COVID-19, visit the following:

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

- <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/>
- <http://www.clevelandhealth.org/>

About the City of Cleveland

The City of Cleveland is committed to improving the quality of life for its residents by strengthening neighborhoods, delivering superior services, embracing diversity and making Cleveland a desirable, safe city in which to live, work, play, and do business. For more information on the City of Cleveland, visit online at www.clevelandohio.gov, Twitter at @cityofcleveland or Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofcleveland.