

CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN

MAYOR JAMAE L TITO BROWN



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MEMORANDUM

Youngstown City Employee COVID-19 Testing Update

In late 2021, a roadmap for employee testing was created to ensure a safe workplace for all city employees. The rapid spread of the Omicron variant has dramatically affected city employees and their families. Currently, the city employee vaccine rate stands at approximately 50% however; this number does not reflect the need for necessary booster shots. The impact of the current rate of infection has changed the landscape for COVID-19 vaccines, boosters, and verifiable testing.

City Health Director Erin Bishop points out, “As of today, all 15,000 testing kits received by the Ohio Department of Health have been distributed throughout the city. The City Health District has distributed testing kits at mass drive thru events, local churches, community organizations, and other social service agencies which has caused a shortage of readily available tests.”

Mayor Brown states, “When I started the process to implement testing mandates for employees, the Omicron variant had not been discovered, therefore I cannot set unrealistic testing requirements on city employees when the supply and demand of testing kits and sites are not readily available at this time.”

Under these circumstances, the urgency for city employee vaccinations remains a priority. Employees will be allowed more time to vaccinate and get booster shots. The Administration’s COVID-19 Team has met weekly since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. The team will continue to monitor the circumstances nationally and statewide and determine if vaccine rates continue to grow and whether testing mandates are necessary.

Stay Safe,
Mayor Jamael Tito Brown