



Niagara County Department of Health Public Health Director Daniel Stapleton joins Mount St. Mary's Hospital President C.J. Urlaub and Acting Niagara County Sheriff Michael Filicetti at the tent blessing.



# Mount St. Mary's Hospital holds 'blessing of the tents'

On Monday morning, Mount St. Mary's Hospital held a "blessing of the tents" that are set up outside of the emergency department.

The tents will serve a temporary purpose during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing expanded capability for the ER, and a place for triage. They have heat, light and medical record capabilities, and will allow for safer triage and assessment of those who can be evaluated and discharged to home quickly, from those needing further testing or inpatient care.

Niagara County Department of Health Public Health Director Daniel Stapleton joined Acting Niagara County Sheriff Michael Filicetti and Mount St. Mary's President C.J. Urlaub, along with dozens of hospital staffers, for the blessing.

"We give special thanks to Niagara County Department of Health's Daniel Stapleton, Elise Pignatora and Jonathan Schultz, as well as Acting Sheriff Michael Filicetti and the Niagara County Sheriff's Department for their partnership. We are truly all in

this together, and the community's support has been amazing," Urlaub said.

As part of a Tuesday community update, Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Becky Wydysh said, "A lot of people were going with the theory that this was going to be the drive-thru testing facility. Please know that that is not what this is. This is actually part of their patient surge plan. Each hospital has to prepare for an influx of patients that could occur as the peak happens with COVID-19; and that's how they're beginning to prepare for that influx of patients."

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## Higgins, members call to expedite funding to health care providers

Congressman Brian Higgins, D-NY-26, and other members of New York and New Jersey's federal delegation are calling for the U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary to expedite funding to health care providers in the two states.

In a bipartisan, bicameral letter, Higgins and the other 33 members of Congress write, "As health care professionals describe their hospitals as war zones and the death toll in our states continues to rise, federal funding must be prioritized for hospitals and health care providers in states bearing the brunt of treating infected patients."

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act recently approved by Congress included \$100 billion to support the needs of hospitals and health care professionals while they battle COVID-19.

The states of New York and New Jersey have the most cases in the nation, with over 83,700 and nearly 19,000, respectively, and more than 102,700 confirmed cases combined.

## IN THE NEWS

### Eichel donating protective masks

Buffalo Sabres forward Jack Eichel has purchased 5,000 personal protective equipment masks from hockey equipment manufacturer Bauer that will be distributed to various hospitals throughout Western New York.

"I am so thankful to all those medical professionals that are on the front lines taking care of our community in the battle against this virus," Eichel said. "The dedication to Western New York that they continue to show is incredible. I am happy to work with my friends at Bauer to purchase these masks. Hopefully, they will help play a part in keeping our hospital workers safer and healthier."

"We're all on the same team in

helping our medical professionals get the necessary protective equipment they need to help in the fight against COVID-19," said Mary-Kay Messier, VP of global marketing, Bauer Hockey. "Nurses, doctors and so many others are risking their own health to save the lives of others. These are the true heroes of coronavirus. Our team was eager to step up and do what we can, just like Jack is stepping up to help his community in Buffalo. We're grateful for this partnership with Jack and the Buffalo Sabres, and we hope others continue to help, because we all need to support our families, friends and neighbors right now."

Bauer Hockey and Cascade Lacrosse switched from manufacturing sports equipment to producing medical facemasks.



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## COVID-19 RELIEF

Information for Small Business

Congressman  
Brian Higgins



### PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM:

Acts as a bridge for organizations that retain employees and their salaries.

#### Who is eligible?

Small Business, 501(c)(3) non-profits 501(c)(19) veterans organizations, tribal businesses, sole proprietors, independent contractors, self-employed individuals.

#### What are the terms of the program?

Zero-fee loans of up to \$10 million. The loan will be eligible for forgiveness for expenses of up to 8 weeks of average payroll and related costs if the organization retains employees and their salary levels.

#### Can my business qualify for both programs?

Yes for the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans/Grants; however, they must be used for different purposes, & any amount received under the Emergency Economic Injury Grant Program would be subtracted from the amount forgiven in the Paycheck Protection Program.

### SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE CENTERS:

National: 1-800-659-2955  
disastercustomerservice@sba.gov  
SBA.gov

Erie County: 716-878-4030  
mccartsa@buffalostate.edu  
sbdc.buffalostate.edu

Niagara County: 716-210-2515  
oswald@niagaracc.suny.edu  
niagarasbdc.org

### CONTACT US:

We are here to help. Please contact our office with any additional questions.  
Buffalo: 716-852-3501  
Niagara Falls: 716-282-1274  
Washington, DC: 202-225-3306

Website: Higgins.House.gov  
@RepBrianHiggins

### ECONOMIC INJURY

### DISASTER LOANS & EMERGENCY ECONOMIC INJURY GRANTS:

For small businesses that experienced significant economic injury and are located in a declared disaster area (New York).

#### Who is eligible for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan?

The following entities with 500 or fewer employees: small businesses, sole proprietorships (with or without employees), independent contractors, cooperatives & employee owned businesses, tribal businesses, small agricultural cooperatives that meet the applicable size standard, as well as most private non-profits of any size.

#### What is the difference between an Economic Injury Disaster Loan and an Emergency Economic Grant?

- An Economic Injury Disaster Loan is a 30-year loan of up to \$2 million with an interest rate up to 3.75% for businesses and 2.75% for non-profits to help pay for expenses that would not have occurred if a disaster had not taken place.
- An Emergency Economic Injury Grant is an immediate advance of up to \$10,000 received within 3 days of applying for an EIDL that does not need to be repaid.

### EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT:

A refundable payroll tax credit for 50% of wages paid to certain employees.

#### Who is eligible?

Employers, including non-profits, whose operations have been fully/partially suspended as a result of a government order. Employers who have experienced a 50% or greater reduction in quarterly receipts. Not available to employers receiving assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program. Available through December 31, 2020.

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