



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update April 2, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 25,590 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 4,866 still under investigation. The County now reports 2,010 cases.
- Westfield is now reporting 60 cases, a number that reflects our Police Department's recent ability to obtain positive COVID-19 case information from the New Jersey State Department of Health. This jump reflects not only broader testing availability and a substantial increase in the trajectory of the community transmission, but also new access to positive test results from the State, all of which have not yet been through the Health Department's contact tracing process. We will continue to share the numbers from this report as they are made available. For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.
- Tracking the transmission of this virus is an unprecedented public health undertaking, and we are working with all available data on hand to provide you with as much reliable information as possible. Again, I'll remind everyone that the numbers will never be fully reflective of what is actually transmitted in the community, which serves as another reminder to act as though everyone is a carrier and comply with the Governor's stay at home order.
- On the Town employee front, we did have a third member of the Police Department test positive. He is recovering at home, and we look forward to welcoming him back when he receives medical clearance.

STATE UPDATES

- At the State level, today the New Jersey Division of Labor reported that, over the last week, more than 206,000 new claims of unemployment were filed. In just the past two weeks, more than 362,000 residents have filed for unemployment. As a reminder, the State has built an online jobs and hiring portal to list employment opportunities in critical industries.
- In addition, the New Jersey Department of Education, NJTV, and New Jersey Education Association have partnered to create NJTV Learning Live -- a program featuring lessons taught by New Jersey teachers. Each weekday, NJTV Learning Live will offer four programs for grades 3 to 6. For more information, the State's announcement can be found [here](#).

LOCAL UPDATES

- Last week, I asked that the community come together to avoid using loud lawn equipment between the hours of 9:00AM and 12:00PM each day, in an effort to mitigate the noise issue. I completely empathize with all those affected by the noise, as I have three kids learning remotely and I am working from home. However, since landscapers have been deemed an essential service by the Governor, and limitations on their operating hours can only be implemented via ordinance, I would like to reiterate a call for voluntary compliance. I know we are all doing our best in these trying times, and that includes employees of the landscaping companies earning a living with permissible work.

Thanks to all of you for your cooperation and your support of my "unfun captain" self-designation. Protecting the health and welfare of the community will always be my top priority.