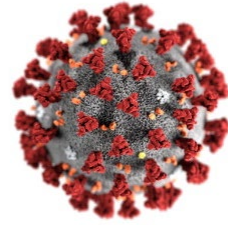




## Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update April 4, 2020



### **CONFIRMED CASES<sup>a</sup>**

Today, there are 34,124 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 3,935 still under investigation. Governor Murphy pointed out that, as of today, New Jersey has lost more residents to COVID-19 than to 9/11.

The County reports 2,916 cases, with Westfield's case total now at 81 to date. For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

### **FEDERAL AND STATE UPDATES**

- The State is still looking for additional help from qualified health, mental health, and related professionals to supplement the current resources addressing COVID-19. For more information, visit <https://covid19.nj.gov/volunteer>.
- Today, Governor Murphy issued an administrative order giving municipalities and counties the ability to prohibit all rentals to transient guests or seasonal tenants, including hotels and motels, for the duration of this emergency. Everyone is urged to stay in their primary place of residence,

as many of the shore communities lack the health care infrastructure to accommodate an influx of part-time residents. This is especially important information for anyone considering leaving during the current spring break week.

- The State Commissioner of Health has issued a note to all faith leaders to remind their congregants during Passover, Easter, Vaisakhi and Ramadan to abide by the Governor's stay at home order, and not congregate for religious services or family gatherings. Even during these holidays that bring deep meaning to those who observe, it is imperative to limit human interaction in an effort to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Many faith leaders are offering live streamed or televised services, along with suggestions on how to create meaningful celebrations at home without gathering with others.

## LOCAL UPDATES

- The Town has received permission from the State to open the Conservation Center during the COVID-19 crisis, provided that all social distancing requirements are met. Due to the scaled back resources of the Department of Public Works to stagger shifts for their safety, the Conservation Center will operate on limited hours, which will be Thursdays and Fridays, from 9:00 - 2:30, beginning April 16. The DPW will be working between now and then to make adjustments to the Center's configuration to maximize social distancing and facilitate the new permit process detailed below.

To minimize in-person interaction, permits will be sold online only at this time, beginning Monday, April 6. No permits will be sold at the Center. Once you complete your online transaction, please keep your e-receipt (by phone or paper) and bring it with you to your first trip to the Center. Display it, along with ID, in your window. A DPW employee will verify your purchase with the unique e-receipt number displayed, and will then place the seasonal decal on your vehicle.

The drop-off recycling program remains free of charge with no permit required for plastic, cardboard, newspaper, glass, light bulbs, batteries, styrofoam, scrap metal, household electronics, clothing/shoes, and food waste. A more detailed list is on our website.

The fee-based programs for bulk waste drop off and mattresses/box springs are currently suspended.

Due to social distancing requirements, we will be limiting the amount of cars allowed in the Center at one time, which will very likely cause lines to form. Please be patient and follow the instructions of the DPW employees; in addition, please have all materials separated and ready for disposal to reduce public exposure.

- Lastly, I'd like to issue a final reminder about the closures we implemented yesterday of our basketball and tennis courts, as well as the parking lots for all parks and schools. I've already been alerted to folks using the Tamaques basketball courts last night, despite the hoops being blocked off. I understand that the spring break week presents more opportunities to keep the kids busy with some welcomed outdoor activities, but I ask each of you to do your part to follow the stay at home order.

Once again, the purpose of the parking lot closures is to encourage everyone to keep their outdoor activity close to home -- that means within walking, running, or biking distance. It is not meant to have people park their cars on nearby residential streets to access parks. You do not have to stay indoors by any means, but please know that driving to a park is not considered essential travel.

Our Police Department will continue to monitor these closures, but the voluntary, proactive compliance by all residents is the responsibility of every one of us.

Thanks in advance for your ongoing cooperation. I wish you all a good remainder of your weekend, and ongoing good health.