



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update April 6, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 41,090 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 3,521 still under investigation. Governor Murphy said today that he expects the cases to peak in the late April to early May timeframe, with anywhere from 86,000 to 509,000 cases statewide.
- Currently, the County reports 3,685 cases, with Westfield's case total now at 93 to date. For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.
- On the employee front, I am pleased to report that all three Westfield Police Officers who tested positive have recovered and returned to work after receiving medical clearance.

STATE AND COUNTY UPDATES

- Today, Governor Murphy signed an Executive Order to allow retired public employees to return to work – in whichever capacity they can – to offer assistance without impacting their pension status.
- Consistent with CDC guidance, NJ Transit is urging all riders to wear a face covering as an additional, voluntary public health measure to help slow the spread of COVID-19, and to refrain from non-essential travel.
- Morris County's Office of Emergency Management has created Operation Save-a-Life to build a roster of available medical personnel to assist with this crisis. Any available Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses and medical professionals can sign up for paid openings at healthcare facilities across Morris County that are short of qualified medical personnel. This is in addition to the statewide call for medical professionals.
- Hackensack Meridian Health is now approved to collect plasma from individuals who have recovered from COVID-19. More information can be found on their website at <https://www.hackensackmeridianhealth.org/covid19>.

LOCAL UPDATES

- The Westfield Girl Scouts made a very welcome delivery of 240 boxes of cookies to our first responders this week in the Police, Fire, and EMS departments, as well as an additional 240 boxes to the health care professionals at Overlook. Thanks to everyone who donated to their virtual cookie booth to give back to the community. Donations are still being accepted at givebutter.com/WestfieldGirlScouts.
- Have you completed your 2020 Census form yet? Our most recent report shows Westfield at a 58.6% completion rate, which is far above the national, state and county averages (44.5%, 45.7%, and 46.4%, respectively) -- and within the top five in the county. Please take a few minutes to make sure that you are counted, and let's aim for a 70% completion rate by mid-April. Visit www.2020census.gov.
- I'd like to close by talking about the tremendous job our Police Department has been doing to help ensure the well-being of the community as it pertains to the Governor's stay at home order. The department has received numerous reports of persons failing to follow the State's directive, and continues to respond and investigate each one.
- As I've said numerous times, Chief Battiloro's emphasis on community policing is one that values a trusted partnership between the residents and the Police Department. As it relates to the COVID-19 crisis, their first goal is to educate and inform the community about the orders in place, with the goal of voluntary, proactive compliance. They will, however, take appropriate law enforcement action if voluntary compliance cannot be achieved -- especially in the cases of formalized social events or gatherings that are in flagrant violation of the stay at home order.
- In terms of their daily activities, we continue to have officers utilizing two ATVs in Tamaques and Brightwood, as well as an officer dedicated on a daily basis to patrolling Tamaques Park. In addition, ongoing compliance checks occur at the closed park and school parking lots, and will also be carried out at every church and other religious institution located in Town, every Saturday and Sunday, to ensure full compliance.
- It is Chief Battiloro's expectation, as the head of our Police Department and as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Town, that everyone will follow the lawful orders of government, especially during a declared state of emergency such as this. Please help his

dedicated officers by making every effort to comply with the current restrictions that are in place for our protection.

- If you witness an organized gathering of more than ten people (which is in direct violation of the Governor's Executive Order), please call the Police Department to report it. For other cases involving social distancing concerns, please take it upon yourself to address it (from an appropriate distance) as a concerned community member. That said, let's not resort to public shaming -- especially when it comes to minors. It's not appropriate to post photos of other people's children on social media, and I would hope that everyone can agree this is not what we would want for our own kids.

Thanks to all of you who continue to look out for our collective well-being. It's critical that we all take responsibility to help flatten the curve.