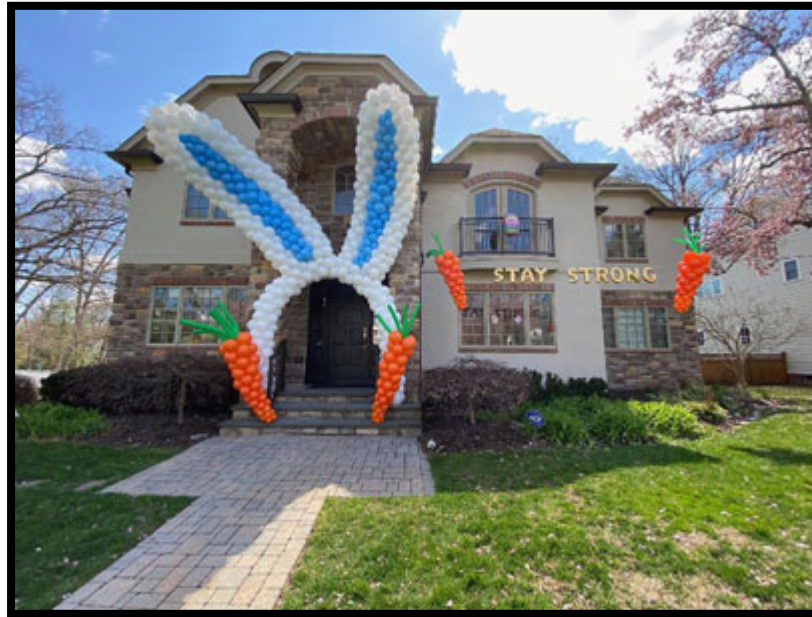
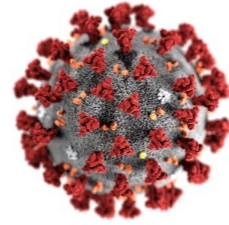




Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update April 11, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 58,151 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 924 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 5,865 cases, with Westfield's case total now at 126 to date. We have learned from the Westfield Regional Health Department that, of those cases, they range in age from 19-94, with 12 having been hospitalized. For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.
- In addition, I am saddened to report six additional fatalities: three females, ages 88, 84, and 68; and three males, ages 88, 85, and 76. Our total number of deaths in Westfield is now 13. Please keep the families of these residents in your thoughts during this incredibly difficult time, knowing they are unable to gather for funerals, memorials, and other group commemorations to honor these lost lives.
- Six of the fatalities in Westfield lived in long-term care centers. As you likely know, the rates of infection and COVID 19-related deaths are of concern within long-term care centers across the country. Our Health Department is in daily contact with the management of these facilities within Westfield to offer ongoing guidance and track outbreaks. In addition, our Office of Emergency Management, run by Chief Battiloro, assists them as needed with any supply issues they communicate. The COVID-19 case and fatality numbers we report from these facilities are based only on those who claim these centers as their permanent address; many others may be

treated in some of these locations for shorter-term rehabilitation purposes, and therefore their status is not reported to us, as they are not considered Westfield residents.

- I mention this to let you know that we are actively engaged with these centers, but the actual case numbers are indeed higher than we're able to report based on place of residence. Our outreach and assistance will of course continue as long as necessary, although decisions about the release of any widespread COVID-19 activity would need to come directly from these facilities as privately run businesses. Any family members who have questions about COVID-19 activity at these centers should call the facility directly to obtain information. There is also a Long Term Care Facilities Hotline managed by the State Department of Health, which can be reached at 1-800-792-9770.

STATE UPDATES

- Governor Murphy plans to sign an Executive Order directing NJ Transit and all private carriers to cut the capacity on trains, buses, light rail vehicles, and paratransit vehicles to 50% of their maximum. This order also requires NJ Transit and the private carriers to supply their workers with gloves and face coverings. Additionally, all riders are required to wear a face covering when traveling either on NJ Transit or with a private carrier, unless they cannot for medical reasons.
- The Governor is also expanding the requirement to wear a face covering to all customers heading into one of the restaurants and bars that remain in operation as they get their takeout orders. Restaurants and bars are also required to give face coverings and gloves to all their food-service personnel.

LOCAL UPDATES

- University Hospital in Newark has started to treat patients with severe COVID-19 with anti-COVID immune therapy, and they are in need of more plasma donors. If you have recovered from COVID-19 and are interested in being a donor to help others with the virus, please contact the COVID-19 Treatment Group at covidplasma@uhnj.org, or call 973-972-5474.
- Calling all tailors, seamstresses, and amateur sewers! Some of our long term care facilities are in desperate need of gowns, which they have not been able to procure on their own. We are in the process of securing donated fabric and are looking for volunteers who would be willing to sew some of these gowns. Here is a sample pattern for reference: <https://peekaboopatternshop.com/isolation-gown>. More details to come shortly about how to participate.
- I'll resume my updates on Monday, and would like to wish all who celebrate a very happy Easter. Try to make a point of being outside at 10am tomorrow, as many of the churches throughout Town will be ringing their bells as a show of unity. I know the holiday won't be the same without the usual gatherings at church and extended family celebrations, but please know that on behalf of the Town Council and all of our Town employees, we wish you a day filled with meaning, peace and hope.