



Mayor Brindle's  
COVID-19 Update  
April 15, 2020



Good evening, everyone, and thanks for joining us virtually tonight for our first Town Council meeting via Zoom. I am joined by the entire Town Council here on video, as well as Town Administrator Jim Gildea, Town Clerk Tara Rowley, Chief Battiloro, Town Planner Don Sammet, Town Attorney Tom Jardim, and Town Engineer Kris McAloon, with our remaining department heads listening in with all of you. Please remember that public comment will only be accepted via Zoom, although we are live streaming for viewing only on Facebook Live and YouTube Live as well. The replay will also be available afterwards on Facebook, YouTube, and TV 36. For those of you who receive my regular COVID-19 emails, tonight's comments here will also serve as today's update

## CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 71,030 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 1,189 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 7,438 cases, with Westfield reporting one more -- bringing our case total to 147 to date. For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.
- I am saddened to report Westfield's 14th fatality from COVID-19 -- a 75 year-old female in our community. Please keep this resident's family in your thoughts during this very difficult time.

## STATE UPDATES

- Governor Murphy signed an Executive Order extending various deadlines associated with rulemaking for state agencies until 90 days following the end of the public health emergency in order to provide flexibility during this crisis.
- The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOLE) announced a series of initiatives to get unemployment claims processed more quickly. These changes include upgrading computer technology, adding personnel, and boosting phone capacity to deal with the tremendous demand.
- Yesterday, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce hosted a webinar with Q&A about SBA coronavirus relief loan programs, including the Paycheck Protection Program. It can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6VcT-zgoOA&feature=youtu.be>.

## LOCAL UPDATES

- If you purchased a permit (available online only) for the Conservation Center this year, you will receive an email tonight outlining the procedures for access and drop-off ahead of the Center's opening at 9:00AM tomorrow. Above all, I want to stress the need for patience as we undertake a new process to ensure social distancing while managing demand. This demand is anticipated to be much higher at the Center in the initial few days of operation, as folks with a permit will need to have their online purchase verified and the decal put in place. As the season goes on and fewer initial trips with decal purchase verification are required, we expect that things will move along more quickly. We also fully anticipate the need to make process modifications and adjustments, as always, based on what we're seeing and the feedback we receive. My advice for those looking just to deposit recyclables that don't require a permit is to perhaps wait until we get through the first two weeks if you can. We of course won't turn you away with recyclables, but we do ask people to prioritize the seasonal, organic debris whenever possible.
- Have you seen the new Business Resource section on our online Coronavirus Information Center? We are providing links to information from the US Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Association, and the NJ Economic Development Authority, as well as other documents providing information on grants, loans, debt relief, unemployment, and additional FAQs.

- Thanks to all who joined our first Zoom Town Council meeting last night. It's refreshing to know that we can still conduct our business, see each other's faces, and discuss important issues at hand. The replay is available on the Town's Facebook and YouTube pages, and will soon be on TV 36 as well.
- I am happy to see many park improvements in progress while they are closed, which I detailed in social media posts earlier today. I look forward to providing updates as work continues. I want to assure you that our Town employees are taking advantage of this unprecedented time with low foot traffic to make sure that we continue to move forward on a variety of initiatives.

Wishing you all continued good health and patience as we get through another week of staying at home. We can do this!