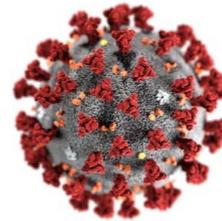




Mayor Brindle's  
COVID-19 Update  
April 16, 2020



**CONFIRMED CASES**

Today, there are 75,317 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 1,048 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 7,904 cases, with Westfield reporting seven more -- bringing our case total to 154 to date. For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

Now that we are several weeks into the stay at home order, people are understandably getting anxious about how long this will continue. While I don't have an answer, please remember that the COVID-19 numbers in New Jersey continue to climb. Since yesterday, the positive cases increased by 4,391 new

cases in the State and by 465 in Union County; fatalities increased by 362 in the State and by 31 in Union County. I point this out to remind everyone that we can't get complacent about social distancing, and that these measures remain very important to flattening the curve.

## STATE UPDATE

As I'm sure many of you have heard, today Governor Murphy announced that schools will remain closed through at least May 15, a decision he made in consultation with New Jersey Department of Health and New Jersey Department Of Education, as well as other stakeholders.

The board of New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency has unanimously voted to suspend all rent increases at eligible properties within its entire portfolio, which includes 36,000 rental units across the state.

## LOCAL UPDATES

- Huge thanks to everyone who made the opening day of the Conservation Center a success. I am very grateful to the DPW and the Police Department for their hard work and organization to make this new process work smoothly while allowing for social distancing, and I also want to thank the residents who showed up today, waited patiently, and remained courteous. It was a great example of a group effort to adapt to a new normal.

Because we processed a record number of seasonal decal placements today and already have hundreds more online permit purchases completed and awaiting decals, we are going to again temporarily suspend the permit sales tomorrow morning at 8:00AM. This will allow the DPW to monitor the wait time and assess their processing capacity to determine if additional demand can be met. If capacity allows, we will open the sales back up during Center hours; otherwise, permits can be purchased after 2:30PM for future use. Please visit the Conservation Center page on our website, which is updated regularly, for timely and accurate information ([westfieldnj.gov/conservation](http://westfieldnj.gov/conservation)).

As we anticipated, there was a line of cars waiting to deposit their materials throughout the morning. If you plan to head over to the Center tomorrow, consider going in the afternoon if your schedule permits. By 12:30 today, the wait time to enter was minimal. Again, as the season goes on and fewer initial trips with decal purchase verification are required, we expect that things will move along more quickly.

I'll close by sharing two videos with you that truly speak to the heart of Westfield. I'm thrilled that NJTV spent some time here yesterday to film a segment about the incredible generosity and sense of community that so many of you have demonstrated through the We Love Local and Feed the Front Line initiatives (<https://www.njtvonline.org/news/video/westfield-residents-are-feeding-njs-frontline-workers>). In addition, the DWC today released this video of thanks from our local businesses for the support they continue to receive (<https://bit.ly/thankyouwestfield>), a message that truly demonstrates the spirit of perseverance for all of us.