



Mayor Brindle's
COVID-19 Update
April 17, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 78,467 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 719 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 8,429 cases, with Westfield reporting four more -- bringing our case total to 158 to date. In addition, it pains me to report two additional fatalities -- a 91 year-old female and a 58 year-old male. The families of these residents tragically join so many others across the country who are unable to gather to grieve their losses. As a community, please keep them in your thoughts.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

STATE UPDATE

- There are now 70 COVID-19 testing sites across New Jersey for those exhibiting symptoms of respiratory illness, two dozen of which are publicly accessible. The complete list can be found at covid19.nj.gov/testing.
- The State has launched a new page for volunteers, where you can sign up to help deliver meals to vulnerable residents or assist at food pantries. Visit covid19.nj.gov/help and click on "Volunteer in Your Community."
- New Jersey is now the first state to begin issuing temporary emergency licenses to foreign-licensed physicians to help battle COVID-19.

LOCAL UPDATES

- Thank you to the Westfield Area Chinese American Club for their extremely generous donation of 100 medical gowns and 2,500 masks. What a tremendous act of kindness for our first responders and medical community.
- I'm happy to report that we had another successful day at the Conservation Center, with far lower wait times in the morning, and no wait at all in the afternoon. Thanks again to the DPW for facilitating this new process to ensure social distancing, and to the Police Department for their support. Permit sales continue online ahead of the Center re-opening next Thursday and Friday.
- Last month, when I addressed COVID-19 for the first time, I included a cancellation of all Town events through April 19. With that date quickly approaching, I am updating that cancellation through the end of May. As you know, we already postponed the Memorial Day parade, and it is only prudent at this point to include all other May events as the stay at home order remains in effect for the foreseeable future.
- I know it's tough to plan for the summer with so much uncertainty about the duration and scale of social distancing requirements over time. In response to the many inquiries we've received about Memorial Pool opening this summer, the short answer is that it's simply too soon to know. While it is certainly our hope that we can have our facility open for the community to enjoy, we will obviously only do so if it can be done safely in the interest of public health above all else. Knowing that New York City has closed their public pools for the summer, we await guidance from the State of New Jersey about any potential plans to follow suit, and about how any State orders would impact not just Memorial Pool, but all of our summer recreational programs. We are currently accepting pool registrations for the optimists in all of us -- which can be renewed by mail or online through an extended deadline of May 28. And if we are unable to open this summer, we will extend refunds. The Recreation Department will also be postponing swim lesson registration until we have additional information about the pool, and a new date will be announced at a later date.

- How about good news? If you have some, send it our way! With all of the difficult information that COVID-19 brings each day, we have also seen the very best of Westfield. We have been able to highlight some of the larger scale initiatives here in Town, but want to make sure we capture efforts of all sizes throughout Town. Whether it's helping those in need, finding creative solutions to manage the stay at home order, or just some photos reinforcing community (chalk art, balloon arches, etc.), we'd love to see and share them. Send your content to covid19@westfieldnj.gov.

Barring any significant developments, my next update will be on Monday. Stay safe, everyone, and enjoy the weekend.