



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update April 20, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 88,806 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 660 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 9,972 cases, with Westfield reporting 174 to date. Unfortunately, I must report three additional fatalities -- three females, ages 88, 81, and 67, one of whom lived in a long-term care facility -- bringing the total number of documented deaths to 19.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

STATE UPDATE

- The State Chamber of Commerce will host a webinar on April 23 at 4:30 with Neil Bradley, executive vice president and chief policy officer at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, who will discuss the federal CARES Act, federal lending programs, and the efforts in D.C. to pass a new coronavirus relief bill. For more information and to register, visit www.withum.com/events/webinar-federal-cares-legislation/.
- New Jersey, New York and Connecticut governors announced that marinas, boatyards and marine manufacturers can open as long as social distancing protocols are followed. Chartered

services or rentals are not allowed, and restaurants at these sites must be limited to take-out or delivery.

- The U.S. Chamber Foundation announced that it is beginning to accept applications today for \$5,000 grants to small employers. For more information, visit www.savesmallbusiness.com.

LOCAL UPDATES

- As of Saturday, our 2020 Census completion rate for Westfield stood at 65% (versus the national, state, and county completion rates of 50.5%, 51.5%, and 53.3%). If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to ensure you are counted at 2020census.gov.
- Thanks to Rabbi Kroloff for inviting me to participate in his virtual lunch and learn today via Zoom. I was thrilled to be able to provide a Town update to more than 140 members of the Temple Emanuel congregation, where we covered details about the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as senior programs and our exciting future plans for redevelopment. I always find group discussions so helpful -- both to hear from residents and to have the opportunity to discuss current issues. If your group or organization has an upcoming Zoom forum and would like me to participate, please let me know!
- I have a plea to the community on behalf of Lisa LaForte, Westfield resident and hair stylist at Sofi's Color Lounge in town. Lisa is trying to help her father, who is critically ill with COVID-19, and is a candidate for experimental plasma therapy from recovered COVID-19 patients. If you have recovered from COVID-19, remained symptom free for two weeks, and can donate type A+ plasma, please email Lisa at lisamarielaforste@yahoo.com.
- We asked for good news to share, and you delivered! Local Orthodontist Dr. Eric Frank and Pediatric Dentist Dr. Aimee Leibowitz-Frank of Oceans Orthodontics & Pediatric Dentistry created care packages for the front line workers at local hospitals that include Dr. John's xylitol anti-cavity candies, Hyperbiotics probiotics, and a travel toothbrush with Unpaste toothpaste tablets (zero waste, in a compostable packet) in honor of Earth Day this week. Thanks to Team Oceans for making it easier for these healthcare heroes to do a little self care at the hospitals while healing our country. And best of luck to them as they await the arrival of their twin boys in the coming weeks!
- Westfield resident Alex Jackman, as the President of Best Buddies at UPenn, knows that this can be an incredibly confusing and frustrating time for teens with special needs. She is organizing an effort to pair neurotypical teens with special needs buddies to Facetime with during these isolating times. If you have a special needs teen who would be interested in having a new buddy to text or Facetime with, please fill out this survey: <https://forms.gle/xgwcYgYf7MtgG7Cn9>.

We will continue to share the good news updates and photos we receive (email us at covid19@westfieldnj.gov) in order to keep everyone informed of the many great acts of kindness that make Westfield so special. And, in case you missed it, NBC ran a great piece about our amazing community, highlighting inspiring WHS math teacher Callie Campbell -- who represents the resourcefulness and commitment of all of our teachers who have embraced their new reality of teaching remotely. You can see the segment here: <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/entertainment/the-scene/new-york-live/math-fun-and-more-in-westfield-new-jersey/2376694/>.