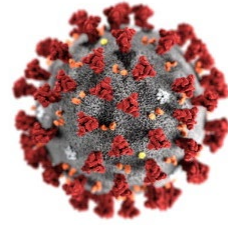




Mayor Brindle's
COVID-19 Update
May 8, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 135,454 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 553 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 13,917 cases, with Westfield reporting only one additional case which is more than a month old, and no new cases, bringing our total to 243 cases to date. We have had only one new case in the last five days, which is a very encouraging trend, and demonstrates that our social distancing efforts are working. Thank you!
- The cases in Westfield have ranged in age from 13 to 99, with 37 cases having required hospitalization, and 35 total deaths (18 of which were associated with long term care facilities).
- Statewide, as of last night, there are currently 4,605 COVID-19 hospitalized patients -- a decrease of 1,000 from last Friday. The number of patients reported in either critical or intensive care continues to decrease (currently 1,439), and ventilator use also continues to decline

(currently 1,089). Long term care, however, continues to be an issue, with positive tests and deaths both increasing.

- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

STATE UPDATES

- Governor Murphy is signing an Executive Order to create the Governor's Restart and Recovery Advisory Council – bringing together leaders from various industry, community, and faith-based groups and institutions across New Jersey to work in conjunction with our Restart and Recovery Commission. The Advisory Council will have nine committees:
 - Facilities and Construction
 - Government
 - Health Care
 - Main Street
 - Manufacturing and Supply Chain
 - Professional Services
 - Social Services and Faith
 - Tourism and Entertainment
 - Transportation and Infrastructure
- The Field Medical Station at the Meadowlands Expo Center will stand-down over the weekend and transfer its operations to the East Orange General Hospital site, which just completed construction -- a sign that social distancing efforts are slowing the spread and reducing hospitalizations.

LOCAL UPDATES

- It was great to hear Governor Murphy recognize Westfield's own Joe and Audrey Mindak today during his daily COVID-19 briefing for their amazing pallet painting fundraiser that has donated over \$7,000 to date to the We Love Local fund benefitting our small businesses. The Mindaks, like so many others in Westfield, are another amazing example of giving back to the community in a time of great need.
- With substantially fewer cars in Town, it has been the perfect time for the DPW to repaint the parking space numbers and lines that have faded over time. The crew's work is well underway, so look for big improvements in municipal lots, Westfield Memorial Library, and the on-street parking spaces as they look to complete these jobs as weather permits in the days and weeks ahead.
- Thanks to everyone who has paid their second quarter property taxes. As of today, we have collected just over 80% of the taxes billed for the quarter, which puts us on a very encouraging trajectory with the grace period extension we were permitted by the State to grant through June 1. As a reminder, you can pay online (westfieldnj.gov/taxcollector), by mail, or by drop box behind Town Hall or in the Police Department vestibule.

Thank you again for your commitment to social distancing, the efforts of which are finally being reflected in our declining case and hospitalization numbers. Please remember that our healthcare system is still dealing with far more patients than normal and I ask that you continue to stay vigilant. I know that it's getting tougher to stay home as the days go by, but our collective commitment is indeed working. Social distancing is the only effective tool we have at our disposal right now to mitigate community spread.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend and a very happy Mother's Day to all the moms in our community. It's difficult to celebrate this holiday when we can't all gather together, but I hope you are able to find a way to make the day meaningful and connect with family near and far.