



Mayor Brindle's  
COVID-19 Update  
May 14, 2020



**CONFIRMED CASES**

- Today, there are 142,704 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 802 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 14,385 cases, with Westfield reporting no new cases today, keeping our total at 257.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

## STATE UPDATES

- Governor Murphy today reported additional encouraging trends on a statewide basis. Since the peak of COVID-19, new hospitalizations are down nearly two thirds and total hospitalizations are down by roughly half, with significant drops in both ICU cases and ventilator usage as well.
- The Governor announced that all public and private beaches may open on May 22 with capacity and admission limitations, six feet demarcation in certain areas, sanitation requirements, and public outreach campaigns on social distancing restrictions. Special events will not be permitted, and closures will remain in effect for playgrounds, arcades, rides, games, water fountains, picnics, and water play equipment.
- The federal Veterans Administration is providing five, 10-person Health Care Strike Teams who will join the staff at some of New Jersey's long-term care facilities until June 30. They are expected to arrive this week.

## LOCAL UPDATES

- Following Governor Murphy's announcement today to allow park restrooms to re-open, we will be following suit with our park restrooms within the next week. We anticipate migrating from staggered Public Works shifts back to a standard schedule beginning on Monday, and this will allow us to dedicate the proper resources to the ongoing cleaning and sanitation requirements necessary to keep the restrooms open. We will communicate final timing once we have those details in place.
- In other good news, Westfield resident Alexis Glasofer has been raising money for Overlook Hospital as part of her mitzvah project. After seeing her father, Sid, take on volunteer shifts in the hospital as a physician, she wanted to help keep him safe by ensuring there was enough PPE and other necessary supplies to meet the demand of the pandemic. To date, Alexis has raised \$6,000, with another \$5,000 donation expected to come in next week. Her mother, Dina, wrote to me to tell me how much this experience has taught Alexis about the importance of helping out in times of need. If you would like to contribute, please visit <https://overlookfoundation.org/online-donations>, designate your donation to highest priority needs, and indicate Alexis' name to help further her cause. Please join me in recognizing Alexis' dedication, and in wishing her a happy birthday this Saturday as she celebrates her bat mitzvah online with friends and family. Mazel tov!
- It's not too late to sign up for Greta's Run which is taking place virtually this Sunday. This year they're raising money for Imagine, a Center for Coping with Loss whose services are more needed than ever as we mourn those we have lost to COVID. Greta's Run was established in memory of Greta Schoenemann, a WHS freshman who died after a tree branch fell on her at lunch. You can learn more and register here: <https://www.imagenj.org/gretasrun>
- The Conservation Center re-opens tomorrow from 9:00 - 2:30. Please note that the food waste, plastic toys, plastic bags, and clothing drop-off programs are temporarily suspended.

We are expecting a beautiful day tomorrow. If you plan to use our parks, please follow the guidelines we've put in place so that we all may continue to benefit from everyone's collective care and commitment to public health. While face coverings are not required, please consider using them if the parks are crowded as a courtesy to those around you.

The trends we continue to see are very encouraging, but we were reminded today by the Governor that New Jersey remains the most impacted state in the region. It's imperative that, as we continue on this gradual re-opening journey, we all do so responsibly.

Today's update picture is of the Schoenemann home in support of Greta's Run. Stay well everyone!