



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update May 15, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 143,905 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 885 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 14,492 cases, with Westfield reporting no new cases today, keeping our total at 257. I am saddened to report an additional fatality -- a 90 year-old female associated with a long term care facility, whose death occurred last month but was only now received in the Health Department's system. We now have 36 fatalities from COVID-19 in Westfield.
- The cases in Westfield have ranged in age from 13 to 99, and 37 of them have required hospitalization.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

STATE UPDATES

- Governor Murphy announced that his administration is committing \$50 million in federal CARES Act funding to directly support small businesses impacted by COVID-19.
- The New Jersey primary on July 7 will be a primarily vote-by-mail election. All registered Democratic and Republican voters will receive a postage-paid vote-by-mail ballot. All unaffiliated and inactive voters will receive a postage-paid vote-by-mail application. There

will also be a limited number of in-person polling places open in each county to ensure that everyone can exercise their right to vote. The deadline by which votes must be received by a county Board of Elections to be counted as valid will be extended from 48 hours after polls close to seven days after polls close.

- The Governor signed an Executive Order that will allow for the resumption of elective surgical and other invasive procedures, effective May 26th.

LOCAL UPDATES

- Thanks to everyone who responsibly enjoyed our parks today. I was thrilled to get some tennis time in at Memorial, and was really pleased to see the level of voluntary compliance with our guidelines and common courtesy for others. As a reminder, the ongoing closure of private tennis clubs is a directive at the state level, and not one we are permitted to supersede locally. That said, I have been advocating for the private clubs to be able to open, in order to mitigate crowds on our courts and provide broader access for play in the community. I have been told we should expect additional guidance on the matter this weekend. We also expect to hear guidance in the coming days about pools and summer camps.
- Following the Governor's announcement that public libraries are now permitted to provide curbside pick up and drop-off of borrowed items, Westfield Memorial Library is finalizing their plans to provide these services. More details to follow in the coming days.
- Our improvements to Mindowaskin Park continue. The pathways are now replaced, and we expect to mill and pave Park Drive next week, weather permitting. Additional overall park maintenance and beautification efforts are also underway, and we anticipate planting shrubbery around the playground perimeter in the coming weeks as well.
- Don't miss the DWC's Midday Madness Quarantine Clue Hunt tomorrow at 4:00PM. Use your wit and problem solving skills to decipher clues about Downtown Westfield, with four winning teams receiving a prize. There is no cost to participate, but there is a suggested \$10 donation to support the We Love Local fund. Registration information can be found here: <https://bit.ly/MiddayClueHunt>.

Wishing you all a great weekend!