



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



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 149,013 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 778 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 15,031 cases, with Westfield reporting no new cases today, keeping our total at 271. I am saddened to report the death of a 99 year-old female associated with a long-term care facility, bringing our total number of fatalities to 37.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

STATE UPDATES

- The New Jersey Office of the Attorney General and the Division of Consumer Affairs have authorized more than 18,000 licensed pharmacists statewide to administer FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 tests to their customers, which can be given without a prescription.
- CVS Pharmacy is now set to offer self-swab tests at a minimum of 50 locations across New Jersey by the end of this month as the state continues to build its testing capacity.
- Today the Governor is issuing an administrative order to allow for in-person sales to resume at bicycle shops, as well as at car and motorcycle dealerships, effective 6:00AM tomorrow.
- The New Jersey Department of Health and the Division of Consumer Affairs have issued binding guidance that will allow for the resumption of elective and non-urgent medical and dental procedures next Tuesday. Guidance includes prioritization of procedures, heightened sanitation standards, and more. Details can be found at nj.gov/health/news/2020/approved/20200519a.shtml.
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LOCAL UPDATES

- Please remember that the collection day for the Food Drive is tomorrow to benefit the Westfield Food Pantry. If you can, please bring your perishable food items, cleaning supplies, and paper products to Roosevelt School or Westfield High School from 12:00 - 3:00PM. Leave the items in your trunk and an officer will remove them to keep social distancing at a maximum. Monetary donations are also being accepted on the Westfield United Fund website (www.westfieldunitedfund.org), where you can designate "food pantry" in the "in honor of" field. Many thanks to our Police Department, Westfield Public Schools, the Westfield United Fund, and the local faith community for organizing this critical effort.

- As we begin to see more encouraging health data trends, we continue to prepare for the gradual reopening of our businesses as state directives allow in the coming weeks and months. Our local businesses will need the ongoing support of the community more than ever as we continue to navigate through this crisis. Achieving a vision that balances safety and prosperity means that we will rely on a wide variety of resources and expertise to tap into the creativity, entrepreneurship, and grit that have been hallmarks of Westfield.
- To that end, I am in the process of finalizing the members of our Reopening Task Force, which will be led by DWC Executive Director Bob Zuckerman, and comprised of downtown business and property owners, as well as representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, the Town Council, Police Department, and Department of Public Works. Many of these members have already begun productive discussions to identify the priorities, concerns, and potential solutions to ensure that we can protect public health while also reimagining Downtown Westfield's success. More updates to follow in the short term, but please know we remain focused every day on the priority of our business community's needs.
- I continue to receive messages from concerned residents about public social distancing practices. As a reminder, while it's not required to wear a face covering when outdoors, the CDC recommends that you do so if you are unable to keep the proper distance from others. I would strongly suggest you do so when you're downtown as a courtesy to others, due to the numerous curbside pickups. Of course, always remember to wash your hands and avoid touching your face. Let's make sure that the effort we have collectively made over the last two months continues by putting public health first.