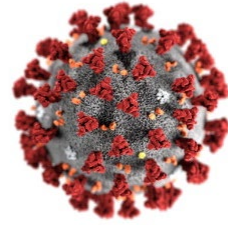




Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update June 5, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 163,336 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 785 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 16,038 cases, with Westfield reporting no additional cases again today, keeping our total at 276.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

STATE & COUNTY UPDATES

- Governor Murphy indicated that the statewide health data continues to move in the right direction. Since the COVID-19 peak, the number of residents in New Jersey hospitals and those

needing intensive care are both down 70% or more, ventilator use is down nearly 75%, and new hospitalizations are down nearly 90%.

- On June 15, in-person customer services will resume at New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, with a variety of pick-up and drop-off services. On June 29, the MVC aims to be able to once again offer behind-the-wheel road tests, and issue new licenses and permits.
- The Governor indicated that he plans to make an announcement on Monday regarding the reopening of outdoor pools, both municipal and at private clubs.
- Starting on Monday, the Union County COVID-19 drive-through test center at Kean University will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It will be closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Remember that any County resident can be tested, free of charge, with or without COVID-19 symptoms. If you have any concerns that you've been exposed to COVID-19, please book a testing appointment through the registration link on the County website (ucnj.org), or by phone at 908-214-7107. All tests are provided by appointment only and visitors to the test center must arrive by car -- no walk-ins are accepted.

LOCAL UPDATES

- I am deeply saddened to share some terrible news that occurred this afternoon. As you may have seen, the Westfield Police Department has reported the tragic death of an 87 year-old Scotch Plains man, after being struck by a vehicle while crossing W. South Avenue at the intersection of N. Scotch Plains Avenue. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victim and his family, and I would also like to extend my gratitude to our responding officers.
- Today is the sixth annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day. I'm very proud that I am the first Westfield mayor to join Mayors Against Illegal Guns which I did immediately upon assuming office. I've been wearing orange today to honor those killed and injured by gun violence across the country in an ongoing effort to raise awareness and demand change. Considering gun violence predominantly affects people of color, it seems incredibly poignant to recognize it this week as our country demands racial equality. For those interested in taking additional action, join the more than five million people who have signed the Sandy Hook Promise (www.sandyhookpromise.org/promise), and participate in Wear Orange Weekend now through Sunday which will feature virtual events across the nation.
- The Town Council will meet virtually on Tuesday at 8:00PM via Zoom for those who wish to participate in public commenting, and also via Facebook Live. The full agenda and Zoom link will be available this weekend on our website or via Town Updates email for those enrolled to receive agendas and minutes (www.westfieldnj.gov/townupdates).
- As you may know, there is a peaceful protest organized by local high school students for this Sunday at 2:45 in Mindowaskin Park to support the Black Lives Matter movement and condemn the killing of George Floyd. The organizers have been working with the police to ensure a safe experience for all. I remain so moved by the level of engagement shown by our residents -- particularly our students and young adults -- to organize and make a positive impact on the community. For all of those who plan to attend, please note that there will be designated entry

points to ensure the safety of all participants. Due to limited parking in the area, please try to walk to the park if you can, and plan for the fact that there are no restroom facilities available.

- I will once again implore all attendees to take public health precautions very seriously, as COVID-19 is still very much a reality, and the last thing any of us wants is to see an increase in cases. Please do your best to keep your distance from others, stay home if you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 or if you reside with anyone in a vulnerable health category, and of course wear a face covering. We plan to have a limited number of additional masks on hand for those who may have forgotten to wear one.

Lastly, as a reminder, starting next week, my updates will be sent out twice per week (on Tuesdays and Fridays) instead of daily. As always, you can find ongoing information on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram on my accounts (@mayorbrindle) as well as on the Town's accounts (@TownofWestfield).

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Please stay healthy and safe.