



Mayor Brindle's
COVID-19 Update
June 12, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 166,164 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 677 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 16,351 cases, with Westfield reporting two additional cases since my last report on Tuesday (none on Wednesday, one on Thursday, and one today), bringing our total to 281.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

STATE AND COUNTY UPDATES

- Today, the State is expected to release COVID-19 guidance for personal care businesses that are permitted to open on June 22 -- including beauty salons, barber shops, cosmetology shops, day & medical spas, electrology facilities, hair braiding shops, massage parlors, nail salons, tanning salons, and tattoo parlors.
- This weekend, the New Jersey Department of Health will release the guidance necessary for organized sports to resume on Monday, June 22.
- Earlier this week, Governor Murphy unveiled the One Jersey Pledge, detailing commitments that can be made by businesses, organizations, employees, and customers to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and assist with New Jersey's economic and recovery. Full details can be found on the State's COVID-19 website: <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/general-public/how-can-businesses-organizations-and-residents-support-new-jerseys-restart-and-recovery-what-is-the-one-jersey-pledge>.

LOCAL UPDATES

- Thanks to the many residents who have vocalized their support, and are taking the time to review and ask questions about the historic preservation ordinance introduced at Tuesday night's Town Council meeting. This ordinance will revise the existing one that is decades old and which leaves the Town subject to legal challenge because it directly contradicts the State Municipal Land Use Law. The revised ordinance finally brings us into compliance and is intended to preserve our historically significant homes and maintain the character of our neighborhoods while mitigating excessive tear downs -- a long overdue change that reflects years of feedback from our residents. Too many historic structures have been torn down in the past, with very limited recourse available to the Town. Very importantly, it will also allow the Historic Preservation Commission to achieve state certification status enabling access to grants and funding in order to preserve designated historic structures for future generations.

The ordinance also changes certain provisions in our existing law that run counter to our efforts to encourage historic designation, such as eliminating the application fee currently required when a historically designated home seeks a "certificate of appropriateness," and no longer requiring Town approval when the owner of a historically designated home wants to change paint colors. With the passing of this ordinance, we will be joining 47 other municipalities around the state who have or are seeking state certification including Montclair, Princeton and fellow Union County towns Fanwood and Plainfield.

- I'm very proud of the months of work that have gone into this revised ordinance and would like to thank the members of the HPC, Code Review Committee Chairwoman Dawn Mackey, HPC Liaison Councilwoman Linda Habgood, Town Planner Don Sammet, and Town Attorney Tom Jardim for all of their efforts to bring this to fruition. Residents are invited to review the ordinance (westfieldnj.gov/historicpreservation) and provide their input when it is presented to the Planning Board for review on July 6.

- After extensive discussion and evaluation, the Recreation Commission has decided to suspend Playground Camp this summer. Unfortunately, State guidance does not allow us to use the schools as camp facilities due to COVID-19 related restrictions. This, in addition to the new NJ Department of Health and the CDC camp guidelines, have driven this decision, with the safety of our employees and residents top of mind. As an alternative, we will be offering Virtual Camp in a Box, which will consist of themed boxes to include all materials for each project, along with daily videos from some of the campers' favorite counselors. Additionally, we are looking at different avenues to host small workshops and outdoor clinics to try to help meet the needs of our community.
- In terms of Memorial Pool, we are very excited to open this summer, and are grateful to see the ongoing enthusiasm from the community as memberships continue to roll in each day. Registration is available online at westfeldnj.gov/pool. The Recreation Department is hard at work making all of the necessary preparations to optimize safety and public health -- including pool inspections, staff training, and of course all changes related to COVID-19, including newly required signage and other protocols. Due to these extensive preparations, we currently anticipate an opening date of June 27, which is subject to change and will be finalized in the next week. The finalized opening date, along with the details of all new policies, will be emailed to all members, and posted on our website and social media pages. Be sure to follow @WestfieldRecreation and @WestfieldMemorialPool for all of the latest information.
- Tomorrow, we expect an announcement from the State that libraries are permitted to do curbside pickup starting Monday, June 15. The Westfield Memorial Library Board will be discussing and finalizing their plans in the coming days, and we will communicate any updates as we receive them..
- Last chance to submit your information for the Westfield 300 Milestone Awards! As part of the Westfield 300 celebration, the Lifelong Westfield team is looking to recognize residents with such distinctions as living in Town the longest, having the most grandchildren in Westfield, and being the oldest graduate of Westfield High School, among others. If you or someone you know may qualify for a Westfield Milestone Award, please complete our survey by June 15 at westfeldnj.gov/westfield300milestones.
- The deadline to register to vote in New Jersey's primary election is Tuesday, June 16. Pursuant to Governor Murphy's Executive Order 144, which provides guidance for the July 7 Primary Election amid the COVID-19 crisis, polling locations will be consolidated. A postcard will also be mailed to all voters with polling location information. Westfield polling locations for the July 7, 2020 Primary Election are as follows:
 - Ward 1 - Roosevelt School, 301 Clark Street, (Gym, enter rear parking lot)
 - Ward 2 - Wilson School, 301 Linden Avenue (Gym)
 - Ward 3 – Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Road (Gym)
 - Ward 4 - Edison School, 800 Rahway Avenue (Gym)

This election will primarily be a vote-by-mail election. The above listed polling locations will be available to provide voters that wish to vote in-person with a paper, provisional ballot. Voting machines will be available for voters with disabilities. For additional details regarding the Executive Order 144, please visit <https://ucnj.org/boe>. The Union County Board of Elections can also be reached at 908-527-4123.

Finally, we are looking forward to the initial reopening of our downtown on Monday! You can check out the Reopening Plan that details expanded outdoor dining, additional 15 minute parking, and the weekend closure of Quimby Street at westfieldtoday.com. Our downtown businesses have demonstrated unmatched perseverance to address the challenges presented by the pandemic, and they need our support now more than ever. Please continue to shop local!

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