



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update July 24, 2020



PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES ASSESSMENT DURING COVID-19

LOWER RISK → HIGHER RISK

The infographic illustrates two activity scenarios. The left scenario, enclosed in a green circle, shows a group of people sitting on chairs outdoors, each with their own picnic basket, representing a lower risk activity. The right scenario, enclosed in a red circle, shows a group of people gathered around a table eating a meal, with one person standing by a grill, representing a higher risk activity.



cdc.gov/coronavirus

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CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 178,345 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 675 still under investigation. Currently, the County has 16,321 cases, with Westfield reporting three new cases since Tuesday -- ages 64, 46, and 39, one with known exposure, bringing our total to 332. Our contact tracing efforts on the four cases I reported earlier this week determined that one of those cases was a 55 year-old, and the other three were in the 19-23 age group, two of which had exposure related to a party on July 3. The others remain under investigation.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

STATE UPDATES

- Today, the New Jersey Department of Education released guidance to make clear that giving the parents the option of choosing all-remote learning for their children for the upcoming school year should be allowed by school districts as part of their reopening plans. Governor Murphy noted that allowing parents the option to choose all-remote learning for their children will help decrease student density within our schools and allow classroom spaces to stretch further to ensure proper social distancing for other students and staff. The guidelines can be found here: <https://nj.gov/education/reopening/updates/docs/7.24.20%20RtR%20Fulltime%20Remote%20Update.pdf>
- The Governor announced a new relief program allocating \$6M in CARES funding for small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The New Jersey Redevelopment Authority's Small Business Lease - Emergency Assistance Grant Program (SBL-EAGP) will allow businesses in 64 eligible municipalities to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 for lease costs. The program will assist small business owners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which also assists landlords, many of whom are also small businesses. Full details can be found here: <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200723a.shtml?fbclid=IwAR1DJqrtK19ibh3JhhGBCznnTk04uXYBTNZalZZ4Y5zzU1aQaHO52VtrB48>.
- The Union County Freeholder Board is doubling the amount of funds available to assist small businesses under the Union County COVID-19 Relief Grant Program. The Freeholder Board initially authorized the grant program on July 9 with \$2M in funding. The Board added another \$2M in funding during its regular meeting on Thursday, July 23, for a total of \$4M. The additional funding will emphasize certified minority/women/veteran/LGBTQ/disabled owned businesses. Qualifying businesses can receive up to \$20,000 in assistance for three months' rent, property mortgage, utility and insurance expenses. Questions about the grant program can be sent to dmesaros@ucnj.org.

LOCAL UPDATES

- The Westfield Memorial Library is pleased to announce that it will reopen to the public on a limited basis on Monday, July 27. Hours will be Monday through Thursday, 10:00 – 6:00, and 10:00 – 4:30 on Friday and Saturday. The public will be able to browse for and check out materials in the library. All other in-building activities remain suspended at this time. Face coverings and social distancing are required, and restrooms will not be available. Fines and fees remain suspended. The library's curbside service will become Grab and Go, and all materials can still be placed on hold and picked up the following day. For full details, visit <https://wmlnj.org>.
- The Westfield 300 Summer Movie Series will kick off on July 30, offering five consecutive Thursday evenings of outdoor family films. Online registration is available for each film at 12:00PM on the Monday before the screening, starting with registration for Ratatouille opening on July 27 at noon. A Recreation online account is required to access the ticketing system, and may be set up at any time ahead of event registration. Due to social distancing requirements, each screening is limited to the first 300 registrants. Tickets are free, with a maximum of six per household. For the full schedule of films and details about COVID-related protocols, along with the list of other upcoming Westfield 300 events, visit www.westfieldnj.gov/300

Don't miss the first weekend of the newly expanded Open Quimby, featuring live music Friday and Saturday night, daytime fitness programs from Brassy Buddha, Satsang, Outrun Your Fork, and Alpha Fit, and the new Foodie Stroll on Sunday afternoon! For full details, visit www.westfieldtoday.com.