



## Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update August 21, 2020



### CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 188,817 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey to date, with another 328 currently under investigation. Union County has reported 16,947 cases in total, with Westfield reporting no new cases since Tuesday, keeping our total at 361.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

### STATE UPDATES

- Governor Murphy issued a reminder to school districts that any resubmitted plans to begin the school year with all-remote learning must cite specific health and safety reasons for the change. District leaders must certify to these reasons, and provide a timeline to get to in-person instruction.

- The public water, gas, and electric utility shutoff moratorium has been extended until October 15. Gas and electric utilities are also offering Deferred Payment Agreements from 12 to 24 months. Residents are encouraged to contact their provider for details. Additional information can be found here: <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200821a.shtml?fbclid=IwAR2FzIRXOiaNCOdcZ00MmcxaPuuQ8cRYNa3kyy5hX5QDrN2PqakC8G20UUs>.
- The Small Landlord Emergency Grant (SLEG) Program will reimburse small residential rental property owners (between three and ten rental units) for lost rent revenue due to COVID-19 between April and July 2020, as long as they agree to forgive outstanding back rent and late fees that their tenant accrued during this time. The application portal is open through Wednesday, August 26 at 1:00 PM. For more information, visit [www.njhousing.gov](http://www.njhousing.gov).

## LOCAL UPDATES

- The Westfield 300 Time Capsule Project is now underway! As part of our ongoing Westfield 300 celebration, a time capsule will be placed in Triangle Park this October – the contents of which are expected to include local items (such as newspapers, local maps and menus, COVID-related information, a WHS sports jersey), as well as items that are ubiquitous now but likely to be obsolete in 100 years (including a smart phone, garage door opener, and USB drive). The capsule will also include the top findings of our survey that shares the thoughts and predictions of current residents. The survey can be found at [westfieldnj.gov/300timecapsule](http://westfieldnj.gov/300timecapsule), and will be open through September 20. For additional suggestions about items to include in the capsule (think small!), please email [Westfield300@westfieldnj.gov](mailto:Westfield300@westfieldnj.gov).
- Westfield 300 is also continuing its Summer Movie Series, with "Field of Dreams" showing next Thursday in Tamaques Park. Registration opens Monday at noon at <https://bit.ly/W300MovieSeries>.
- Don't miss Open Quimby this weekend, featuring appetizer and drink specials, live music, yoga, and fitness classes. And of course be sure to catch "Art Takes Flight" if you haven't already seen the beautiful local artwork on display. As a reminder, while it's great to see so many people frequenting our local establishments, it also means it's more difficult to maintain proper distance, so please remember to wear a face covering in Town.
- Our Census completion rate now stands at 81.8%, which is the third-highest in the County and surpasses our final 2010 completion rate of 80.4%. There is still time to ensure everyone in Westfield is counted, so please take a few moments to make sure your information is complete at [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov).
- The final day to use the Conservation Center for storm debris without a permit is this Sunday, August 23. The Center resumes regular hours next week (Thursday and Friday, 9:00 - 2:30; Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 - 3:00). Thanks to everyone who utilized this resource to dispose of their debris and helped their neighbors do so as well.

- We are receiving an increase in reports of trash being left on the Town's playgrounds, and I'd like to remind everyone to please do their part by disposing of your litter. Our DPW performs regular maintenance of the Town's parks with grass/weed care, tree care, and trash retrieval. Trash is picked up four times each week in all of our parks. I understand that residents are hesitant to pick up others' litter during a pandemic, and the reality is that our employees should not have to do so either. Please make an effort to help us keep our parks clean as they continue to see increased usage.
- Thanks to everyone for doing your part to keep our new COVID cases down. Have a wonderful weekend!