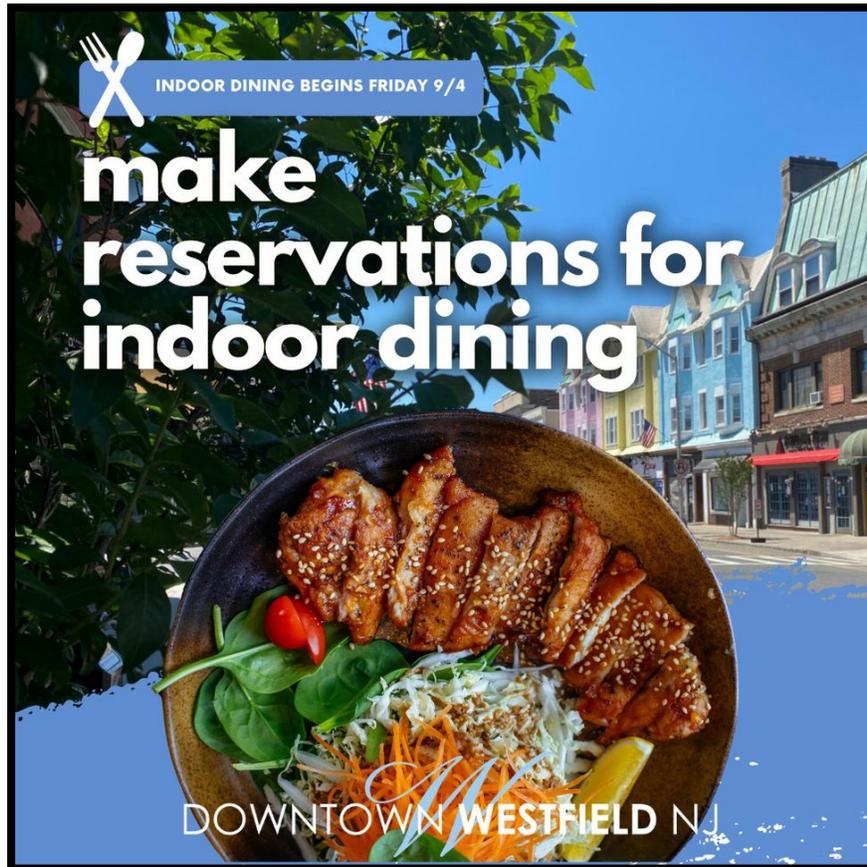




Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update September 4, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 193,422 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey to date, with another 307 currently under investigation. Union County has reported 17,187 cases in total, with Westfield reporting four new cases since Tuesday, bringing our total to 368 since our first reported case in March. Two of the reported cases were traced to college students who are out of state.
- The Westfield Board of Health continues to investigate all incoming cases through contact tracing. In the most recent 27 cases, the breakdown was as follows:
 - Seven cases had a household contact who tested positive
 - Seven cases had no known exposure
 - Six cases were not reached
 - Three cases declined to be interviewed
 - Two cases were associated with travel to a high risk area
 - One case had a known exposure
 - One case was associated with a long term care center

- In addition, the Board of Health continues to work with the schools to provide guidance documents to help ensure a successful transition. They have also been working with the retail food establishments to help prepare them for indoor dining. I am extremely grateful for the ongoing work and diligence of Megan Avallone and her team to help protect public health at this time of critical transition.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

STATE UPDATES

- Six months ago today, New Jersey received confirmation of its first case of coronavirus in the state. Governor Murphy noted that New Jersey has come a long way, but is still facing one of the greatest challenges in our nation's history.
- Today, the Governor announced a \$10 million expansion of the Small Business Emergency Assistance Loan Program. Thanks to a grant from U.S. Economic Development Administration, Phase 2 of the program is planned to launch this fall to help support small businesses & nonprofits impacted by COVID-19. For more information, visit <https://www.njeda.com/usedagrantrelease>.

LOCAL UPDATES

- Please join us to observe the 19th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks with a community gathering on Friday, September 11, 2020, at the September 11 Memorial site on North Avenue at East Broad Street. The ceremony will begin at 6:00PM, with remarks from local clergy, the presentation of the ceremonial wreath by an honor guard, and the playing of "Taps." Each year, the ceremony concludes with a period of silent reflection and show of community support. As always, the ceremony will be held rain or shine. To protect the community in a public gathering, attendees are asked to wear face coverings.
- The Governor's Executive Order allows indoor dining, theaters, and indoor performance venues to resume today at 25% capacity. This Labor Day weekend, please support our Downtown Westfield businesses on Open Quimby with live music, fitness programming, and dining offerings. Full details can be found at www.westfieldtoday.com.

I'm thrilled that the weather forecast looks great for this long holiday weekend, and encourage you to frequent our local retailers and restaurants. With the opening of indoor dining, let's not get complacent about our COVID protocols and ensure we continue to be diligent about wearing face coverings and social distancing.

I hope to see you via Zoom at next Tuesday's Town Council meeting at 8PM. Wishing you all a safe and healthy holiday weekend!