



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update October 13, 2020



The following COVID-related remarks were made at the September 8, 2020 Westfield Town Council meeting. Full meeting remarks of the October 13, 2020 meeting are also available.

Good evening, everyone, and thanks for joining us virtually tonight. Please remember that public comment will only be accepted via Zoom, although we are live streaming for viewing only on Facebook. The replay will also be available afterwards on Facebook, YouTube, and TV 36.

CONFIRMED CASES

Today, there are 215,085 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey to date, with another 392 still under investigation. Union County has reported 18,316 cases in total, with Westfield reporting no new cases since my last update on Friday -- keeping our total at 401 since our first reported case in March.

STATE AND COUNTY UPDATES

- Today, Governor Murphy announced \$100 million in additional Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to support New Jersey residents and businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The bulk of the money, \$70 million, will be distributed to restaurants, microbusinesses, and other small businesses through Phase 3 of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant Program; an additional \$10 million will be used to help small businesses purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) through the NJEDA Small and Micro Business PPE Access Program; \$15 million will go to support renters through the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program; and \$5 million will support food banks and other hunger relief efforts. For full details, visit [https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/announcements/all-announcements/governor-murphy-lieutenant-governor-oliver-legislative-leadership-and-congressional-representatives-announce-additional-\\$100-million-for-covid-19-economic-recovery](https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/announcements/all-announcements/governor-murphy-lieutenant-governor-oliver-legislative-leadership-and-congressional-representatives-announce-additional-$100-million-for-covid-19-economic-recovery).
- The Governor also announced that indoor contact practices and competitions may resume for medium and high-risk sports, with proper health and safety protocols in place. Full details can be found here: <https://nj.gov/.../news/news/562020/approved/20201012a.shtml>
- The NJ Department of Human Services unveiled a \$12 million rental/mortgage assistance program for families that have suffered financial hardship due to COVID-19 and haven't been eligible for, or received, prior housing assistance. New Jersey residents can now apply for up to \$25,000 to help pay housing costs if they have been unable, or will be unable, to make payments due to the ongoing pandemic. For details about qualifications, please visit <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/covid19housingassistance/index.shtml>

- The new Union County COVID-19 Emergency Restaurant Grant program, established by the Freeholder Board, provides a total of \$2 million to qualified restaurants located in Union County on a first come, first served basis. Restaurants impacted by COVID-19 are eligible for grants of up to \$20,000 each. This program provides reimbursement for expenses related to compliance with Governor Murphy's Executive Orders on restaurant operations during the COVID-19 public health emergency, including items for facilitating outdoor dining, social distancing, and disinfecting a facility. The online application portal will open at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 14, at ucnj.org/restaurant-grant.