



## Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update October 27, 2020



### CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 231,331 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey to date, with another 480 still under investigation. Union County has reported 19,918 cases in total, and was once again the county with the highest number of new cases today. Westfield is reporting eight new cases since my last update on Friday (zero on Saturday, three on Sunday, one on Monday, and four today), bringing our total to 430 since our first reported case in March.
- I'd also like to notify the community that we currently have two members of the Westfield Police Department and two Public Works employees who have tested positive. While none of these employees are Westfield residents included in our counts, we felt it was important to share this information as we wish them all a speedy and full recovery.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

### STATE UPDATES

- Governor Murphy and New Jersey Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli announced the State's COVID-19 vaccination plan, designed to provide equitable access to approved vaccine(s), achieve maximum community protection and build public trust in advance of an approved vaccine(s). Details can be found here:  
[https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20201026a.shtml?fbclid=IwAR2ipy3XrShYNxHr\\_mPQOH0jegkvQCVpZPc8BOv\\_YrmVW8gLqIrMB3zlvMM](https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20201026a.shtml?fbclid=IwAR2ipy3XrShYNxHr_mPQOH0jegkvQCVpZPc8BOv_YrmVW8gLqIrMB3zlvMM).
- The NJ Department of Human Services School Age Tuition Assistance programs has increased the income cap to \$150,000, which expands the number of families that qualify for assistance. To be eligible for this assistance, you must be a NJ resident with a child attending school remotely, either part-time or full-time, and your annual gross household income must be \$150,000 or less (recently raised from \$75,000). For details, visit  
<https://www.childcarenj.gov/COVID19>
- The NJ Department of Health has issued guidance on timeframes for self-isolation/quarantine to assist residents with questions about proper protocols to help contain the spread of COVID-19.  
[https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID\\_test-result-iq-timetable.pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_test-result-iq-timetable.pdf)

## LOCAL UPDATES

- Today I had the honor of officially launching the African Americans in Westfield Walking Tour, which was put together by the Westfield 300 African American History Committee, led by Donnell Carr. Of all the events we've hosted this year to commemorate our 300th anniversary, it's this one, acknowledging the important contributions of African Americans to Westfield's history, which feels the most significant to me. I encourage everyone to experience this tour for themselves -- especially at a time when our country and our community are facing our own racial reckoning against the backdrop of the Black Lives Matter movement. Making this important history widely available could be a critical step forward towards becoming the anti-racist, inclusive community that I know we aspire to be. You can access the tour at [westfieldnj.gov/300](http://westfieldnj.gov/300) or on the Clio app.
- According to the County Clerk, just 44% of ballots from Westfield have been returned for next week's election. Please remember that you can drop off your ballot at the secure drop box at the Fraser Building on North Avenue. Ballot drop boxes are ADA compliant, under camera surveillance 24/7, and all ballots are picked up by a bi-partisan team of County Board of Elections employees every day. The deadline to return your ballot to a secure ballot drop box is 8:00pm on Election Day. You may also bring it to your polling location by 8:00PM on Election Day, where you will be required to stand in line, sign the poll book and hand your ballot to the poll worker. You can also mail your ballot, which must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by the Union County Election Board by November 10, 2020. For more details, visit [www.unioncountynotes.com](http://www.unioncountynotes.com). You can also track the progress of your ballot at <https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote-track-my-ballot.shtml>.
- The Union County COVID-19 Mobile Test Unit will be in Tamaques Park on Thursday, November 5, from 2:00 - 5:00PM. For full details, visit <https://ucnj.org/covid19/testing/walk-up-locations>.
- Our online volunteer application portal is now open for 2021 appointments to boards, commissions, and Mayor's advisory councils, which can be found at [westfieldnj.gov/volunteer](http://westfieldnj.gov/volunteer). This is the third year we've made this process available online in order to provide broad community access to these opportunities. As always, there is a lot of work to be done, and I remain grateful to our tireless volunteers to lend their time and talent to the community. The deadline for applications is November 20.
- AddamsFest is in its final week, with some great events to close out this year's festivities! Tune in Thursday evening on Facebook Live for the New York State of Mind event -- a fireside chat between Kevin Misericchi, Director of the Tee & Charles Addams Foundation, and Westfield resident/Inside Edition correspondent Les Trent. Kevin will also be presenting the Town with a specially commissioned, forged bronze bust of Charles Addams in honor of our 300th anniversary and to commemorate Westfield's place in Addams' life and art. Also, if you and the family have not yet entered the Maniacs' Carving Contest, the deadline is tomorrow, with all details on the AddamsFest website.

- I will be hosting another Downtown Meetup this Saturday morning, from 9:30-11, on Quimby Street. Stop by the tent closest to Central Ave to ask questions or voice concerns on your mind.
- For those participating in Halloween on Saturday, please do so safely! I am glad that the kids in Town will get some joy and normalcy out of trick-or-treating, but I would be remiss not to implore everyone to maintain public health protocols -- wear a mask, wash your hands, and avoid trick-or-treating in large groups, as well as gatherings and parties. As a reminder, the Town has posted guidelines for a safe Halloween on our website (<https://bit.ly/WestfieldHalloween>), and we've also included a printable sign you can hang on your door if you choose not to hand out treats this year. With the COVID cases on the rise, please do your part.
- Lastly, I ask you to please take the time to read the remarks I delivered at tonight's Town Council meeting about the road to smart redevelopment and reimagining the future of our downtown. It was important for me to devote my meeting remarks tonight to provide background for the introduction of an ordinance to adopt a redevelopment plan for our recently designated downtown properties -- a giant leap forward towards fulfilling our commitment to revitalize our downtown. There will be many points of community input along the way as we look to undertake this process in a manner that works best for Westfield. I look forward to these robust discussions as we all work toward our common goal of fulfilling the potential of our post-pandemic future.