



## Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update November 24, 2020



*The following COVID-related remarks were made at the November 24, 2020 Westfield Town Council meeting. Full meeting remarks of the November 24, 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 were 4,383 new cases of COVID-19 reported in New Jersey, with another 711 still under investigation and 313,863 total cases statewide to date. Union County has reported 26,752 cases in total, with Westfield reporting 18 new cases through the State system since my last update on Friday (three on Saturday, five on Sunday, two on Monday, and eight today). I expect these numbers to increase significantly when the updated Health Department data, which includes rapid tests, becomes available. This may be delayed due to the holiday, and I will report the information as soon I receive it.

### **STATE AND COUNTY UPDATES**

- Governor Murphy announced that small businesses will be eligible for a total discount of nearly 70% off purchases of PPE through the New Jersey Economic Development Authority's PPE Access Program. Applications are open until December 10 at [covid19.nj.gov/ppeaccess](https://covid19.nj.gov/ppeaccess).
- The Governor also announced that, in anticipation of the approval of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, the Department of Health is working with state, federal, and local agencies to plan for a fast and equitable distribution to New Jersey communities, with the goal of vaccinating 70% of the adult population in six months.
- The Union County Board of Commissioners announced the new "Rest Easy Caregivers" grant, which provides opportunities for families in need of assistance in caring for children with disabilities and special needs during the COVID-19 outbreak. Approximately \$1 million of Federal CARES Act dollars will fund the grant program. Details can be found at [ucnj.org/rest-easy-caregiver-grant](https://ucnj.org/rest-easy-caregiver-grant).

### **LOCAL UPDATES**

- I presume your Thanksgiving gathering will be smaller than usual this year, much like mine is going to be. It's just one more sacrifice we all must continue to make to keep everyone safe, especially as COVID cases continue to surge. But there is light at the end of the tunnel with the recent positive developments surrounding vaccines which should give us all hope. We just have to stay vigilant until we get there.