



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update January 5, 2021



CONFIRMED CASES

- For the month of December, the Department of Health received 333 cases of COVID-19 in Westfield. Of these 333 cases:
 - 103 had no known exposure
 - 75 had a positive household contact
 - 71 were unable to be reached
 - 44 had a known exposure
 - 13 were exposed at work
 - 7 were exposed via youth sports
 - 7 were hospitalized (ages 94, 83, 80, 79, 79, 72,65)
 - 3 refused to be interviewed
 - 3 were associated with travel
 - 3 were associated with a long-term care facility
 - 2 were exposed at college
 - 2 were exposed at Thanksgiving gatherings
- The ages of these cases ranged from two months to 99, broken down as follows:
 - Age 9 and under: 24 cases
 - Age 10-19: 46 cases
 - Age 20-29: 60 cases
 - Age 30-39: 40 cases
 - Age 40-49: 45 cases
 - Age 50-59: 59 cases
 - Age 60-69: 34 cases
 - Age 70-79: 12 cases
 - Age 80-89: 5 cases
 - Age 90 and above: 7 cases
 - Age unconfirmed: 1 case
- Of these 333 cases, 74 were received between December 24 and 31, reflecting, once again, a very high number of weekly cases above the levels seen early in the pandemic. Sadly, I must report that there have been two additional fatalities -- a 94 year-old male and a 77 year-old male.
- These numbers reflect the Health Department's COVID numbers, inclusive of rapid tests, as they are a more accurate reflection of community spread than what is being reported by the state reporting system. During 2020, the department investigated 4,588 cases of COVID across the eight municipalities it serves. 1,246 (27%) of these cases were reported in December.
- Details on the official statewide numbers, which do not include rapid tests, can always be found on the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

STATE AND COUNTY UPDATES

- The State has added a section to its online COVID-19 information hub regarding vaccines, where details are available regarding statewide vaccination plans, timeline and priority groups, pre-registration, and site locations. Visit covid19.nj.gov/vaccine.
- Health officials have administered the first doses of two-dose COVID-19 vaccines to approximately 101,417 people as of Monday, and some healthcare workers began to receive their second doses Monday as well. It is anticipated that doses should be available for the general public by April or May.
- The Senior Freeze property tax reimbursement deadline has been extended until February 1 for eligible seniors and New Jerseyans with disabilities. For additional information, visit <http://ow.ly/TFHk50CX1FV> or call 1-800-882-6597.
- Governor Murphy announced that indoor sports were permitted to resume on Saturday, January 2 with safety protocols in place. The prohibition on interstate sports will remain in effect.
- Union County announced yesterday that it will begin to offer Phase 1A COVID-19 vaccinations beginning Thursday and in accordance with state guidelines. Health care personnel who are eligible to receive the vaccine must make an appointment through the County's registration system. For more information about who qualifies under phase 1A, or to make an appointment, visit ucnj.org/vaccination.

LOCAL UPDATES

- Join us tonight at 6:00 for the Town Council Annual Organization Meeting, where we will appoint our volunteers for the 2021 Boards and Commissions, and I will deliver the State of the Town Address to highlight the past year and discuss the exciting opportunities in store for us this year. The meeting can be viewed on the Town's Facebook page, and public comment is available through Zoom at bit.ly/2021WestfieldTownCouncilMeeting.
- Please remember that the new curbside recycling collection zones and schedule are now in effect. Information was mailed to all households and is also available on our website at westfieldnj.gov/recycling. Zone 3 will be picked up tomorrow (Wednesday), followed by Zone 4 on Thursday and Zone 5 on Friday. Zones 6-10 are scheduled for next week.
- Thank you to all those who sacrificed gathering over the holidays in order to help stop the spread of COVID. If you celebrated with those from outside your household, please get tested. And if the Health Department reaches out to you for the purposes of contact tracing, please cooperate so that we may continue to stay informed about community spread.
- Lastly, on January 19, we plan to honor those we lost to COVID-19 as part of a broader, nationwide moment of remembrance. As we are unable to name those lost to COVID without permission, we would like to make the opportunity available to anyone wishing to have a family member recognized who was part of the 47 beloved lives lost in Westfield. Please email us at

covid19@westfieldnj.gov to have the name of your loved one included in our remembrance ceremony. I am in the process of coordinating with the local ministerium on the details of this small service, which will be live streamed for the public. I will provide additional information in the coming days once details are finalized.

As we begin this new year, let's take comfort in knowing that the rollout of the vaccine will bring us hope and an eventual end to this pandemic. It will take time and additional perseverance, but gradually we will begin to see normalcy resume over the course of 2021. Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, to help stop the spread and protect our community.