



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update February 2, 2021



CONFIRMED CASES

- For the month of January, the Department of Health received 483 cases of COVID-19 in Westfield. Of these cases:
 - 101 do not yet have exposure information available
 - 104 had a positive household contact
 - 90 had no known exposure
 - 72 were unable to be reached
 - 50 had a known exposure
 - 20 were sports-related
 - 13 refused to be interviewed
 - 11 were hospitalized (ages 85, 85, 81, 77, 70, 70, 66, 63, 53, 52, and 49)
 - 9 were exposed at work
 - 7 were exposed at holiday gatherings
 - 4 were associated with travel
 - 2 were associated with a long-term care facility
- The ages of these cases ranged from 11 months to 99 years old, broken down as follows:
 - Age 9 and under: 44 cases
 - Age 10-19: 116 cases
 - Age 20-29: 48 cases
 - Age 30-39: 44 cases
 - Age 40-49: 74 cases
 - Age 50-59: 85 cases
 - Age 60-69: 30 cases
 - Age 70-79: 21 cases
 - Age 80-89: 13 cases
 - Age 90 and above: 7 cases
 - Age unconfirmed: 1 case
- Of these 483 cases, 114 were received since the last update on January 22 through January 31. The most highly impacted age group for the month was ages 10 through 19, representing 24% of the newly reported cases. Westfield's total number of cases to date is 1,603.
- Sadly, I must report that there have been two additional fatalities -- an 81 year-old male and an 86 year-old female -- bringing our total to 51.
- Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone reports that Westfield, like the rest of New Jersey, is showing a high level of activity once again, and January continued to trend as the worst month to date. Throughout January, the department investigated 1,439 cases of COVID across the eight municipalities it serves, representing 24% of the total cases since March. The last two months combined have accounted for 44% of the total cases.

- In terms of vaccinations, 824,028 doses have been administered in New Jersey to date. The State's six mega-sites for vaccinations were closed Monday and Tuesday as a result of the storm. The Union County vaccination center at Kean University was also closed today and will be rescheduling appointments by phone no later than Wednesday, February 3.
- The Westfield Regional Health Department has been speaking with the County to determine how they can partner on vaccination efforts, as they also continue to explore options to provide vaccinations to the community once more doses become available. The Health Department's application to become a vaccination provider has been received by NJDOH, but is currently on hold, as there isn't enough vaccine to provide to their current sites. Megan and her team will continue to look at all possibilities to provide residents with vaccinations once more become available. In better news, the current NJDOH projections have us near the end of this pandemic by early fall. As more vaccinations become available and more people are protected, we can gradually begin to reclaim the normalcy we all wish for.

LOCAL UPDATES

- Special thanks go out to our Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments for their extraordinary work in anticipation of and throughout this substantial winter storm. We are all grateful for a job well done! I'd also like to thank all of our residents and business owners for your patience and cooperation. We issued a final storm update earlier today with details about plowing, snow removal, and recycling schedules, all of which can be found here: local.nixle.com/alert/8512390.
- Even though there is more than a foot of snow on the ground, it's not too early to think about the summer at Memorial Pool! Our pool staff did an amazing job last summer operating with COVID-related challenges and restrictions, and they are looking forward to delivering another great season. To receive information about 2021 registration, please visit <http://bit.ly/WMPinterestform> -- there is no wait list this year. All 2020 and 2019 members will automatically be sent registration details in the coming weeks.
- Thanks to all who joined the Town Council Finance Policy Committee last Thursday for the public budget forum, where they discussed our 2020 results, as well as the municipal budgeting process and preliminary outlook for 2021. If you missed it, the replay and presentation are available at westfieldnj.gov/budget.

Wishing you all safe shoveling as we dig out of this snow -- thank you for doing your part!