



## Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update February 12, 2021



The Department of Health reports 68 new cases of COVID-19 in Westfield from February 5-11. Of these cases:

- 26 remain under investigation
- 12 had a positive household contact
- 10 were unable to be reached
- 7 had no known exposure
- 4 were associated with sports
- 3 had a known exposure
- 3 were exposed at work
- 2 were exposed at a party
- 1 was associated with a long-term care center

The ages of this week's cases ranged from 5 to 90 years old, broken down as follows:

- Age 9 and under: 2 cases
- Age 10-19: 18 cases
- Age 20-29: 12 cases
- Age 30-39: 8 cases
- Age 40-49: 8 cases
- Age 50-59: 10 cases
- Age 60-69: 4 cases
- Age 70-79: 3 cases
- Age 80-89: 1 case
- Age 90 and above: 1 case
- Age unconfirmed: 1 case

Sadly, I must report another fatality -- an 81 year-old male who had been hospitalized, bringing Westfield's total number of COVID deaths to 52.

In more encouraging news, Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone reports that this week, for the first time in months, the entire state has not been categorized as an area of high activity. In fact, Westfield is now showing moderate activity, with the most highly impacted age group remaining between 10 and 19 this week, representing 26% of the newly reported cases.

The State's seven-day average for new confirmed cases is up 2% from a week ago, but down 39% from a month ago, and New Jersey's COVID-related hospitalizations are now at their lowest level since December 5. The rate of transmission continued to decrease this week to 0.81 today, indicating that the outbreak is slowing. The positivity rate for tests conducted on Monday, the most recent day available, was 7.19%

In terms of vaccinations, Governor Murphy noted that, while the federal government announced that they've secured 200 million more doses, the distribution process will take some time. As of Friday,

1,244,224 doses have been administered in New Jersey, with more than 310,000 residents now fully vaccinated. CVS began booking online vaccination appointments yesterday for their direct shipments of vaccine, with 27 sites in New Jersey receiving 19,000 doses. The closest CVS locations to carry vaccines are in Chatham Borough and Union Township. RiteAid also began taking vaccination appointments this morning for 70 locations across the state through its online portal.

In addition to the existing vaccination sites, the State will be launching the first of its community-based vaccination sites, to be strategically placed in socioeconomically challenged communities disproportionately impacted by COVID. This program will begin next week with Franklin Township, Trenton, and Elizabeth, with Vineland and Paterson in line to quickly follow.

The Governor also announced an Executive Order today, effective, immediately, to allow a limited number of parents and guardians to attend indoor and outdoor high school and youth sporting events. Full details can be found [here](#).

Like all of you, I'm so pleased to see the numbers trending in the right direction. I want to reiterate my thanks to everyone who continues to take this virus seriously and persevere through the many related challenges in order to protect the community. We aren't fully out of the woods just yet -- but I hope you can see that we are getting there, and I ask that you continue with social distancing, wearing masks, and avoiding indoor gatherings so that we can stay on this hopeful trajectory and see additional restrictions lifted.

As a reminder, Monday is Presidents' Day, a federal holiday, so Town offices and services will be closed. And to all who celebrate, I wish you a joyous Lunar New Year!