



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update March 26, 2021



The Department of Health reports 65 new cases of COVID-19 in Westfield from March 19-25. Of these cases:

- 12 had no known exposure
- 17 were unable to be reached
- 19 had a positive household contact
- 9 had a known exposure
- 6 are still under investigation
- 1 was exposed at work
- 1 was associated with youth sports

The ages of this week's cases ranged from 12 days to 80 years old, broken down as follows:

- Age 9 and under: 7 cases
- Age 10-19: 19 cases
- Age 20-29: 8 cases
- Age 30-39: 7 cases
- Age 40-49: 8 cases
- Age 50-59: 10 cases
- Age 60-69: 2 cases
- Age 70-79: 2 cases
- Age 80-89: 1 case
- Age 90 and above: no cases
- Age unconfirmed: 1 case

Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone reports that, for the fourth consecutive week, New Jersey ranks highest in the nation in per capita confirmed COVID cases. This week has shown an increase of high activity statewide, with all but a single region now showing high activity levels. The rate of transmission has also increased this week. Our region (Central East region) remains in the high activity level, with Westfield also showing high activity. The most highly impacted age group remains between 10 and 19 this week, representing 29% of the newly reported cases.

Health officials are starting to see an increase in travel-associated cases, and the NJ Department of Health has changed their guidance this week to recommend a seven-day quarantine for all individuals returning from travel. This quarantine is expected regardless of vaccination or history of COVID infection.

The State's seven-day average for new confirmed cases is up 3.4% from a week ago and 30.7% from a month ago, with today's daily reported cases exceeding 4,000 for the first time since January 30. The statewide rate of transmission has increased to 1.10.

Today, Governor Murphy announced that all New Jersey residents age 55 and over, as well as those 16 and older with intellectual developmental disabilities, are among the next group of people eligible to be

vaccinated, beginning April 5. The expanded eligibility group also includes higher education teachers and staffers, communication support workers, sanitation workers, real estate/building/home service workers, retail financial institution workers, laundry service workers, utility workers, library staff, and members of the media. The full list can be found at <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/slowing-the-spread/who-is-eligible-for-vaccination-in-new-jersey-who-is-included-in-the-vaccination-phases>.

In addition, the State expects to receive 494,430 total vaccine doses from the federal government next week, representing a nearly 20% week-over-week increase. Beginning Monday, FEMA will be setting up a federally run pilot Community Vaccination Center at NJIT which will have the capacity to administer 6,000 doses a day, seven days a week while focusing on ensuring vaccine equity. Those doses will be above and beyond the state's usual weekly allotment.

Statewide, vaccination rates are up 2% over last week's rate, with an average of 74.6K shots administered per day. In total, more than 2.4 million New Jersey residents have been vaccinated with at least one dose (28% of the total population), and 1.3 million New Jerseyans have been fully vaccinated (15% of the total population). In Union County, 133,287 individuals (24% of population) have received one dose, and 69,208 (12%) are fully vaccinated.

Today at Town Hall, we were thrilled to host a pop-up vaccination clinic run by Union County, where 190 doses were administered to County residents in vulnerable populations. Tomorrow, the Westfield Neighborhood Council will hold two drive-through vaccine registration events in partnership with the New Jersey Black Women Physicians Association. One will be held from 12:00 - 4:00PM in front of the Westfield Neighborhood Council (127 Cacciola Place), and the other from 8:00AM - 6:00PM in the parking lot of Westfield Eco Laundry (341C South Avenue East).

I want to close by wishing our Jewish community Chag Sameach for those beginning the observance of Passover tomorrow night.

Have a wonderful weekend.