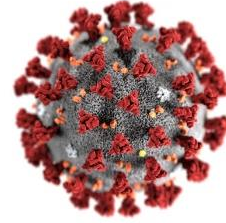




Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update May 3, 2021



COVID-19 UPDATE: APRIL 2021 GOOD NEWS TO SHARE!

My regularly scheduled weekly report for last Friday was held so we could provide monthly data for all of April, and I'm glad to be able to share so much encouraging news today, both on the local and state levels in terms of vaccinations, re-openings, and very favorable health data trends.

CONFIRMED CASES

For the month of April, COVID-19 cases in Westfield were down 15% from the month of March, representing 232 cases in total. Of these cases:

- 81 had no known exposure
- 51 had a positive household contact
- 46 were unable to be reached
- 37 had a known exposure
- 4 were associated with work
- 3 refused to be interviewed
- 2 were hospitalized
- 2 remain under investigation
- 2 were associated with youth sports
- 2 were associated with long-term care/group home facilities
- 1 was diagnosed in a prior month but reported during April
- 1 was associated with travel

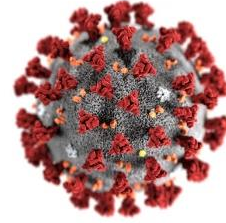
The ages of these cases ranged from 5 months to 92 years old, broken down as follows:

- Age 9 and under: 34 cases
- Age 10-19: 67 cases
- Age 20-29: 24 cases
- Age 30-39: 25 cases
- Age 40-49: 23 cases
- Age 50-59: 41 cases
- Age 60-69: 7 cases
- Age 70-79: 7 cases
- Age 80-89: 2 cases
- Age 90 and above: 2 cases

Of these 232 cases, 51 were received since my last update (April 23) through April 30. The most highly impacted age group for the month was ages 10 through 19, representing 29% of the reported cases. Westfield's total number of cases to date is 2,334. I'm also saddened to report an additional fatality -- a 79 year-old male who had been hospitalized -- bringing Westfield's total number of COVID fatalities to 57.



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Going forward, I'll be pivoting the focus of our COVID reports to focus more on vaccination rates and reopening efforts. While I'll continue to provide recaps of current case numbers and the related age group breakdowns, the source of transmission information will not be reported regularly, as it provides incrementally less value at this point.

STATE UPDATES

Today, Governor Murphy announced the state will lift many of its major COVID-19 capacity restrictions on May 19 due to an ongoing improvement in the numbers as vaccinations increase. This includes removing indoor caps on restaurants, stores, and personal services, as well as all outdoor gathering caps -- with indoor masking and social distancing remaining in place, and venues required to keep groups six feet apart. For full details, visit the NJ COVID Information Hub at covid19.nj.gov.

Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone reports the fantastic news that New Jersey is finally out of a high transmission level, with all regions in the yellow zone (indicating moderate transmission). Today marked the first time since October 17 that New Jersey had reported fewer than 1,000 cases in one day. The state's seven-day average for new confirmed cases is down 32% from a week ago and down 61% from a month ago, with a statewide rate of transmission down to .37. New Jersey has dropped to sixth in the nation for the rate of new cases per capita.

VACCINATIONS

Statewide, vaccination rates have decreased 3% from last week's rate, with immunizations this week averaging 87,300 per day. More than 4.2 million New Jersey residents have been vaccinated with at least one dose (48% of the total population), and over 3 million New Jerseyans have been fully vaccinated (34% of the total population). 63% of eligible residents have received at least one dose of vaccine.

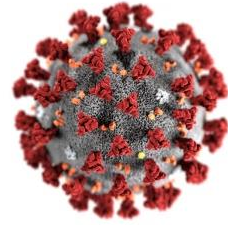
In Union County, 225,783 residents (40.5% of the total population) have received one dose and 140,633 (25.2% of total population) are fully vaccinated. 352,383 shots have been administered. Union County has also seen a 42% decrease in new cases compared to two weeks ago.

Here at home, I'm thrilled to report that as of April 23, 78% of Westfield's adult population has received at least one dose, and 57% of the adult population has been fully vaccinated. Note that these vaccination numbers are indicative of those 18 and older, so the rate is higher in actuality when accounting for those over 16 receiving vaccinations.

The Health Department restarted its homebound vaccination program this week with plans to expand the program by bringing the vaccine directly into the community at workplaces, churches, and other sites in the coming weeks. In addition, the six vaccination mega sites in the state are now accepting walk-ins, and all indications point to much more accessible vaccine availability.



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There is a lot to be happy about this week, as we begin to turn a real corner and see increased levels of normalcy return to our lives. I am thrilled for our local businesses and for everyone who has given up so much to get us to this point. That being said, the pandemic is not over and, as you can see, children continue to account for many of the new cases each week. Please continue to take all appropriate precautions, especially for those who are not yet vaccinated.

Lastly, let's all take a moment to recognize National Nurses Week and all of the extraordinary nurses who have given so much of themselves to all of us throughout this pandemic. I can't think of a better time to reiterate our community's deepest gratitude for all they have done in a time of such tremendous need.