



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update April 5, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

Today, there are 37,505 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 3,821 still under investigation.

The County reports 3,216 cases, with Westfield's case total now at 87 to date. For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

LOCAL UPDATES

- On the local front, please join me in wishing our very own Chief Battiloro a very happy birthday. We are grateful every day for his devotion to our town and his exceptional leadership.
- Today, Garwood Mayor Sara Todisco released some helpful updates she received from ShopRite. In addition to ongoing frequent sanitizing and the recent reduction of the store's capacity to 30%, they have also installed plexiglass shields and blue squares for social distancing. Shoppers can do their part to help by shopping solo (which makes it easier for everyone to maintain six feet of distance within the store), shopping during off-peak hours (after 12:00PM), and avoiding unnecessary trips by aiming to shop only once per week.
- Continue to receive messages from concerned residents about how they can help our medical community. Our collection bins are still in place in the Police Department entry vestibule for PPE donations. Our first collection was brought to Overlook last week. Thanks to everyone who has donated this critical equipment to date. In addition, there are many community-based efforts in Town, such as Feed the Front Line, which was started by residents to support our healthcare workers by donating meals from our local restaurants. This initiative and others demonstrate the very best of Westfield and our willingness as a community to lend a hand to those in need.
- As you continue to keep our health care professionals top of mind, keep in mind that the single most impactful action you can take for them in this crisis is to stay at home.
- As a reminder, the school parking lots are closed and marked as such by the Westfield Police Department. If your children are out without an adult, please ensure they understand the new restrictions we have put in place for the safety of the community at large.
- In addition, religious services are not exempt from the Governor's stay at home order, as they involve gatherings of people and can put the community at risk. As difficult as that may be, especially during Easter and Passover season, it's not an option right now -- we have been given a directive by the State for everyone to stay at home for anything that is not considered essential travel.
- This also means no group dinners/drinks with neighbors. It means no unnecessary driving. It means ensuring that our children know the rules and refrain from gathering outside. These things simply must come to an end -- temporarily -- so that we can get through this as quickly as possible while doing everything in our power to minimize the loss of life and the stress on our health care system. We owe it to those who have died, those who are ill, those who are susceptible, and those who put their health at risk working on the front lines. It is not ideal by any means, but we can do this.

Thank you all for doing your part.