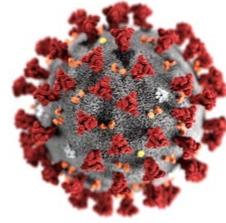




Mayor Brindle's
COVID-19 Update
April 9, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 51,027 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 996 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 5,203 cases, with Westfield's case total now at 111 to date. For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

STATE UPDATES

- Nearly 214,000 more New Jersey residents filed for unemployment insurance benefits last week. As a reminder, the State launched a jobs portal containing nearly 50,000 active job listings from more than 630 employers across an array of essential industries. Visit jobs.covid19.nj.gov.
- Governor Murphy plans to sign an Executive Order extending the grace period on insurance premiums for residents who may be unable to pay due to financial hardship from COVID-19. The order will require a minimum 60-day grace period for health and dental insurance policies, and 90 days for home and auto insurance, renters insurance, life insurance, insurance premium-financing arrangements, and more. All claims covered by the insurance policy must be paid out to those who are within these grace periods. In addition, insurers cannot demand repayment of unpaid premiums in a lump sum at the end of the grace period; back-payments must be spread out over the remainder of the insurance term.

LOCAL UPDATES

- Thanks to all of the local businesses who joined the virtual town hall this morning to discuss the navigation of available COVID 19-related resources. Thanks to DWC Executive Director Bob Zuckerman for hosting, and to panelists Congressman Tom Malinowski, David Margulies from the NJ Small Business Development Center, and Paul Ceppi from the NJ Economic Development Authority. A special thanks to our Town Attorney Tom Jardim and his law firm associate Scott Salmon, who gave a concise and relevant overview of the federal and state available resources which many attendees agreed was the best summary of information they have seen yet. If you want to watch the session or the presentation on WestfieldToday.com
- A reminder that municipal offices are closed tomorrow for the Good Friday holiday. While the buildings have been physically closed to the public for several weeks, most of our employees have been working remotely to provide uninterrupted service to residents, with only essential personnel on site. All municipal functions are closed tomorrow, with the exception of first responders.

Barring any major developments, I'll plan for my next update to be on Saturday. With Passover continuing today and the Easter weekend also upon us, I wish you all a respite from the feelings of uncertainty, sadness, fear, or frustration that have been at the forefront of recent everyday life in this COVID-19 environment. We acknowledge that we must bear many small inconveniences and make a number of temporary adjustments as a necessary part of our current reality, but the bottom line is that none of this is easy. I recognize that, and share in this frustration with you. But I also know that we can do this, as our community has shown great resilience over these past few weeks. I remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to lead a community that continues to demonstrate such patience, compassion, and concern for the well being of everyone in these uncertain times. Thanks to all of you.