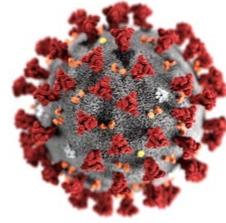




Mayor Brindle's  
COVID-19 Update  
April 13, 2020



**CONFIRMED CASES**

- Today, there are 64,584 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 1,203 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 6,636 cases, with Westfield reporting three more -- bringing our case total to 132 to date. For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

## STATE UPDATES

- New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island have formed a regional advisory council to help guide a re-opening plan once the COVID-19 emergency has passed. The coordinating group -- comprised of one health expert, one economic development expert and the respective Chief of Staff from each state -- will work together to develop a fully integrated regional framework to gradually lift the states' stay at home orders while minimizing the risk of increased spread of the virus.
- Governor Murphy today signed an Executive Order to prohibit Internet and phone services from being shut off until 30 days after the current public health emergency has ended. The order will also prohibit all service downgrades, service reductions, or late fees due to non-payment unless they are imposed in accordance with a policy approved by the Board of Public Utilities. Lastly, it will require reconnection of any Internet or phone service that was disconnected due to non-payment after March 16.

## LOCAL UPDATES

- Tomorrow, Atlantic Health will host a Facebook Live discussion at 12:30PM in response to many of the COVID-19 questions from the community. Dr. Jason Kessler, Section Chief of Infectious Disease at Morristown Medical Center, will offer insights regarding COVID-19, its source, how it spreads, and what we can do to help flatten the curve. To join, visit the Atlantic Health System page on Facebook.
- Our census completion rate is now up to just above 62%, which is far higher than the national, state, and county averages (47.9%, 49%, and 50.1%, respectively), but we can do better to ensure that everyone gets counted. Please visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) to complete your information.
- As a reminder, the annual permits for the Conservation Center are available online ([westfieldnj.gov/conservation](https://westfieldnj.gov/conservation)), as we prepare to open the Center on Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00AM-2:30PM beginning this week. Unfortunately, we were informed today by Waste Management that they are temporarily suspending the food waste program that was in place at the Conservation Center. We will communicate when the program is re-opened.
- Our year-long commemoration of the 300th year of Westfield's settlement has turned out to be more historic than anyone ever could have envisioned! As part of our #Westfield300 efforts, we would like to document how our community has reacted to the changes in daily life and risen to the challenges stemming from the COVID-19 crisis. We are looking for a wide range of input from the community -- through written responses, photos, videos or artwork -- to express how the public health crisis and stay at home order has impacted you and your family.

Here are some suggested prompts:

- When did you first realize that the pandemic was going to impact you and your family? Did you think it was serious?
- What sources of news are you using to find out more about the pandemic?
- How are you spending time while staying at home? Have there been any surprises in how the time has been used?
- What things do you miss most about your life before COVID-19?
- How do you think life might be different after the crisis?
- What do you think we have learned as a community from experiencing the crisis so far?

Please send your input to [westfield300@westfieldnj.gov](mailto:westfield300@westfieldnj.gov), and include any descriptive information about yourself with which you are comfortable (age range, occupation, number of family members in the home, etc.), so that our collection reflects a variety of perspectives. As COVID-19 continues to evolve and eventually conclude, we will periodically distribute additional questions for this project. The goal is to have robust documentation of Westfield's COVID-19 story from beginning to end, with all participants serving as its resident authors and historians.

Tomorrow night, I will deliver my update at the virtual Town Council meeting, where I look forward to discussing our agenda with the Council and hearing from members of the community. To participate in the public comment section of the meeting, you'll need to join via Zoom. The meeting will also be streamed live via Facebook and YouTube, and made available for replay on Facebook, YouTube, and Channel 36. Full details are available on our website at <https://bit.ly/Agenda4152020>. Although we can't convene in person, resuming our business at hand is a welcome reminder that we can, in fact, press ahead with some of our normal activities -- even if from a distance.

Lastly, a huge thank you to the kind resident who had this balloon display sent to my house today with a perfect message for the community!