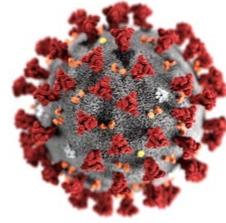




Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update April 21, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 92,387 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 599 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 10,289 cases, with Westfield reporting 181 to date.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

STATE UPDATE

- Governor Murphy reported in his update today that although New Jersey has a significant flattening of the curve, it's simply not enough to lift the social distancing policies in place for at least several more weeks. While we are making progress on a number of fronts, today also marked the highest number of new deaths across the State.

- The Governor said he plans to provide a “broad blueprint” by the end of the week on how the state will begin to reopen, not in terms of specific dates but rather in terms of benchmarks that will guide the lifting of restrictions.
- If you have dependent children and are not required to file a federal tax return, you have until noon tomorrow to register with the IRS to qualify to receive your \$500-per-child stimulus payment. Visit [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) and use their new “non-filer” online tool.
- For those facing hardships paying private student loans and are not eligible for relief under the CARES Act, relief and assistance is being provided through loan servicers. For details, visit the Department of Banking and Insurance website: dobi.nj.gov.

LOCAL UPDATES

- Yesterday, the State Department of Health began publishing COVID-19 data specific to long term care facilities. As we all know, the ongoing spread of infection at these facilities is a major point of concern nationwide, and our hearts break for the impact on the most vulnerable members of society. In Westfield, we have two long-term care facilities -- Sunrise and Genesis -- both of which are privately run, yet remain in ongoing contact with our Health Department. As you’ll recall from a previous update, the reporting of cases in these facilities utilizes the patient’s primary address, which is not always in Westfield. Therefore, the numbers you see on the State’s dashboard for Sunrise and Genesis combined -- 43 documented COVID-19 cases and nine deaths -- are not all included in the Westfield numbers we report, as some of those patients did not identify as residents of our town. To clarify, our Health Department reports 26 of our total case number, and eight of our total fatalities, to be associated with Sunrise or Genesis.
- The State’s numbers also take into account employees of those facilities who contract COVID-19, and whose place of residence may not be in Westfield. In addition, when we indicate that a case in Westfield has been associated with a long term care facility, it doesn't necessarily mean Sunrise or Genesis -- it can be any facility where a Westfield resident was receiving care. I point this out to provide clarity around some understandable confusion with these numbers and how they are counted within our daily totals.
- As you are out and about in your neighborhood, please remember that bikes should ride along the shoulder of the roadway (not on the sidewalk or in the center of the road) with the flow of traffic, and pedestrians should be on the sidewalk or shoulder against the flow of traffic. When on a bike, please be sure to also obey traffic signs and lights. As the weather gets nicer, let’s all do our part to keep the roads safe for everyone.
- I’ve heard from several residents who have requested that we institute the 7PM nightly applause in support of those that continue to put their own health at risk for the benefit of us all. So let’s start clapping every night at 7PM to show our gratitude and support for our front line healthcare workers! Spread the word in your neighborhood and invite others to join. Send us a video of your block applauding (all safely distanced from one another!) at covid19@westfieldnj.gov.

Thanks to each of you for your ongoing self-discipline and diligence to benefit the community at large.