



## Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update April 23, 2020



### CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 99,989 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 1,108 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 10,935 cases, with Westfield reporting three more confirmed cases for 187 to date.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

### STATE UPDATE

- Governor Murphy reported today that New Jersey continues to see the curve of new COVID-19 cases remain significantly flat, with a slowing of the rate of spread. He stressed, however, that we cannot yet ease up on our social distancing and begin the reopening of the State until there is a marked, ongoing decline in the new cases and a greatly expanded testing program.
- The State will begin testing all residents and staff at each of its five centers for adults with developmental disabilities next week through the new saliva-based testing developed by Rutgers University. This is a total of more than 5,500 tests among some of the most vulnerable residents and essential workers -- with the goal of expanding testing to other state workers and the individuals they serve.

- The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development reported this morning that an additional 140,000 residents filed for unemployment last week -- totaling 858,000 since March 15. The department has created a new web portal that allows residents with another means to contact them directly with questions about their applications. To submit a message, residents must go to [www.myunemployment.nj.gov](http://www.myunemployment.nj.gov) and use the Send an Email prompt from the Help tab.

## LOCAL UPDATES

- Thanks to all who visited the Conservation Center today; the DPW reports that lines were minimal and everything continued to run very smoothly. We'll re-open again tomorrow from 9-2:30, with online permits available until 8:00AM on Friday. As a reminder, if you received your decal already and will be returning to the Center tomorrow, consider arriving in the afternoon when the wait is much shorter. For the latest updates on permit availability and open recycling programs, visit [westfieldnj.gov/conservation](http://westfieldnj.gov/conservation).
- The ongoing acts of selflessness and outreach within our community continue to humble me -- particularly from the student population. Today, the Roosevelt Student Council donated \$500 worth of food to the staff at Overlook Hospital as a small token of appreciation for the hard work of these local healthcare workers. The co-advisors of the student council, Marissa Conneely and Erin Sheppard, have been meeting virtually with the students on the Executive Board which represents all three grades at Roosevelt. Finding a way to give back to Overlook Hospital was at the top of the students' priority list.
- In addition, the Westfield Fortnite Fundraiser, led by two WHS students, has already donated \$883 to the Westfield United Fund for We Love Local. Their roster is full for this weekend's tournament, but they will soon be opening up additional availability -- so put your kids' Fortnite skills to good use! More information is available on the [@WestfieldFortniteFundraiser](https://www.instagram.com/WestfieldFortniteFundraiser) Instagram account.
- Finally, on this first night of Ramadan, please join me in extending best wishes to all who observe this holy month in the Muslim faith. I know that it's not the same without the ability to gather with extended family and community, but please know that your neighbors in Westfield keep you in their thoughts.

Thank you all for your commitment as we continue to do our part to keep flattening the curve.