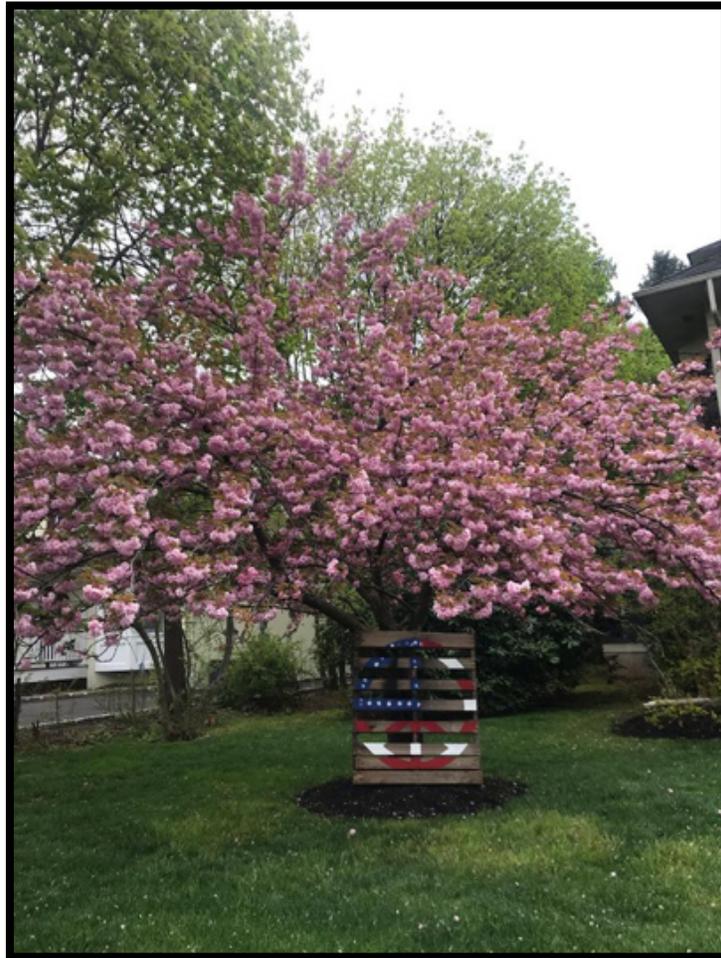




## Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update April 30, 2020



### CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 118,652 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 478 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 12,578 cases, with Westfield reporting another eight cases for 229 to date. It's worth noting that six of these additional cases are from last month, but have just been reported to us -- which gives you an idea of the inconsistencies we see in report timing. I am also saddened to report two additional fatalities -- two males, ages 94 and 90, both of whom were associated with long term care facilities. This raises the official number of fatalities to 33, with each of these residents being grieved by loved ones during this incredibly difficult time.
- As always, a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers is available online at the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

## FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY UPDATES

- Governor Murphy announced that New Jersey will be receiving 550,000 new COVID-19 test kits and 750,000 swabs from the federal government. In addition, 358 nursing homes in the state will receive a direct shipment of PPE, including 220,000 masks, 19,000 goggles, 200,000 gowns, and one million gloves.
- There are now 104 testing locations across the state where residents can be tested for COVID-19, including 31 publicly-run and community-based sites. A full listing and map can be found here: [covid19.nj.gov/testing](https://covid19.nj.gov/testing).
- Today on the Union County daily COVID call, we were joined by Brian Gragnoloti, CEO of Atlantic Health and Alan Lieber, President of Overlook Hospital, who provided some helpful context specific to this area. Union County has been hit especially hard with the fourth highest number of cases in the state. While New Jersey has the second largest hospitalized population in the country, the northern New Jersey region has peaked to an extent. Since April 9, the region has been at an apex with a very slow decline since the peak. Overlook at its peak had a patient load of 840, and today they have 537 patients.

Overall, 80% of patients with COVID-19 don't experience a huge medical event (some have zero symptoms). But the 20% who do get sick tend to get very sick – and 30-35% of them end up in critical care, with the majority on ventilators.

They also reiterated that, as we begin to talk about reopening, we need to follow science, noting that social distancing is the only tool we currently have until we get a vaccine or anti-viral medication. Medical professionals continue to stress that Fall and Winter of 2020 are going to be tough given the coinciding with flu season, and everyone is encouraged to take the following actions:

- Follow current practices of hand washing, mask wearing, and social distancing.
- Control what you can by getting a flu shot
- Do not avoid routine, chronic, or urgent medical care, as they are all available and safe to obtain. If you are experiencing an emergency, call 911.

## LOCAL UPDATES

- Today, Councilwoman Mackey and I delivered banners to Trader Joe's and Stop & Shop to express our gratitude on behalf of the community to these essential workers who have dealt with unprecedented circumstances in their workplace. As I mentioned at Tuesday night's Council meeting, I signed proclamations recognizing these employees, which were also delivered today and read by their management to all staff members. You can find copies on our website.
- I'm pleased to report another successful day at the Conservation Center. Permits continue to be sold online only, and the Center will be open tomorrow from 9:00AM - 2:30PM, and Saturday from 9:00AM - 3:00PM.
- Thanks to residents Anne Marie Bramnick, Beth Balaban, and Karolina Dehnhard for the tremendous work they are doing to assist survivors of domestic abuse during this health crisis.

By collecting food donations and distributing to these families in need, it prevents people from returning to abusive situations in order to survive financially. In the last six weeks, they have delivered 2-3 weeks' worth of groceries to more than 50 families in Union County, and are also providing legal and counseling support. Thank you to everyone who continues to donate to their cause, and to the Westfield Police Department for assisting with transport of these items. If you would like to volunteer or donate groceries, toys, or books to this drive, please call or text Anne Marie Bramnick at 908-403-4338. If you want to make a monetary donation to the food drive, you can also visit the YWCA for Union County website and note "food drive" in your transaction.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, updates, photos, or other information we can share with the community.