



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update May 4, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 128,269 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 647 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 13,357 cases, with Westfield reporting another five cases over the weekend for 238 to date (the updated correct number for last Friday was 233). Although we received no additional cases today, we were notified that the reporting system was down for most of Sunday, which may result in artificially low numbers across the state.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers is available online at the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

STATE, AND COUNTY UPDATES

- As I'm sure you've all heard by now, Governor Murphy announced that all schools will remain closed for in-person instruction for the remainder of the school year to protect the health of our children, our educators, and their families. New Jersey is the 46th state to make this decision.
- The Governor also announced that, given guidance from the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association, spring sports will not resume for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

LOCAL UPDATES

- First and foremost, I want to extend tremendous thanks to the community for the vast cooperation that was brought to the parks and fields this weekend. Our Police Department indicated that there were no major issues to report, and I am grateful for the consideration extended by all those who came out to enjoy the beautiful weather. Please do remember to discard masks and gloves appropriately when out in public.

- Our first Saturday at the Conservation Center was also a big success, with no wait times reported by the DPW. We have sold more than 1,200 permits to date, which is on par with previous years' sales through the end of April.
- Our Census completion rate is now 73%, which is far above the national, state, and county averages (56%, 58%, and 60%, respectively). Please don't underestimate the importance of being counted at 2020census.gov.
- We have some important commemorative days and weeks to recognize, all of which are incredibly timely -- National Nurses Week, Teacher Appreciation Week, and International Firefighters Day. Thank you to the nurses, the teachers, and the firefighters in our community who serve such critical roles every day -- but now more than ever. You are all heroes.
- Last week, our municipal court was one of the first in the County to begin conducting video court sessions. In addition, court staff is operating on a staggered basis with social distancing in place to process mail, answer calls, respond to emails, send plea agreements, schedule court cases, prepare cases for review, and facilitate payment plans for defendants. Once in-person court sessions are permitted, staggered arrival times will be implemented and all attendees will be spread out in the courtroom with floor markings to ensure social distancing.
- Join me at 1:00PM on Wednesday, May 6 for a Virtual Town Hall, where I will be joined by Town Administrator Jim Gildea, Police Chief Chris Battiloro, and Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone to address questions from the community about COVID-19 and where we stand on Town operations and public health. We will post a Zoom link tomorrow with full details.

I'd like to close by reminding everyone that business as usual, to the extent possible, forges ahead. Tonight, the Board of Health and the Planning Board will both hold their monthly meetings via Zoom, followed by the Board of Adjustment and the Town Council next week. I know it seems many days that COVID-19 is the only point of focus, but I want to reassure all of you that while the pandemic guides our decision making, we continue to make progress on multiple fronts. Thanks to all of our Town employees for their ongoing resourcefulness in ensuring that we serve our residents by continuing to work together, even while physically distanced.