



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update May 6, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 131,890 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 594 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 13,604 cases, with Westfield reporting two older cases but zero new ones, bringing our total to 241 to date. As I mentioned at today's Virtual Town Hall, we unfortunately have two more fatalities to report -- two females, ages 89 and 77, both associated with long term care facilities. This brings our total number of deaths to 35. Please remember that these are not just numbers but lost lives of fellow residents, and we will commemorate all of them as a community when we emerge from this crisis.
- Statewide, Governor Murphy indicated today that hospitalization, ICU beds, and ventilator usage from COVID-19 are all trending downward. More locally, Overlook Hospital now has 156 COVID-related patients, down from 311 on April 10; they report declines in ICU/CCU cases and ventilator usage from mid-April as well. While all of these trends are encouraging and a direct result of everyone's commitment, we must stay vigilant in continuing to slow the spread before the state can begin to re-open for business.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers is available online at the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

STATE, AND COUNTY UPDATES

- Governor Murphy today signed an Executive Order to extend New Jersey's public health emergency by 30 days. This extension ensures that the State can continue using every resource at its disposal to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as it continues to face a public health emergency.
- The Governor is bringing on a nationally experienced team of experts to help tackle the challenges in New Jersey's long-term care facilities and protect the residents and staff at these facilities. They will be tasked with providing immediate support to the New Jersey Department of Health, conducting a two to three week review to address immediate concerns related to protecting long-term care facility residents and staff, and making long-term, systemic reform recommendations.

LOCAL UPDATES

- With the ongoing smooth operations well established under the social distancing requirements at the Conservation Center, we are now able to reinstate the fee-based bulky waste and mattress/boxspring disposal programs. These items do not require a permit, but you must purchase a single-use pass -- available online only at westfieldnj.gov/conservation. The Center re-opens tomorrow from 9:00 - 2:30.
- Greta's Run is a tradition that honors the memory of Westfield High School student Greta Schoenemann. All of the support raised goes to Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss, which helps grieving children and families in our community. This cause is more important than ever with the rise in need for grief support due to the pandemic. This year's virtual race means that participants run or walk anytime, anywhere the week leading up to Sunday, May 17. For additional details, registration information, or to donate, visit www.imaginenj.org/gretasrun. In a time where we can't be together physically, we are happy to have Greta's Run as a way to stay connected.
- Thanks to all who joined our Virtual Town Hall today. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to thank everyone for their ongoing support and selflessness, and to field questions on residents' minds. If you missed it, the replay is available on Facebook (@TownofWestfield or @MayorBrindle) and on YouTube (bit.ly/VirtualTownHall050620), and will be on TV36 in the near future as well.

As National Nurses Day comes to a close, please join me in thanking every nurse for their tremendous contributions as they continue to brave the front lines of this health crisis. We are forever grateful to each of you.