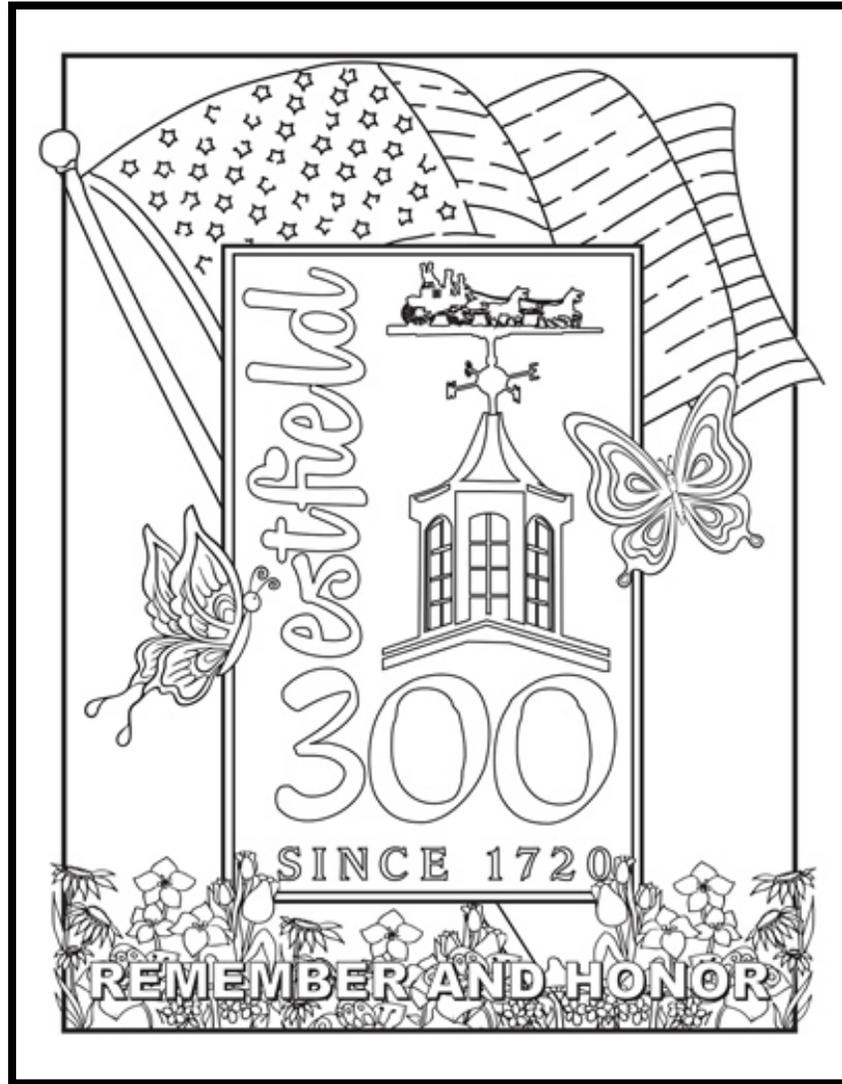




Mayor Brindle's
COVID-19 Update
May 13, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 141,560 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 662 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 14,306 cases, with Westfield reporting four new cases (one of which is a month old but newly reported to us), for 257 in total.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

STATE UPDATES

- Governor Murphy announced that data shows New Jersey is ready to begin to restart its economy, based on substantial declines from the peak in hospitalizations, ICU patients, ventilator usage, positive cases, and deaths.
- Today, the Governor signed an Executive Order, effective 6:00AM on Monday, to allow for the restart of non-essential construction, as well as for non-essential retail stores to reopen for curbside pickup only, and to permit drive-through and drive-in events under social distancing guidelines. Full details can be found at [covid19.nj.gov](https://www.nj.gov/covid19/).
- April revenue collections for New Jersey have declined nearly 60 percent as compared to last April – an unprecedented \$3.5 billion.

LOCAL UPDATES

- As I mentioned yesterday, based upon the encouraging health data we are seeing, we feel the time is right to proceed with the next phase of opening our parks. With input from the Town Council, I'm pleased to report that outdoor municipal tennis courts and parks' parking lots will be opened, effective 8:00AM on Friday, with the following conditions:
 - Tennis courts will be open limited play, following USTA guidelines (found here: <https://www.usta.com/en/home/stay-current/national/usta-statement-on-safety-of-playing-tennis-during-the-covid-19-v.html>). Play will be limited to an hour with voluntary compliance, and tennis instructors may not stay on/reserve courts for subsequent hours for multiple lessons. All social distancing protocols should be followed; those waiting for a court should stand six feet apart and are encouraged to wear a face covering. It is highly recommended that players partner with a family member/housemate for doubles and pickleball play.
 - Most parks' parking lots will be reopened, with the exception of Tamaques Park, where the only open lot will be the one adjacent to the tennis courts. In order to allow for more space for walking/jogging, vehicular traffic will be limited. Cars must enter the park on Dickson Drive and exit on Lamberts Mill Road, which will be for exiting only.
 - All batting cages will be open.
 - Basketball courts, restrooms, and playgrounds remain closed.
 - Organized sports are not permitted.
 - School parking lots will remain closed.
 - Mindowaskin Park remains closed due to construction.
 - Tamaques fields 1 and 2 remain closed due to maintenance.
 - A WPD Officer will be assigned to Tamaques during operating hours.
- Please remember that social distancing is the only effective tool we have right now to sustain and further improve the good work we've done to slow the spread of COVID-19. With a weekend forecast of warm temperatures, I implore you to exercise good judgment and be respectful of those around you by wearing face coverings when feasible and staying six feet apart. We must all continue to work together to ensure that we preserve the health and safety of our community in order to continue and maintain the gradual reopening of our parks.

- It has been brought to my attention from several concerned residents and dental office employees that some dental offices are open for elective procedures as a result of confusion stemming from inaccurate information that was recently inadvertently distributed by the NJ Dental Association, which they have since clarified. To be clear, dentist offices are only allowed to be open for emergency procedures. Any elective procedures are in violation of the Governor's Executive Order and should not be performed until further guidance is issued.
- Thank you to the Westfield Police Department for organizing a community food drive in partnership with the Westfield Public Schools, the Westfield United Fund, and the local faith community to benefit the Westfield Food Pantry. Donations will be accepted at Roosevelt School and Westfield High School next Wednesday, May 20, from 12:00PM - 3:00PM (rain date is May 21). The drop off process will be contactless, with items removed from the trunks of cars by our Community Resource Officers. Please bring canned meals, spaghetti sauce, pasta, rice, cereal, cleaning supplies, or paper products.
- As Memorial Day approaches, I wanted to share an initiative from the Westfield 300 Steering Committee. Since our settlement in 1720, Westfield has honored not only its historical significance in the Revolutionary War, but also its own fallen residents through the Gold Star Streets and our beautiful memorials. While the 300th anniversary of our settlement intended to honor that legacy with an enhanced Memorial Day Parade, this day of commemoration has now been re-imagined to bring the community together in another way. All residents are encouraged to decorate their homes in patriotic adornment, along with the commemorative Westfield 300 Memorial Day coloring page in their windows (download it here: bit.ly/W300MemorialDay), and post their photos to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the hashtag #W300MemorialDay, or email them to westfield300@westfieldnj.gov. We will collect and share the photos with the community as a show of unity and honor for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Thank you to Jenn Wilner for lending her time and talent once again to create this commemorative iteration of the Westfield 300 logo.

Thank you all for your ongoing outreach, suggestions, and feedback as we continue to navigate this situation together.