



## Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update May 20, 2020



### CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 150,399 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 855 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 15,122 cases, with Westfield reporting two new cases today -- one of which is associated with a long term care facility -- bringing our total to 273.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

### STATE UPDATES

- Today Governor Murphy reported that there has been steady progression in the past several weeks across the COVID-19 metrics. Intensive and critical care cases continue to drop, as does ventilator usage. The total number of hospitalizations is now less than half of what it was just four weeks ago. In addition, the rate of new cases at long-term care facilities continues downward from the peak. As a result of these trends, he expects to announce additional openings in the near future.
- Beginning May 22, residents of New Jersey will be able to take a self-administered, self-swab COVID-19 test at seven Walmart locations across the state in Garfield, North Bergen, Burlington, Howell, Kearney, Flemington, and Mount Laurel. These drive-up locations will be open from 7:00AM - 9:00PM three days each week, by appointment only. For more details, visit [MyQuestCOVIDTest.com](https://www.myquestcovidtest.com).

## LOCAL UPDATES

- Thanks to everyone who donated at today's food drive! As always, it was so heartening to see the community-minded focus of our residents coming out to help those in need.
- Thanks to Governor Murphy for recognizing the Westfield-based NJ Sews in Unity on his daily call. This collective effort of sewers, cutters, and organizers from across Union and Somerset counties have donated more than 7,500 hand-sewn masks, 120 gowns, and more than 570 other items to help address the PPE shortage.
- Congratulations to Anokhi Mehta for winning the Virtual Rec Department's Chalk the Town contest (her creation is pictured with tonight's update), and thanks to all who participated. Our Recreation team has done an outstanding job of providing innovative programming for the community in the absence of our usual in-person offerings. Special thanks go out to Heather Re-Ferratti and Lauren Harmer for their dedication and creativity.
- Don't miss the Virtual Westfield Farmers Market, with pick ups every Saturday from 10-12 in the North Avenue train station lot. Following their initial few weeks of success, they have continued to add vendors -- with baked goods, wine, plants & herbs, and produce available. Please remember that all orders must be placed online by 11:59PM Thursday night at <https://mycommunitymarketplace.com/westfield-farmers-market>.
- I received a note from a concerned resident today about a food truck offering service to a neighborhood birthday party with very limited social distancing and no face coverings. Please remember that gatherings of more than ten people are still prohibited by the Governor's Executive Order, and we must continue to be vigilant about keeping proper distance and, whenever possible, wearing face coverings if near others for the sake of public health.
- Finally, I'd like to share the full list of our Reopening Task Force, which I mentioned last night as a priority initiative to ensure we are anticipating the best way forward for public health and the needs of the business community when we are permitted to gradually reopen.

Chair: Bob Zuckerman - Executive Director, Downtown Westfield Corporation

### Elected Officials:

- Mayor Shelley Brindle (ex officio)
- Councilwoman Dawn Mackey, Council liaison to the DWC
- Councilman Scott Katz, Council liaison to the Chamber of Commerce

### Administration:

- Town Administrator Jim Gildea
- Police Chief Chris Battiloro
- Fire Chief Tony Tiller
- Westfield Regional Board of Health Principal Inspector Helen Mendez
- Parking Director Sergeant Scott Mersereau
- Public Works Downtown Supervisor Craig Gibson

Business Representatives:

- Jerry Eicke, owner, The Salad House and DWC Board member
- Gene Jannotti, Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director
- Lew Kimble, DWC Board member and resident
- Patricia Hanigan, DWC Chair, owner of Patricia & Paul
- David Martone, owner, Classic Thyme Cooking School and past DWC Chair
- Lillian Pien, owner, Akai Lounge and downtown property owner
- Thomas Walsh, resident and commercial real estate executive with Walker & Dunlop

I am grateful to each of these individuals for their willingness to lend their time, perspective, and expertise to one of our most critical efforts as we slowly transition into a post-COVID landscape for businesses and consumers alike. I will keep you apprised of our plans as they continue to develop, knowing that we all have a role to play over the long term to maintain public health while positioning our local business environment for success.