



Mayor Brindle's
COVID-19 Update
May 22, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 152,719 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 1,123 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 15,191 cases, with Westfield reporting one new case today, bringing our total to 274.
- The cases in Westfield have ranged in age from 13 to 99, and 38 of them have required hospitalization.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

STATE UPDATES

- Governor Murphy will be signing an Executive Order lifting the limit on outdoor gatherings from 10 to 25 individuals. Capacity will also be raised to 25 individuals for charter/fishing boats, outdoor batting cages, driving ranges, and other outdoor recreational businesses. Indoor gatherings remain limited to ten people. In addition, recreational campgrounds – both public and private – are allowed to reopen, effective immediately. Social distancing guidelines remain in place for these gatherings and activities.
- The Governor indicated that he expects to issue guidance regarding pool facilities and outdoor graduations early next week.
- As a reminder, the Union County COVID-19 testing facility is now open to all County residents who wish to be tested, whether or not they are experiencing symptoms. Those who wish to be tested must have an appointment, which can be arranged by logging onto the Union County website at www.ucnj.org and clicking on the COVID-19 Scheduling link.

LOCAL UPDATES

- Missing Sweet Sounds Downtown? Now you can experience it from home when popular country musician and Quimby Street performer Nikki Briar hosts a virtual porch concert on Sunday afternoon at 4:00PM. It will be streamed live on mine and the Town's Facebook pages. Thanks to Nikki for helping us close out the final fundraising push for We Love Local. If you have not yet donated, the link will remain up through May 31 at www.westfieldunitedfund.org, and proceeds will benefit our local businesses, who need our support now more than ever.
- I want to remind everyone that restaurants are allowed to remain open for pick up and delivery until their normal closing time, and are not required to close at 8:00PM. Only non-essential retail must close pick up and delivery services by 8:00PM.
- It has come to my attention that Brightwood Park has become a popular hangout for teens, with several people observing groups of ten or more congregating in the park, with no apparent attempt at social distancing. Unfortunately there has also been a significant amount of trash left behind. Please remind your kids about social distancing protocols, and ask them to respectfully help keep our parks clean. As our parks become more utilized (which is great!), it's incumbent upon all of us to ensure they remain safe and clean for all.
- Join us Tuesday night for our virtual Town Council meeting. Look for the agenda and Zoom information on our website this weekend.
- One last reminder to send us photos of your home with patriotic decor for Memorial Day and the Westfield 300 Memorial Day coloring sheets hanging in your windows. Email your pictures to westfield300@westfieldnj.gov and we will include them in our collection to share with the community on Monday. And while you are on our website to download the coloring sheet, it's a great time to read up on our Gold Star Streets, named for 18 Westfield residents who gave their lives during WWI. More than 100 years later, the names of these heroes are well-known to us and represented on street signs throughout Town with gold stars on them. Find out more about each of them at <https://bit.ly/goldstarstreets>.

- As many of you know, Memorial Day is personally meaningful to me as an opportunity to not only honor my dad who was killed in Vietnam, but to also pay tribute to all of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedom. On Monday morning, the American Legion will once again host a ceremony at Monument Circle to honor our country's fallen heroes. Due to distancing requirements, the ceremony is not able to be open to the public, but it will be recorded and available on the Town's social media pages so that we can all have the opportunity to witness the laying of the wreaths, hear the bells and bugle playing, listen to words of reflection, and pay proper tribute to the fallen. Thank you to the American Legion, who has found a way to honor those who died serving our country while also protecting public health, and to Police Chaplain Keith Gibbons for assisting with the arrangements.

As we arrive at the unofficial kickoff of summertime, it's certainly not what any of us could have imagined just a few short months ago. While the ongoing encouraging trends in the health data have led to more reopenings in the last few weeks, it is incumbent upon each of us to be responsible so that we continue to move in the right direction. Please enjoy yourselves, spend time outside and in small groups, and embrace the summer season -- and please do so while remembering the guideline about the size of gatherings, maintaining proper distance, and wearing a face covering whenever possible to protect others.

I want to thank all of you for the commitment you've made to one another to help safeguard our town and the members of the community. It has been a tremendous effort.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday weekend as we collectively pay tribute to all of our brave servicemen and women who died to protect our freedom.