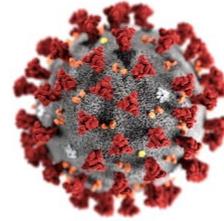




## Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update June 1, 2020



### CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 160,918 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 863 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 15,858 cases, with Westfield reporting two new cases over the weekend (both on Saturday), bringing our total to 276.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

### STATE UPDATES

- Today, Governor Murphy announced that, because key metrics have all dropped meaningfully from the peak and the stresses on our health care system have significantly lessened, New Jersey is able to begin moving to Phase 2 of its reopening. This means that, effective June 15, outdoor dining at restaurants can begin, as well as non-essential in-person retail. Effective June 22, salons and barber shops may open, with gyms and health clubs in the period to follow. These openings can occur only when in strict adherence with the State Department of Health's forthcoming guidance.
- The Governor also reported that New Jersey has significantly ramped-up testing capabilities, with the ability to conduct at least 20,000 tests per day statewide. With this increased testing has come an increased focus on contact tracing.

### LOCAL UPDATES

- As June begins, I want to take a moment to recognize Pride Month. As you may recall, last June, for the first time in Westfield's history, we raised the Pride flag and flew it outside of Town Hall for the entire month. With flags ordered to half staff throughout the state due to COVID-19, I am working with members of the Council on other ways to appropriately acknowledge Pride Month in the near future -- more details to come soon!
- As part of the Reopening Task Force's work, the DWC has launched a survey to explore the community's interest in opening certain designated downtown streets strictly for pedestrian use. Please respond to the survey by tomorrow at 5:00 pm, which can be found here: <https://conta.cc/3gAUmRC>. This is one of many initiatives the Task Force is undertaking to recommend the best way forward for our downtown, in accordance with the guidelines we expect to receive from the State. The Task Force will be conducting a walk through downtown tomorrow with representatives from the Police, Fire and Public Works departments to assess what accommodations could be made to safely allow our business owners to expand their seating and merchandising capacities. We expect to have recommendations to share next week with the Town Council before the June 15 re-opening date.

Lastly, as we begin a new week under some very difficult circumstances weighing on our entire country, I want to acknowledge the outpouring of support and solidarity from the community -- not only in condemning George Floyd's murder through words and actions, but also in asking what more can be done and how we can be part of the solution. I hope that you had a chance to see Chief Battiloro's statement today, which points out some of the steps being taken by the Westfield Police Department but, perhaps more importantly, also demonstrates the very leadership, compassion, and conviction that he brings to his job every day to prioritize working with the community.

Special thanks to the MLK Association of Westfield who, with the assistance of some additional volunteers, took the time to create and place very meaningful banners at the MLK monument near the South Avenue Circle to pay tribute to George Floyd, as well as others recently lost to race-based violence -- Ahmaud Arbery, Emmett Till, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Philando Castile, Freddie Gray, and Sandra Bland. I join the MLK Association in encouraging everyone to visit the monument, with social distancing practices in place, in order to reflect and pay tribute to these lives lost so tragically.

Tomorrow I will be convening the first meeting of the Human Relations Advisory Committee, which was established just prior to our COVID shut down but did not have a chance to hold an initial meeting. I look forward to formally appointing the members at our Council meeting next week, and to get to work on the critically important issues that the tragic events of the last week have illuminated.