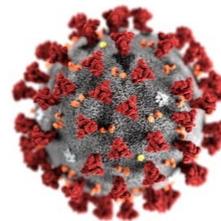




Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update June 2, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 161,545 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 946 still under investigation. Currently, the County reports 15,868 cases. We have not yet received an updated report today, and so our total cases remain at 276..
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

STATE UPDATES

- Governor Murphy reiterated that all key health indicators continue to trend in the right direction. Additionally, he discussed the slowing rate of spread throughout the state. When the stay-at-home order was issued on March 21, each infected person in New Jersey was spreading COVID-19 to an average of more than five others. Today, that rate of spread is less than one-to-one, a significant decline over the last ten weeks due to social distancing, hand washing, and wearing a face covering in public.
- Despite encouraging COVID-19 trends, New Jersey remains at the top of the list nationwide in terms of hospitalized patients, and is second in the country for number of deaths per day. The Governor reiterated that, even as we progress into Phase Two of our reopening, we cannot let our guard down and must remain vigilant with appropriate social distancing.

LOCAL UPDATES

- As we begin to move closer to our phased reopening and our restrictions continue to be lifted, it's the right time to move from daily updates to twice per week, beginning next week. I will of course continue to communicate any other pertinent information daily on social media as it occurs.
- I'd like to share today's statement from Chief Battiloro, which was issued to address some questions in the community stemming from social media posts about the potential for a march or demonstration coming to Westfield on Saturday.

"The Westfield Police Department has been monitoring social media reports regarding the potential for localized mass gatherings related to the death of George Floyd.

While a number of gatherings are planned and expected throughout the Union County area this week, reports of a march into Westfield scheduled for Saturday, June 6 cannot be verified at this time. Nonetheless, the Westfield Police Department has been operating at an enhanced preparedness level and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

We have been and continue to work with our law enforcement partners at the local, county and state levels in sharing intelligence and making the appropriate safety preparations related to the potential for these events. By all accounts, we expect any demonstrations that may materialize to be peaceful, and there is no information indicating any specific, credible threats posed by any of these gatherings. It is our intention to stand in solidarity with any peaceful demonstrators as a reflection of our department's values.

The Westfield Police Department is fully committed to both ensuring the safety and security of its residents and businesses while also protecting the constitutional rights of those who choose to peacefully assemble and express themselves."

As we all continue to navigate and reflect on the current events throughout the country, thanks to everyone for asking the tough questions of yourselves, of each other, and of us. It's important that we all do the work required to end systemic racism -- something many of us here in Westfield have not experienced firsthand -- by listening to and amplifying black voices in our community. I'm looking forward to hosting the first meeting of the Human Relations Advisory Committee this evening. We will discuss what role this group can play in facilitating positive and lasting progress to ensure we are an inclusive, compassionate and empathetic community for all.