



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update June 16, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 167,426 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 664 still under investigation. Currently, the County has 16,320 cases, with Westfield reporting no additional cases since my last report on Friday, keeping our total at 281.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

STATE AND COUNTY UPDATES

- Yesterday, New Jersey entered Stage Two of its restart and recovery with strong public health protocols in place:
 - Restaurants may now reopen for outdoor dining
 - Non-essential retail stores
 - Libraries may do curbside pickup
 - Child care services
 - New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission drop-off and pick-up services

- The Governor provided an update on organized sports resumption, with the following guidelines:
 - Low-risk sports may resume competitions on June 22.
 - Medium-risk and high-risk sports may resume non-contact drills and practices on June 22.
 - Competition for medium-risk sports is anticipated to resume on July 6.
 - Full practices and competitions for high-risk sports is anticipated to resume on July 20.
 - Full details can be found online at www.bit.ly/COVIDsportsguidelines.

- The Governor signed an Executive Order allowing personal care businesses to reopen on Monday, June 22 with safeguards in place that include:
 - Appointment-only services
 - Health screenings for staff and clients
 - Use of PPE and face coverings
 - The full guidance can be found at www.bit.ly/COVIDpersonalcarebusinesses.

- An Administrative Order was signed over the weekend detailing the reopening of libraries for pick-up/drop-off service, as well as additional guidance on entering schools to retrieve belongings, real estate open houses, essential retail businesses, car washes, yard sales, special events, and private tutoring facilities. Full details can be found here: <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/ao/docs/AO2020-15.pdf>.

LOCAL UPDATES

- Thank you to everyone who came out yesterday and today to support our local businesses! It's wonderful to see the non-essential retail and outdoor dining establishments reopened after a very tough few months for these business owners and employees -- their dedication and resourcefulness has been incredible. When you go downtown to patronize these establishments, I'd like to again urge everyone, out of respect to those around you and to those working hard to bring these businesses back, to please wear a face covering. As I've said many times, and will continue to reiterate, proper distancing, hand washing, and face coverings are the only means we have to keep our progress on track. Thank you all for continuing to do your part.

- As part of our reopening plan, please be advised that free 15 minute street parking on bagged meters will start tomorrow to facilitate curbside pick up. at the request of our local businesses. These spots are not meant for long term parking and will be ticketed when misused. Employees of downtown businesses should park in designated employee lots. Free public parking will be extended in the municipal lots through July 5, with enforcement and paid parking beginning on Monday, July 6.

- As part of the State's organized sports guidance, we anticipate opening the basketball courts in our schools and parks on July 6. In addition, the Recreation Department is finalizing information in the coming weeks about scheduling permissible field play for scrimmages and games.

- The Westfield Memorial Library reports that their target date to begin accepting the return of books will be Thursday, June 18, with pick-up service anticipated to begin on Monday, June 22 with limited hours. Additional details can be found on their website: <http://www.wmlnj.org/librarytakeout.asp>.

This is an exciting time for everyone, as summer approaches and we can begin to reclaim some parts of our lives that were on hold over the last few months. It feels very much like we have turned a corner, which I welcome and appreciate as much as everyone else. I ask you all to remain vigilant and enjoy all of these ongoing reopenings responsibly so that we can continue to stay healthy and mitigate any potential second wave. Please also be patient with us and our businesses as we work together to navigate our reopening plan, which we expect will come with a lot of trial and error. Thank you for helping us collectively have better days ahead.

Lastly, special thanks to six year-old Ava for sharing her map of Westfield, featuring all of her favorite places -- a perfect reminder of how special our town is as we continue to reopen.