



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



## CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 168,496 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 693 still under investigation. Currently, the County has 16,291 cases, with Westfield reporting one additional case since my last update on Tuesday, bringing our total to 282.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

## STATE AND COUNTY UPDATES

- Governor Murphy announced that portions of retail shopping malls may reopen on June 29, with masks required and all stores limited to 50% capacity. Restaurants may provide take-out or outdoor dining, and theaters, food court seating, and arcades remain closed.
- The following reopenings are permitted beginning July 1:
  - In-person clinical, lab, and hands-on programming at institutions of higher education – subject to the submission of an institution’s restart plan
  - Career and training schools – subject to health and safety protocols from their respective oversight agencies

- The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education has released guidance for colleges and universities laying out the framework for the preparations for the upcoming summer sessions and the Fall 2020 semester. Guidance focuses on the following areas: instruction, housing, computer labs, libraries, research and labs, student services, transportation, dining, study abroad, and athletics
- Beginning this Fathers Day, June 21, the following will be able to permit visitors in designated outdoor spaces:
  - Nursing homes
  - Assisted living residences
  - Dementia care homes
  - Pediatric transitional care homes
  - Comprehensive personal care homes

## LOCAL UPDATES

- Are you ready for a great season at Memorial Pool? Our Recreation Department has done an exceptional job of adapting to ongoing changes in State guidelines and making the necessary accommodations for the health and safety of our members and employees. The pool will open next Saturday, June 27, with the season being extended through September 20. The State guidance has been modified from 50% of total facility capacity to instead allowing the maximum number permitted for outdoor gatherings in the State -- which is currently 250 people, and will increase to 500 on July 3. In order to ensure we are in compliance with the new capacity guidelines, and to provide more equitable access, we will be implementing an online reservation system, with time slots, until further notice. You can read about all of the details regarding reservations, policies, and updated health protocols at [www.westfieldnj.gov/pool](http://www.westfieldnj.gov/pool).
- Thanks to our Public Works Committee and Green Team for their launch of the Adopt a Drain program, making us the first community in New Jersey to participate. This online storm drain management program allows residents to select a nearby storm drain and volunteer to clear the surface of any lingering debris that would cause ongoing flooding issues. Of course, our dedicated DPW team continues to perform regular maintenance of these drains, but with over 3,000 of them throughout Town, this new program aims to supplement their efforts as needed. For full details, visit [www.westfieldnj.gov/adoptadrain](http://www.westfieldnj.gov/adoptadrain).
- In addition, the summer street sweeping season is upon us, and Public Works will begin making their way through all residential streets with our two street sweepers, beginning in July. Location information will be posted weekly on our website, and ongoing sweeping continues in the downtown area three times per week.
- Thanks to Lifelong Westfield for hosting a free safety mask giveaway on Thursday, June 25, in Mindowaskin Park from 10:00AM - 12:00PM for Westfield seniors. The event will be contactless and take place in the drive up circle outside of the Police Department. Seniors can drive up and volunteers from Lifelong Westfield will place a bag containing a mask and educational materials on proper mask wearing in the trunk.

- Don't miss a great weekend on Quimby Street, as it remains closed to vehicular traffic for socially distanced strolling and expanded outdoor dining. You can also purchase cocktails to-go to enjoy with your alfresco meal. Curbside pickup and delivery will still be available from all restaurants who are currently offering it, and retail stores are open with 50% capacity, masks and social distancing. There is also live music, fitness classes, and more! See the full schedule at [westfieldtoday.com](http://westfieldtoday.com), and don't forget to shop local!
- Speaking of local, the Westfield Farmers Market will open for socially distanced shopping beginning tomorrow at the North Avenue train station lot! Thanks to Chris and Lisa Devine and the Chamber of Commerce for their ongoing commitment to the farmers market.
- Finally, I'd like to acknowledge that, on this Juneteenth, our country commemorates the 155th anniversary of when the last enslaved African Americans were liberated. Like many of us, I have been moved by recent events to deepen my understanding of this day's significance for the Black community and for our country, and I'd like to reinforce the importance of continuing to educate ourselves in order to be the empathetic, compassionate and anti-racist community that I know we aspire to be. I have posted additional details on my Facebook page today about the work of the Human Relations Advisory Committee and the ongoing progress being made by the Westfield Police Department -- including body worn cameras, banned use of chokeholds, initiated process of selling off stockpiled military equipment, de-escalation and mental health training, prioritized diversity in hiring and promotions, and increased community visibility -- knowing that we have a long way to go to achieve racial equality in Westfield.

I am committed to ensuring that our community is one that is inclusive, fair, and welcoming to all. We must begin by acknowledging our own history, including when we have fallen short as allies for the people of color in this community. Until we openly acknowledge our own responsibilities and biases in what has led us to this moment, we will not be able to transcend it. I'm willing to do the work, and am so grateful for all those who want to be a part of it.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!