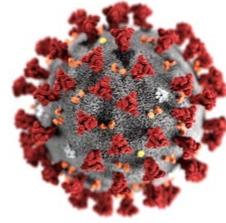




Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update July 2, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 172,356 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 672 still under investigation. Currently, the County has 16,394 cases, with Westfield reporting three additional cases since Tuesday, two of which are more than 30 days old and are just now being reported to us, bringing our total to 285.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

STATE UPDATES

- New Jersey renters who have experienced a substantial loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic can obtain emergency rental assistance. Applications will be accepted by New Jersey Department of Community Affairs beginning this Monday, July 6. For more information, visit <https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr/offices/cverap.html>.
- The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development will begin providing 20 weeks of extended unemployment to workers who've exhausted their jobless benefits. Claimants will be automatically enrolled and do not need to contact an agent or reapply. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/2ZqKT7z>.

LOCAL UPDATES

- Today, our playgrounds reopened throughout Town, and I'm sure many families are excited to put them to good use this summer! In addition, basketball courts will reopen Town-wide on Monday, July 6. As more recreation facilities are made available, please remember to practice safe social distancing and hand washing, and wear a face covering for all kids over the age of two.
- As a reminder, parking enforcement resumes on Monday in our municipal lots. Free 15-minute street parking will continue to be available on bagged meters to help facilitate curbside pick up service, but misuse of these spots will be ticketed.
- Thanks to everyone who hung in there through our very long but highly productive Town Council meeting on Tuesday night! It was wonderful to see so many residents engaged. One of the unexpected benefits of conducting these meetings virtually is that it allows us to field more public comments since participation can happen from anywhere. We heard an important presentation by our redevelopment planning firm, Topology, regarding the designation of our eight municipal parking lots as "areas in need of redevelopment." They provided an overview of their study detailing why the parking lots qualified for this designation, which was then adopted by the Council via resolution. If you missed Topology's presentation, you can watch the replay beginning at the 3:24:00 mark of Tuesday's Council meeting on Facebook (@TownofWestfield), or review the presentation here: <https://bit.ly/PrelimParkingLotReport>.
- During the meeting, we heard from many residents about the revisions being proposed to the Historic Preservation Ordinance, which now goes to the Planning Board for review on Monday. I would encourage anyone with an interest to please read the ordinance and the FAQs that will be posted on our website tomorrow. The ordinance can be found in the agenda information from Tuesday's meeting (<https://bit.ly/TC06302020Agenda>) and info on the Planning Board meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/WestfieldPB07062020>. If you would like to receive emails with meeting agendas and minutes, you can subscribe at www.westfieldnj.gov/townupdates.
- Don't forget that the primary election is on Tuesday, July 7! Vote By Mail ballots must be postmarked no later than July 7 and will be counted as long as they are received by July 14. You can also vote in person at the following polling locations:
 - Ward 1: Roosevelt School, 301 Clark Street, Gym (enter rear parking lot)
 - Ward 2: Wilson School, 301 Linden Avenue, Gym
 - Ward 3: Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Road, Gym
 - Ward 4: Edison School, 800 Rahway Avenue, Gym

For more details about in-person polling and ballot drop box locations, visit www.westfieldnj.gov/election.

- My update is one day early, as tomorrow is a holiday -- please note that all municipal offices will be closed on Friday. The Conservation Center will be closed both Friday and Saturday, with Sunday hours resuming on July 5 (9:00 - 3:00).

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday weekend. As we all enjoy more gatherings and resume some of our summer activities, please exercise continued caution for the benefit of us all.

Happy Independence Day!