



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update July 17, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 176,551 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 630 still under investigation. Currently, the County has 16,540 cases, with Westfield reporting no additional cases since Tuesday, keeping our total at 325.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

STATE UPDATES

- Governor Murphy announced at his update today that the rate of transmission statewide has risen to 1.11 – meaning each new positive case is leading to one more positive case. In order to help to lower this rate of transmission back below 1.0, all residents are reminded to continue with best practices of maintaining social distancing, wearing a mask, washing your hands, and staying home if you feel sick.
- Effective Monday, July 20, the NJ Department of Health will launch an electronic survey to collect information on out-of-state travelers from high risk areas that arrive at New Jersey's airports, which will be accessible by text, online, or scanned QR codes at airports.
- The New Jersey Department of Health has released guidelines that allow the parents or legal guardians of pediatric, developmentally disabled, and intellectually disabled residents of long-term care facilities to arrange for by-appointment visits with their loved ones. Full details can be found here: <https://www.nj.gov/health/news/2020/approved/20200715a.shtml>.
- Governor Murphy is creating a COVID-19 Compliance Task Force, headed by Acting New Jersey State Comptroller Kevin Walsh, to review all COVID-related procurements above a certain dollar threshold, ensure internal controls, and provide compliance training to all agencies receiving COVID-19 funds.
- The Governor's Disaster Recovery Office is also being created, which will serve as the center point of contact and coordination for COVID-19 recovery programs funded through the CARES Act and other sources of federal funds. This office will ensure that all funds are expended in compliance with federal rules and regulations.

LOCAL UPDATES

- It's not too late to register for Sunday's Virtual Pizza Run! Many thanks to the DWC and Race Director Sam Tooley of Alpha Fit for their resourcefulness in converting this beloved Westfield tradition into a COVID-friendly format. All of the event's net proceeds will go towards downtown beautification and recovery, supporting downtown businesses adapting to COVID-19 requirements. Of course, no Pizza Run would be complete without pizza! All registrants will receive a \$3 coupon for a slice of pizza from your choice of downtown Westfield pizzerias. And, on race day, the DWC will be giving away 50 pizzas. Order from any of our downtown Westfield pizzerias and see if your order arrives with a "Westfield Winner" ticket for a free pizza in a future order.
- Don't miss another weekend on Open Quimby to support our local businesses with outdoor dining and retail -- including Sidewalk Sale Days! The Downtown Reopening Task Force will be announcing additional plans in the coming days for some exciting new changes to help further facilitate outdoor dining as the summer continues. Stay tuned!

Lastly, I want to extend my thanks once again to everyone who has responded with concern, support, and caution during the recent uptick in our case numbers. Thankfully, this week's numbers look better than those from last week, and I'm hopeful that this three day trend of no new cases continues. That said, let's continue to stay vigilant, as our contact tracing determined that the most common sources of infection in our recent cases were from exposure by a friend, a party, or a household member.

Thank you to all, especially those young adults between 17-23, who took the steps of getting tested and quarantining to prevent additional community spread! And thanks in particular to those who tested positive and notified their peers. I've received several disheartening messages from the parents of these kids that, after notifying anyone they may have exposed, they were on the receiving end of negative comments and shamed by others in the community. This only leads to others being reluctant to act so responsibly, and must stop now for the sake of our public health.

It is irrelevant as to who, how, when, and where someone may have contracted COVID. What matters is how they responded to it, and in that case, we should be very proud of these kids. The only way we are going to live somewhat normal lives with this virus is if we are able to honestly share information about sources of exposure without fearing social repercussions.

In response to several questions I've received from residents about the quarantine guidelines, I'd like to reiterate that, if you have known or suspected direct exposure, you should quarantine for the full 14 days, even if you have received a negative test result -- since the virus can take up to two weeks to incubate after exposure. The same goes for returning to New Jersey from a state on the quarantine list -- please follow the guidelines and quarantine for the entire 14 days after traveling to one of these areas. As more states are added to the list, it's important to make sure that summer travel is handled safely.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keeping our community healthy. My next update will be on Tuesday unless there is significant new news to report. Have a great weekend!