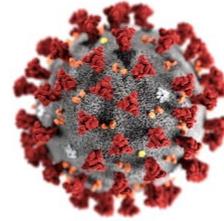




# Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update July 28, 2020



If you receive a call from a public health official because you tested positive for COVID-19 and they want to know who you've been in contact with, **YOU SHOULD ANSWER BECAUSE...**

Your **INFORMATION** is very valuable. 

It's **CONFIDENTIAL** - your name is not given to anyone. 

Your information is **SAFE** - we do not share information with law enforcement or other government agencies. 

New cases are found quickly and isolated to stop the **SPREAD**. 

Your contacts get the **HELP** they need. 



Westfield Regional Health Dept.

## CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 180,295 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 680 still under investigation. Currently, the County has 16,410 cases, with Westfield reporting eight new cases since Friday, bringing our total to 340. I will provide additional details about these cases when they become available through our contact tracing efforts.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

## STATE UPDATES

- Governor Murphy announced today that an additional \$15 million in CARES Act funding has been made available to New Jersey small businesses struggling with the pandemic. This funding is in addition to the \$100 million the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) is currently administering through programs to COVID-19 impacted businesses. Full details can be found here: [https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200728a.shtml?fbclid=IwAR3v2gdLVs7bN6YWQfTSNnRYngzNMnuFWJX6YSyvDymo8\\_Hlo9QURVtjCx0](https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200728a.shtml?fbclid=IwAR3v2gdLVs7bN6YWQfTSNnRYngzNMnuFWJX6YSyvDymo8_Hlo9QURVtjCx0).
- Three additional states -- Illinois, Kentucky and Minnesota -- were added to the travel advisory quarantine list, in addition to Puerto Rico and Washington, DC. The full list of states and the details of the advisory can be found here: <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-information/which-states-are-on-the-travel-advisory-list-are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey>.

- Today, New Jersey reported the most cases in a single day so far this month (565), and the third time in four days that the number was above 500 -- although some of this increase may be due to a system backlog from last week. Additionally, the rate of transmission increased to 1.14 (meaning that each new case leads to more than one additional case), which is above the Governor's recommended threshold of 1.0.

## LOCAL UPDATES

- Thanks to everyone who has already paid their third quarter property taxes, which are due on August 1. The State has not communicated any authorization to extend this quarter's grace period as they did last quarter, which means that the last day to pay without penalty is Monday, August 10. We have a drop box behind Town Hall, or you can of course mail your payment or pay online. Full details are on our website: [www.westfieldnj.gov/taxcollector](http://www.westfieldnj.gov/taxcollector).
- Have you seen the butterflies landing throughout Town as part of Art Takes Flight, the first exhibit of the Westfield Public Arts Commission? After a very tough selection process from many wonderful submissions, 30 artists were chosen to display their talent on the fiberglass butterflies mounted in various locations in our downtown area. Keep an eye out for these beautiful installations, which we expect to have complete in the coming days, with a full map of their locations and corresponding artists and sponsors to follow. Thanks to the generous sponsors who fully funded this exhibit, and to the Public Arts Commission and Council liaison Dawn Mackey, for their dedication in bringing this vision to life for all residents and visitors to enjoy.
- A few tickets remain for Thursday night's screening of Ratatouille to kick off the Westfield 300 Summer Movie Series! Tickets are free but must be reserved online in advance at <https://bit.ly/W300MovieSeries>.
- Lastly, I want to echo some of the concerns that Governor Murphy continues to voice about ongoing gatherings -- both indoors and outdoors -- that are contributing to increases in cases, specifically among young adults. There are reports from several municipalities where new COVID clusters have formed as a result of parties, and I continue to receive messages from concerned residents about similar events taking place in Westfield. We know that outdoors is better than indoors, and that proper distance and face coverings reduce the risk of transmission. With 11 new cases here in the last week, I'd like to remind everyone to take these simple precautions to help prevent additional outbreaks in our community. I'm also including a helpful graphic from the Westfield Regional Board of Health about their contact tracing efforts, and I want to once again encourage everyone's cooperation to provide information that benefits all of us.

Thank you all...stay well!