



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update August 14, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 187,164 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with another 1,001 still under investigation. Currently, the County has 16,827 cases, with Westfield reporting five new cases since Tuesday (two on Wednesday, three on Thursday, and none today), bringing our total to 360.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the [NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

STATE UPDATES

- Today, Governor Murphy announced that the November 3 election will be primarily vote-by-mail in New Jersey. All active registered New Jersey voters will automatically receive a prepaid return-postage vote-by-mail ballot, which will be mailed from County Clerks by Monday, October 5. Voters will be able return ballots by mail, by depositing it in a secure drop box, or by handing it directly to a poll worker at a polling place on Election Day. Each municipality will be required to open at least one in-person polling site, and all counties must ensure that at least 50% of their total polling places are open. Any voter who chooses to cast their vote in-person will do so on a provisional ballot. All individuals with disabilities will have access to an ADA-conforming voting machine.
- The Governor also announced that New Jersey's public and private school districts will be open for in-person instruction this school year. However, districts that cannot meet health and safety protocols can begin the school year via remote-only instruction. For full details, visit <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200813a.shtml?fbclid=IwAR2AilpCaa43zshYyIHbvYHQ390PgUmlW-cUzpRgyjOlqf3z43UaBIE0ZE>
- New Jersey residents are reminded to cooperate with contact tracers to help protect public health. Nearly 20% of contacts aren't answering calls from contact tracers, and nearly 50% of those who do refuse to provide information.
- The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education will start awarding the first \$150 million in direct support to New Jersey's colleges and universities to help offset the costs of COVID-19 responses. Higher education officials will have access to an application process.

LOCAL UPDATES

- The Union County COVID-19 Mobile Test Unit will be in Tamaques Park on Thursday, August 20 from 10:00AM - 1:00PM. Testing is free and available to any resident. It's important to get tested if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, or were recently in a large crowd where social distancing was hard to maintain. Advance registration is required, and can be arranged online at <https://ucnj.org/coronavirus-update/walk-up> or by calling 908-518-4307.
- I'm pleased to report that the paving of North Chestnut Street is complete, a project that was partially funded by the Union County Annual Infrastructure Grant.
- Don't miss Open Quimby this weekend with outdoor dining and fitness programs (details at westfieldtoday.com), and of course the Westfield Farmers Market continues to operate every Saturday in the North Avenue train station lot from 8:30AM - 1:00PM. In addition, we still have some tickets available for the Westfield 300 Summer Movie Series' screening of Coco, which was rescheduled from last night to Monday evening. Registration opens on Monday at noon for next Thursday's film, The Goonies.

- Did you notice the two public pianos on Quimby Street and in Foundation Park? When the First United Methodist Church of Westfield no longer had a current need for them, they were generously offered to the Town. After some amazing artistry by Jenn Wilner, Brigid Barber, and Audrey Mindak, these beautiful additions are now available for public use and enjoyment by all.
- Thanks to everyone who came out for the first Brightwood Bike Trail Information Session last night. There is an additional session tomorrow at 11:00AM. For more information and FAQs, please visit www.westfieldnj.gov/parksplan.
- Finally, I'd like to once again extend my thanks to the thousands of residents who have cleaned up their storm debris and offered to help others by using our expanded Conservation Center hours. This includes both current permit holders as well those who are taking advantage of the permit-free availability. After a week and a half of devoting the vast majority of our DPW resources to emergent storm-related tree work, a limited crew will be able to pivot to begin picking up Town tree debris from the street beginning next week, while others will continue to address the ongoing large tree removal/maintenance issues in our parks and fields that remain from the storm. Please keep in mind that our crews are doing a job being asked of them, which is strictly picking up debris from the Town trees. When residential debris is mixed in with these piles, it creates more work for them and slows down their progress. To report an issue with a Town tree for storm-related maintenance or removal, please use our Westfield Connect app, where you can track the progress of your submission.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation. Wishing you all a great weekend.