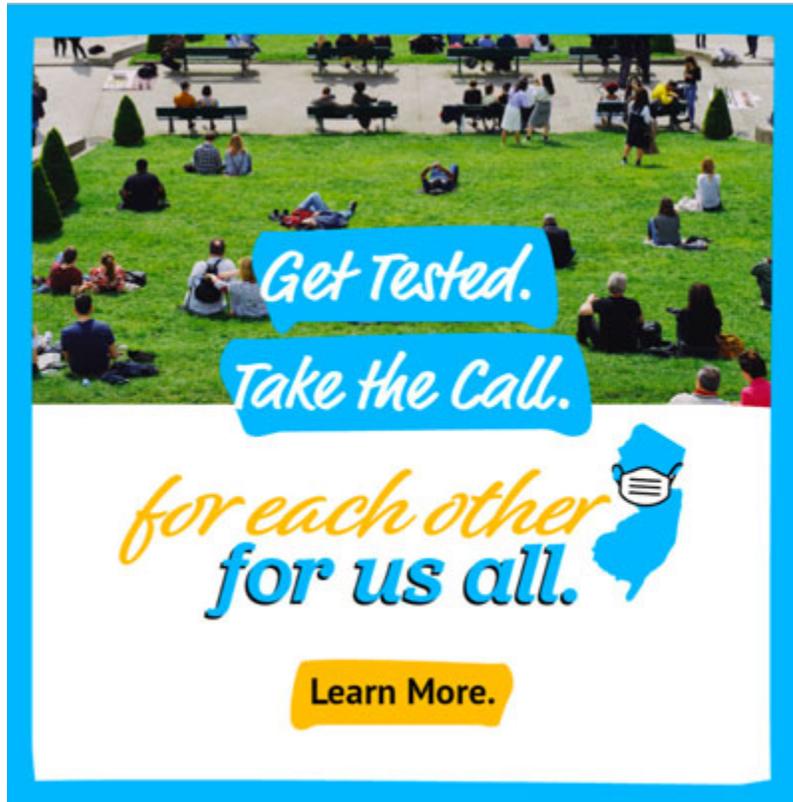




Mayor Brindle's  
COVID-19 Update  
August 18, 2020



#### CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 188,098 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey to date, with another 402 currently still under investigation. Union County has reported 16,898 cases in total, with Westfield reporting one new case since Friday, bringing our total to 361 since March.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

#### STATE UPDATES

- Governor Murphy announced that the final determination on the fall high school sports seasons will be made by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. Whether a student-athlete is participating in remote-learning or in-person instruction will not change their ability to play. Some districts have already given notice that their teams will not be playing, as is their right, and will not be overruled.

- Two states were added to New Jersey's travel advisory and 14-day quarantine -- Delaware and Alaska -- bringing the total to 35 states and territories (AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MD, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NC, ND, OK, PR, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VI, WI).

## LOCAL UPDATES

- Registration is now open for this Thursday night's screening of The Goonies, as part of the Westfield 300 Summer Movie Series. For more information and tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/W300MovieSeries>.
- At last week's meeting, the Town Council approved a resolution to award a contract for the purchase and installation of new playground equipment in Sycamore Park. This highly anticipated project will be funded by a grant from the Union County Kids Recreation Trust Fund and the Town's Parks Improvement Fund. To prepare for the project, we anticipate that the current equipment will be removed beginning sometime in late September, with updated timing to be communicated as we get closer.
- The Council also voted unanimously to approve a resolution awarding a contract to Volta, an EV (electric vehicle) charging station provider, for the installation of six charging stations in our municipal lots later this fall. These stations (to be located in the Trader Joe's lot, in the lot behind the Farmhouse Store, and at the North Avenue train station lot) are being provided at no cost to the Town, as Volta earns its money through digital advertising sales on its stations, making this a wonderful opportunity to support the emerging EV market.
- PSE&G announced today that it is expanding its claims policy due to the COVID-19 pandemic so that customers whose electrical service was interrupted by Tropical Storm Isaias for at least 72 hours can be reimbursed for spoiled food and medication. PSE&G will reimburse residential customers up to \$250 and commercial customers up to \$5,000 for food spoilage if their service was interrupted for 72 hours or longer between August 4 and 12. For more details, visit the PSE&G website. <https://nj.myaccount.pseg.com/customersupport/damageandtheft>
- Finally, I'd like to once again thank our wonderful Police Department for their commendable work over the past several weeks in keeping our community safe. I am deeply grateful that the home invasion on Cacciola Place over the weekend did not result in any serious injuries, and that our officers emerged safely from a situation that clearly could have been much worse. As you've also seen, there have been several arrests recently for stolen vehicles, which continues to be an ongoing issue not only here in Westfield, but in a number of suburban communities. So far in 2020, there have been 21 cars stolen, (19 of which have been recovered) and 42 vehicle burglaries. The vast majority of these vehicles were unlocked. The reality is that our officers should not have to put themselves in harm's way with high-speed pursuits of stolen cars that have been left unlocked with keys inside. We continue to see this happen, and our community will remain a target for as long as easy access to these crimes is provided. Our police are doing their part, and I need to remind you all to do yours as well. Please be vigilant about locking your cars -- day and night -- for the benefit of everyone.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation.