



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update September 15, 2020



The spread of COVID-19 can be broken down into four factors: TIME, SPACE, PEOPLE & PLACE.

 TIME How long you will be in a place? More time sitting in one place → higher risk.	 SPACE How much space will be around you? Less space → higher risk.
 PEOPLE How many people will be around you? More people → higher risk.	 PLACE What type of place are you going to? Indoor places → higher risk.

Keeping these factors in mind can help you assess your risk while participating in activities.

Minimizing the Risk of COVID-19

- Limit capacity, especially indoors
- Social distance from others (6 feet)
- Avoid crowded areas
- Choose outside activities vs. inside (dining, worship services, etc.)
- Don't share food/drink, cups or utensils with others; bring your own or use disposable items at outdoor gatherings
- Wear a cloth or disposable mask in public areas
- Wash hands often or use hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol

Singing, yelling/shouting and close contact *increase* the risk of contracting COVID-19.

September 11, 2020

CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 197,404 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey to date, with another 301 currently under investigation. Union County has reported 17,337 cases in total, with Westfield reporting 11 new cases since last Tuesday (one on Wednesday, three on Thursday, zero on Friday, three on Saturday, two on Sunday, zero on Monday, and two today), bringing our total to 383 since our first reported case in March.

- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

STATE UPDATES

- Today, six states were removed from New Jersey's travel advisory (California, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, and Ohio), and Puerto Rico was added. For the full list, visit covid19.nj.gov/travel.
- Governor Murphy announced the following changes at the NJ Motor Vehicles Commission: Valid license/ID photos are extended from 8 to 12 years; special hours will be designated for senior citizens and others; the deadline to register vehicles & obtain driver's licenses for new residents is extended. For full details, visit <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200910c.shtml?fbclid=IwAR1hLpDt0x-dByziynkCaSjqV-1sI3cxAedlhftuyrp1GEL22rx5ZGNbV5o>.

LOCAL UPDATES

- Our Census completion rate now stands at 83.3%. Please keep in mind that the September 30 deadline for completion is fast approaching. If you have not already done so, please take the time to get counted at 2020census.gov.
- We have some great Green Team events coming up! Don't miss the second annual Free Market event on September 26 from 9:00AM - 2:30PM at the South Avenue train station lot. The Free Market is like a giant yard sale, except everything is free. Residents can bring gently used household items -- such as clothing, housewares, sporting goods, books/movies, kitchenware, small furniture and more -- and leave them for others to take, while also taking anything that's left by others. Any goods that are left at the end of the event will be donated to Green Drop. This is a great way to promote sustainability and re-use by keeping gently used items out of landfills. Face coverings will be required. In order to manage attendance volume to ensure social distancing at this event, please sign up in advance to drop off and browse/pick up items here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d4facaf2aa3fe3-free>.
- The Green Team is also hosting the Fall Parks Clean-Up on Sunday, October 11 at 10:00AM in Brightwood and Tamaques, where volunteers will help remove debris and litter from the paths and fields. This is a great opportunity for families and community organizations to get involved and help keep our parks clean. Face coverings and social distancing will be required. Please sign up in advance at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d4facaf2aa3fe3-earth2>.
- The AddamsFest team has launched its third annual Haunt Your House contest, inviting residents to enter their Halloween displays for a chance to win gift cards from The Farmhouse Store, Mimi & Hill, and Patricia & Paul. Registration is now open at addamsfest.com/haunt-your-house-2020.

- As part of its ongoing efforts to improve pedestrian safety, particularly with school back in session, the Westfield Police Department will be conducting an enforcement operation that will focus on motorists who fail to stop for pedestrians. All week, officers dressed in plain clothes will be crossing the street while uniformed officers monitor the crosswalk for motorists and pedestrians who fail to stop or who take unsafe and illegal actions. Drivers and pedestrians stopped during this safety operation will be issued warnings or citations. I am grateful to our Police Department for their ongoing focus on public awareness initiatives like this to educate and encourage members of the community to develop and maintain safe practices while driving, walking and cycling throughout Westfield.
- As I posted about yesterday, I continue to receive many messages of concern from members of the community about the lack of social distancing and face coverings in group settings and in our downtown particularly. Now that school is back in session, and businesses have expanded capacity, it is more important than ever to be vigilant as the opportunities for community spread have increased. Our case numbers have ticked up, which was fully expected as things reopened, but it is imperative that the number of new cases stays manageable. We all have COVID fatigue, but our only means of virus mitigation and preserving all of our hard work and a sense of normalcy is to wear face coverings and maintain proper distance. Even if you are fortunate enough to be in good health, please consider those around you who are immunocompromised or at higher risk for contracting COVID. The steps we are asking everyone to take are simple -- and, more importantly, they work. If we want to keep moving forward, this is the path we need to stay on together.