



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



MASK UP!
Reduce Risk of Transmission

COVID-19 Carrier		Others
	HIGHEST RISK	
	HIGHER RISK	
	LOWER RISK	
	LOWEST RISK	

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 198,848 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey to date, with another 314 currently under investigation. Union County has reported 17,390 cases in total, with Westfield reporting two new cases since Tuesday (one on Wednesday and one today), bringing our total to 385 since our first reported case in March.

- For the eight cases reported in the official case count for the Town from September 11 - 17, we have the following details available from the Board of Health:
 - Two were unable to be reached (did not return the call)
 - Two who were household contacts of a positive case
 - One had no known exposure
 - One had known exposure related to WHS, but did not attend WHS
 - One from WHS
 - One out of state college student

- In terms of age breakdown, we have the following information on these eight cases:
 - Two cases were age 17 or below
 - Three cases were age 18-25
 - One case was age 30-40
 - One case was age 60-70
 - One case was age 70-80

Once again, please keep in mind that the details of each case are not always readily available, and the numbers will not always reconcile because of the disparities in the reporting systems. I will continue to provide any helpful information as we receive it to keep the community informed.

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

STATE AND COUNTY UPDATES

- Governor Murphy signed a legislative package intended to strengthen the long-term care industry by addressing systemic challenges, mitigating the impact of COVID-19, and improving preparedness for future outbreaks. Full details can be found here: <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200916b.shtml?fbclid=IwAR0qHaSAAO1-j0TYBJ4OnvZfH6qDLv7gyHuIVCLs4ZbQ-hO1PqRHkgUnWio>.

- Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi reminds residents that Vote-by-Mail ballots are being mailed to registered voters on a town-by-town basis. The mailings began on September 15 and will be completed on or before October 5. Additional details can be found here: <https://ucnj.org/press-releases/public-info/2020/09/18/union-county-clerk-updates-residents-on-vote-by-mail/>. There are currently nine ballot drop-off boxes in Union County, including one at the Fraser Building at 300 North Avenue in Westfield. Over the coming weeks, an additional 13 locations will be announced. Each drop-off box has been placed in a secure location that is under constant surveillance. The drop-off boxes are accessible only by Board of Elections staff and are emptied daily by a bipartisan team. For a full list of drop-off boxes, visit <https://ucnj.org/press-releases/public-info/2020/09/18/union-county-board-of-elections-announces-two-more-ballot-drop-off-box-locations>.

LOCAL UPDATES

- First and foremost, I'd like to once again extend my thanks to The Westfield Public Schools and Regional Health Director Megan Avallone for their extensive work to protect the school community. The Council absolutely stands behind their decision to implement two weeks of all-remote learning at Westfield High School in the interest of public health. As you may have seen from Dr. Dolan's note this afternoon, we now have an additional confirmed case at the high school (not yet reflected in the Town's official case count), in addition to dozens of other WHS students who self-reported direct exposure to COVID-positive individuals. Please remember that community spread is something to take seriously and can be easily stemmed by common sense precautions. I'd also remind everyone of the importance of providing fulsome information to contact tracers, who are public health professionals working tirelessly on our behalf, in order to help them determine the degree and sources of community spread.
- I'd also like to clarify some misinformation about the upcoming installation of bike lanes that has caused understandable concern for some residents on Prospect Street. We will be installing a permanent shared bike lane on Prospect Street, between Dudley and East Broad Street as part of the implementation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan that was conducted last year. This shared lane is already permissible on Prospect, in an area where parking is currently not allowed, and we will merely be adding signage and some street markings to make this usage more clear for the safety of motorists and cyclists. There will not be any parking restrictions as a result of this plan. There is also a temporary pop-up bike lane being considered to support the DWC's "Foodie Stroll" on Sunday, October 4, on the upper part of Prospect Street, (between Lincoln Road and Dudley). It is not intended to be permanent but simply to support this specific event, and would only be done with the full knowledge and collaboration of the affected residents. The Green Team is leading this initiative and will be reaching out to them to share specifics and get their input.
- Last chance to swim at Memorial Pool! The pool season, which was extended this year after a delayed start due to COVID restrictions, will end on Sunday. I would like to thank the staff of the pool, led by Heather Re-Ferratti, who did an amazing job under very difficult and evolving circumstances, to deliver a safe and wonderful summer experience to the community. This year was actually the 50th anniversary of Memorial Pool, and although we weren't able to celebrate in the way we had planned, we will make sure to properly recognize this milestone next summer under what are hopefully more normal conditions.
- Thank you to the Lifelong Westfield team for organizing the Milestone Awards as part of the Westfield 300 celebration. After many amazing submissions, we held a Zoom call yesterday with the incredible winners and runners up. I hope you'll take the time to read more about each of these residents on our website: <http://bit.ly/W300MilestoneAwards>.
 - Oldest Resident: Silveo Colletti (101 years old)
 - Highest Number of Generations Living Consecutively in Westfield: Laura Glasser-Baker (6 generations) and Jeff Peterson (6 generations)
 - Most Years Married: Silveo and Verna Colletti (73 years)
 - Most Children Raised in Westfield: Elizabeth Avis (10 children)
 - Most Grandchildren Living In Westfield: Jerry and Linda McCabe (5 grandchildren)

- Oldest Running Car: Kelly Hutcheson (1964 Ford Mustang)
 - Oldest Dog: Carole Peyton (Kelly, 17 years old) and Charles Rada (Angel, 17 years old)
 - Oldest Cat: Nancy Welch (Toby, 14 years old)
 - Oldest Westfield High School Graduate: Nancy B Welch (WHS Class of 1941)
 - Oldest Business in Westfield: The Westfield Leader (130 years)
 - Westfield War Veterans: John “Chick” Miller (World War II), Robert Lewis (World War II), Silveo Colletti (World War II), and Phyllis Pecka (World War II)
- Speaking of Westfield 300, our Time Capsule Survey is still open! If you haven’t already done so, please help us capture residents’ recollections of this notable year and predictions for the next 100 years, which will be included in the capsule when it is buried in October.
<https://www.westfieldnj.gov/300timecapsule>.
 - Please take a moment to remember that today is National POW/MIA RecognitionDay, which the Town Council formally recognized by resolution at our September 8 meeting. As many of you know, my dad is one of those MIA servicemen, and I am proud to honor all those who are gone but not forgotten.

Finally, on this first night of Rosh Hashanah, L’shana tova to all who celebrate. Wishing you a sweet new year and a meaningful holiday.