



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update November 3, 2020



CONFIRMED CASES

- Today, there are 242,825 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey to date, with another 550 still under investigation. Union County has reported 21,020 cases in total, with Westfield reporting six new cases since my last update on Friday (two on Saturday, one on Sunday, one on Monday, and two today).
- In addition to the two members of the Westfield Police Department and two Public Works employees whose positive tests I reported last week, I'd also like to notify the community that one of our Court employees has also tested positive. As a result, all Court employees are currently quarantining and this week's proceedings have been cancelled.
- For a more detailed breakdown of statewide numbers, visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

STATE AND COUNTY UPDATES

- Governor Murphy signed an Executive Order providing mandatory health and safety standards to help protect all New Jersey workers during the pandemic, effective November 5. Full details can be found at www.covid19.nj.gov/pages/safetystandards.
- The Union County Commissioners will bring the COVID-19 Mobile Test Unit to Tamaques Park on Thursday, November 5 from 2:00-5:00PM for saliva testing. No appointment is required, and results are provided within 72 hours. For additional details, visit www.ucnj.org/walkup.

LOCAL UPDATE

- Our online volunteer application portal is now open for 2021 appointments to boards, commissions, and Mayor's advisory councils, which can be found at westfieldnj.gov/volunteer. This is the third year we've made this process available online in order to provide broad community access to these opportunities. As always, there is a lot of work to be done, and I remain grateful to our tireless volunteers to lend their time and talent to the community. The deadline for applications is November 20.
- Leaf collection began yesterday and, as always, the DPW will complete several passes in each area. Please make sure you are not including any other organic debris in your leaf pile -- including branches, twigs, grass, mums, or pumpkins -- as they cannot be accepted. In fact, this year, we've introduced a pumpkin drop-off program at the Conservation Center in partnership with the County and Waste Management, to convert pumpkin waste into green energy. This program is open through November 6, no permit required. The Town is also providing up to ten free leaf collection bags per household at the Center. For more information about leaf collection, including the pick up crews' daily locations, visit westfieldnj.gov/leafcollection.

- Join Town Planner Don Sammet and me on Thursday morning at 10:30 for a Facebook Live discussion about redevelopment. We'll talk about the recent designations by the Town Council of areas in need of redevelopment and an area in need of rehabilitation, as well as the recently introduced ordinance for a downtown redevelopment plan. We are extremely fortunate to have Don and his expertise on board as we navigate this process to reimagine the future of Downtown Westfield in a post-pandemic environment. We will also be taking questions from residents, which can be submitted at westfieldnj.gov/FBLive.
- Thanks to everyone for making Halloween a safe and enjoyable experience for the community this year under tough circumstances. I was thrilled to hear many reports from residents about safety guidelines being followed, and what a great day the kids had throughout Town. With all of the upcoming school holidays in the coming weeks, please remember to do your part by wearing face coverings, keeping gatherings small and outdoors, and practicing social distancing.
- Finally, on this Election Day, we still had 33% of Westfield's ballots unreturned as of this morning. Please remember you have until 8:00 tonight to hand it in at your polling location or to drop it off at the ballot drop box at 300 North Ave East. If you don't have a ballot, you can request a provisional ballot at your polling location. Please take the time to ensure your vote is cast and your voice is heard.

I know that this election can feel extremely divisive. Please remember that we are all neighbors and part of a community, even in the face of extreme differences of political opinions. I want to close by sharing a link I posted earlier today for those who may have missed it. This video was created by the Westfield Clergy Association to remind us that our commonalities are greater than our differences, and is a wonderful expression of unity for these challenging times. Please take a few minutes to view it at <https://bit.ly/2TO0sUp>.