



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update November 6, 2020



Today, there are 236,523 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey to date, with another 522 still under investigation. Union County has reported 20,413 cases in total, with Westfield reporting three new cases through the state reporting system since my last update on Tuesday (one on Wednesday, one on Thursday, and one today).

As previously announced, I will be using Friday updates strictly for the purposes of reporting weekly data from the Department of Health, with my more expansive updates to continue every Tuesday going forward.

From October 30 - November 5, there were eight cases of COVID-19 reported in Westfield in our official case count. However, the total number of cases received by the Health Department for investigation over the same time period was 28. As a reminder, this disparity is primarily due to the fact that rapid tests results are not able to be reported through the State system, so are not reflected in the numbers reported to our Police Chief, which is what I receive. Our Regional Health Department receives rapid test results from local health providers, which is why their numbers are higher.

This week, the Health Department reports that the ages of the 28 cases they received are as follows: 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 (two cases), 24, 27, 34, 36, 39, 41, 43 (two cases), 45 (two cases), 46, 47, 51, 58 (three cases), 61, 65, 67 (two cases), and 83.

Of these cases:

- Seven had a known exposure
- Five were school-aged children (three of which were associated with high school sports)
- Five remain under investigation
- Five were associated with household contacts
- Two were unable to be reached
- Two had no known exposure
- One was associated with travel
- One was uncooperative

Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone notes that the total number of school cases is higher through self-reporting to the Westfield Public Schools, but only five have been officially reported via lab results to the Health Department to date.

As always, I implore everyone to continue to wear face coverings, maintain social distancing, and avoid indoor gatherings in order to help stem the spread of the virus. I know this is difficult to sustain as the months continue, but the fact remains that these are the only measures of prevention we have right now.

Thank you for continuing to do your part.