



## Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update December 11, 2020



The Department of Health reports 92 new cases of COVID-19 in Westfield from December 4 - 10. Of these cases:

- 27 had a positive household contact
- 22 remain under investigation
- 10 were unable to be reached
- 9 had no known exposure
- 6 had known exposure
- 5 were associated with non-household family members
- 3 were associated with youth sports
- 2 were associated with long term care
- 2 were exposed by a friend
- 2 were exposed at work
- 1 was associated with travel associated
- 1 refused the interview
- 1 was exposed while away at college
- 1 was hospitalized (83 year-old)

The ages of these cases ranged from 2 to 90, broken down as follows:

- Age 9 and under: 4 cases
- Age 10-19: 12 cases
- Age 20-29: 19 cases
- Age 30-39: 12 cases
- Age 40-49: 17 cases
- Age 50-59: 17 cases
- Age 60-69: 5 cases
- Age 70-79: 2 cases
- Age 80-89: 3 cases
- Age 90 and above: 1 case

As a reminder, I am continuing to use my Friday updates strictly for the purposes of COVID data, with my more expansive updates to be posted every Tuesday. I am now only reporting the Health Department's COVID numbers, inclusive of rapid tests, as they are a more accurate reflection of community spread. Details on the official statewide numbers, which do not include rapid tests, can always be found on the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone reports that the State Regional Map stayed the same this week, with the entire state in high level (orange zone). Megan's team continues to work towards finalizing a vaccination plan with Union County, noting that the initial vaccinations for healthcare workers could potentially begin in the coming days.

The State's seven-day average for new cases is 13% higher than a week ago, and 87% higher than a month ago. Today, statewide hospitalizations increased for the fifth consecutive day and are at nearly double the amount from a month ago. The rate of transmission in New Jersey has increased for five consecutive days, and the most recent reported positivity rate was 9.95%.

On Wednesday, Governor Murphy revealed two pairs of moderate-case and worst-case scenarios for the second wave of COVID. The moderate forecasts, which assume increased masking and social distancing, as well as avoiding holiday gatherings, call for New Jersey to hit between 6,300 and 9,100 daily cases and between 5,700 and 7,100 patients hospitalized over the next two months. The worst-case models, which assume no change in behavior with respect to wearing masks, social distancing, and holiday gatherings, show the potential for around 8,700 COVID hospitalizations by mid-January or early February -- surpassing the 8,300 hospitalizations during the first wave peak in April.

The decisions that each of us makes in the coming weeks with respect to public health guidelines can have a significant impact on the trajectory of this second wave. I can't stress enough how important it is for everyone to do their part to protect the community and help avoid further strain on the health care system.

Thank you for continuing to look out for one another.