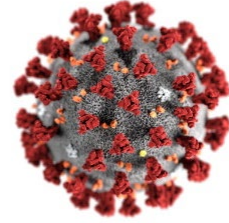




Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update February 19, 2021



The Department of Health reports 59 new cases of COVID-19 in Westfield from February 12-18. Of these cases:

- 15 had no known exposure
- 13 were unable to be reached
- 11 had a positive household contact
- 8 remain under investigation
- 5 had a known exposure
- 3 were hospitalized (ages 72, 67 & 65)
- 2 refused to be interviewed
- 1 was associated with work

The ages of this week's cases ranged from under 1 to 85 years old, broken down as follows:

- Age 9 and under: 6 cases
- Age 10-19: 14 cases
- Age 20-29: 7 cases
- Age 30-39: 7 cases
- Age 40-49: 5 cases
- Age 50-59: 7 cases
- Age 60-69: 7 cases
- Age 70-79: 3 cases
- Age 80-89: 2 cases
- Age 90 and above: no cases
- Age unconfirmed: 1 case

Sadly, I must report another fatality -- an 81 year-old male, bringing Westfield's total number of COVID deaths to 53.

Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone reports that COVID activity is declining statewide, and Westfield is categorized in the moderate activity level. The most highly impacted age group here remains between 10 and 19 once again, representing 24% of the newly reported cases.

The State's seven-day average for new confirmed cases is down 19% from a week ago and down 47% from a month ago, and New Jersey's COVID-related hospitalizations fell for the 16th straight day -- now at their lowest level since November 15. The rate of transmission was .91, and the positivity rate for tests conducted on Monday, the most recent day available, was 7.58%

In the past week, New Jersey averaged 49,400 vaccinations a day, representing an increase of 5% from the previous week. The state has fully vaccinated 4.9% of the population, and 12.4% of our population has received one dose. In Union County, 9.6% of the population has received their first dose of vaccine and 3.9% has received their second dose.

Please continue to take all COVID-related precautions so we can collectively drive case numbers down even further as more of the population is vaccinated each day. Although it may not feel like it with all of our recent snow, there is more winter behind us than ahead of us, and I look forward to some milder weather and better days ahead in our not too distant future. Thank you all once again for all that you do to look out for one another.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend!