

Lake County Updates

- As of yesterday afternoon, 1,721 Lake County residents have tested positive for COVID-19, and we have had 65 deaths.
- The State has reported 24,593 cases and 948 deaths in Illinois due to COVID-19, and over 116,926 people have been tested.
- We know the number of cases is not representative of all who are infected, as testing availability continues to be extremely limited.
- The Health Department is also investigating 24 long-term care facilities in our county that have at least 2 cases. These facilities have a combined total of 302 cases.
- **Lake County is officially launching its public education campaign ‘Stay Home, Save Lives’ today**, to encourage community members to share accurate information and to work together to keep everyone safe.
 - The campaign toolkit is available at <https://www.lakecountyl.gov/4431/Stay-Home-Save-Lives-Toolkit> and includes Social Media Messaging and Graphics, Public Service Announcements, Videos, and printable resources in both Spanish and English.
 - Businesses and organizations interested in participating in the campaign are asked to fill out a survey, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPVYVJL> to receive campaign updates.
- Lake County continues to add information to its **Coronavirus Data Hub**, the centralized place to find data related to COVID-19 in Lake County, available at lakecountyl.gov/COVID19data.
 - The hub includes the number of cases and deaths in Lake County and in the State of Illinois, an interactive map of COVID-19 cases by municipality, demographic breakdowns of cases, and charts showing trends in cases and deaths over time. An additional dashboard includes Lake County census data.
- **These next few weeks are critical** in preventing the spread of COVID-19 through social distancing and following the governor’s stay-at-home order.
 - Stay home unless it is necessary to leave.
 - If you do need to go out, follow the social distancing guidelines – that is 6 feet between yourself and others, and wear a face covering.
 - Frequently wash your hands
 - Cover your coughs and sneezes
 - And the most obvious, stay home and isolate yourself from others in your household if you are sick.
- Recent studies show that a significant portion of people who are infected with the novel coronavirus do not have symptoms (“asymptomatic”). Some people who are infected will

develop symptoms later (“pre-symptomatic”). Both asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic people can transmit the virus to others in close proximity when they talk, sneeze, or cough.

- Because of this, **the CDC recommends that people wear a cloth face covering** to cover their nose and mouth when visiting public places such as grocery stores and pharmacies, where proper social distancing is difficult to maintain.
- Information on how to wear and care for cloth face coverings, including DIY instructions for creating them from common household items are available on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.
- The purpose of cloth face coverings is to protect people around you if *you* are infected but do not have symptoms. If you wear one, please continue following social distancing guidelines, frequently wash your hands, and avoid touching your face.
- Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, which are currently in short supply. Please save those critical supplies for healthcare workers and first responders.
- Many people are facing layoffs and financial challenges during this time. We wanted to highlight a few options for assistance.
 - The IRS has begun distributing **Economic Impact Payments** this week, which will be up to \$1200-\$2400, with an additional \$500 for qualifying children. People who filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019 do not need to take any action. The IRS launched an online portal for those who don’t normally file a tax return so people can register to receive a payment. Please share this information with your networks, as some low-income people who are not required to file a federal tax return will need this financial support the most. <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here>
 - To protect the payments, Governor Pritzker announced Tuesday he is **suspending laws that permit the service of a garnishment summons, wage deduction summons, or a citation to discover assets as part of consumer debt collection proceedings**. This step protects the use of the stimulus money for food, shelter, and transportation as it was intended. <https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/Executive-Orders/ExecutiveOrder2020-25.aspx>
 - **SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) has been expanded**. Those currently receiving this benefit will receive the maximum benefit amount which will be automatically deposited onto their Link card.
 - Additionally, people who are low income may be eligible for **Medicaid**. People who are eligible can enroll in Medicaid at any time.
 - You can enroll in SNAP and Medicaid at ABE.Illinois.gov. Even if someone is unsure if they would be eligible, there is a tool on the website called “Check if I should apply.”

- Also, if someone loses their insurance because they lost their job, they are eligible for a special enrollment period for health insurance. They can explore their options at healthcare.gov.
- Tide Cleaners in Buffalo Grove and Libertyville are providing **free laundry and dry cleaning services to immediate family of local first responders** until May 9. More information is available at this website - <https://hope.tidecleaners.com/>
- The Illinois Department of Public Health issued new guidance recommending discontinuing the use of any imported KN95 respirators for procedures that require the use of an N95 or similar respirator unless their authenticity and performance (through fit testing) can be verified.
 - KN95 masks from China may not meet performance standards
 - Counterfeit KN95 masks are reportedly flooding the marketplace
 - Illinois has distributed KN95 masks throughout the state
- **As a reminder, these conference calls are now held on Thursdays only.**
 - Please use our online form to submit your questions in advance.
 - Submissions need to be received by Tuesday at noon to be considered for the call. We will try to address as many questions as possible but will prioritize the top questions and those that pertain to the Lake County Health Department's response to the pandemic.
 - Form to submit questions: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6XYKQHJ>
 - All recordings, talking points, and chat files from the calls are now on their own page on our website, <https://www.lakecountyl.gov/4428/Conference-Calls>.

Policy

- The 2020 Census is happening now. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail. Citizenship information is not collected. <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html>
- The State of Illinois has extended the Stay at Home Order and disaster declaration, and schools and non-essential businesses will remain closed through April 30.
- The \$2.2 trillion coronavirus stimulus package, called the CARES Act, was passed into law. Among its many provisions, it will provide direct stimulus payments to individuals and families. Information will be available from the IRS. <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>

Businesses

- Governor J.B. Pritzker announced emergency expansion of **Illinois Workers' Compensation Act**. It allows first responders and front line workers who are injured or suffer periods of incapacity from exposure to COVID-19 during the state of emergency to have the presumption that the exposure arose out of and in the course of their employment.

- Normally, there is a requirement to prove that illness or injury is proven to be related to someone's duties. This executive order automatically presumes someone is telling the truth so they can receive workers compensation benefits.
- First responder or front line workers include police, fire personnel, health care providers engaged in patient care, correction officers, and essential workers as defined by previous executive order, such as grocery workers and essential trades.
- https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/iwcc/news/Documents/13APR20-Emergency_Amendment_Only-50IAC9030_70.pdf
- If you or your business have access to PPE, please consider making a donation. Surgical, earloop and N-95 masks, gowns, gloves, eye protection, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer and forehead thermometers are among the most needed supplies. All items should be in the manufacturer's original packaging and unopened.
 - Donations of PPE in small amounts that can be transported in a personal vehicle can be coordinated with Rebecca Kumar, Lake County Emergency Management Specialist, RKumar@lakecountyil.gov.
 - Large donations can be made through the State of Illinois website: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/serve/Disaster/Pages/COVID-19-PPE-Donations.aspx>
- As a reminder, there are a number of programs currently being offered through the Small Business Administration.
 - Lake County release on the availability of low interest loans: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/bulletins/28230fa>
 - The SBA COVID resource page: <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>
 - The SBA COVID Funding Relief Options page: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options>
 - There is local assistance available – the SBA site has a local assistance directory to assist business owners with finding their nearest branch office for outreach and additional assistance: <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance>
- The US Department of Labor issued guidance explaining paid sick leave and expanded family medical leave. Posters are available to be posted at workplaces to explain new employee rights. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20200326>
- One-time grants for artists and art organizations are available through the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund at ArtsforIllinois.org
- The \$2.2 trillion coronavirus stimulus package, called the CARES Act, was passed into law. It includes several types of loans and programs to help businesses. The U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship put together a Guide to the CARES Act to assist businesses

in understanding the new law and how it can help.

<https://www.sbc.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/guide-to-the-cares-act>

- Loan applications for the Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund are available on the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity website
<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/SmallBizAssistance/Pages/EmergencySBAIntiatives.aspx>
- The state launched *Illinois Helps*, an emergency response system to manage volunteer healthcare providers. Governor Pritzker has urged anyone in the medical field to register.
<https://illinoishelps.net/>

Municipalities

- Local governments or special districts are considered eligible for FEMA public assistance, a cost share reimbursement program if you have or may have at least \$3,300 in eligible uninsured Emergency Protective Measure costs.
 - Document that outlines what types of costs may be reimbursed as part of the program, which can be emergency medical care, distribution of supplies, communications of health and safety information, and overtime costs:
https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/ILLAKE/2020/03/31/file_attachments/1415676/Attachment%20%20-%20COVID-19%20Eligible%20Emergency%20Protective%20Measures.pdf
 - The Lake County Emergency Management website provides more information on how to apply. <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/bulletins/2863a03>
https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/ILLAKE/2020/03/31/file_attachments/1415985/Simplified%20Guidance%20on%20PA%20Application.pdf
- To find out more about health insurance options, visit GetCoveredIllinois.Gov.
- Residents can apply for public benefit programs including healthcare (Medicaid), food (SNAP), and cash assistance at ABE, the state's Application for Benefits Eligibility. Paper applications are still accepted and can be mailed or faxed to DHS Family and Community Resource Centers. The state also launched the IDHS *Help is Here* toll-free line at 1-833-2-FIND-HELP to assist with public benefit applications. <https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/>
- The state launched *Illinois Helps*, an emergency response system to manage volunteer healthcare providers. Governor Pritzker has urged anyone in the medical field to register.
<https://illinoishelps.net/>
- The state has extended the income tax filing and payment deadline by three months, from April 15 to July 15.
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/coronavirus/Resources/Pages/EconomicAssistance.aspx>

- Driver's license expirations, id cards, vehicle registrations, and other document filings have been given a 30-day extension <https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/home.html>.
- The Real ID enforcement deadline has been pushed back to October 1, 2021. Residents can delay getting this new form of identification. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/03/26/acting-secretary-chad-wolf-statement-real-id-enforcement-deadline>

Faith

- United Way is coordinating volunteer opportunities during COVID-19. Help is requested to assist with grocery shopping and delivery, preparation of meals and food boxes, and there is a shortage of blood donations. The Lake County Health Department is also looking for medical volunteers to help staff alternative care sites. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHlujrAxtmB21jNjy1cZ3jbr31k-LFbkjguB7fKncQpAymA/viewform>
- Community organizations have also requested donations of sewn cloth face coverings to distribute to vulnerable populations. Those who are willing to make and donate masks can find details on the United Way of Lake County's [COVID-19 Volunteer Opportunities page](#). [English and Spanish instructions for making cloth masks are available on the Health Department and CDC websites.](#)

Supplemental Community Resources Information

- 211: If anyone in your community needs assistance finding food, shelter, rent or utility assistance, or other essential services, CALL 211 or TEXT your zip code to 898211 to speak with someone who can help. 211 is available 24/7. <https://211lakecounty.org/>
- To get general information about coronavirus via text message, text "COVID19" to 211211.
- In Lake County, philanthropic opportunities also exist to help people during this challenging time.
 - Mano a Mano has launched a **COVID-19 Tanda Emergency Fund** which will help immigrant families directly, who are often excluded from government benefits. Learn more or donate at their website: <https://mamfrc.org/page-18194>
 - United Way of Lake County, Lake County Government, Lake County Community Foundation, and the Lake County Municipal League have joined together to create the **Lake County COVID-19 Community Response Fund**. <https://www.liveunitedlakecounty.org/covid19/>
- Rental evictions have been suspended nationwide.
- There is a 60-day moratorium for all evictions and foreclosures on FHA, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac-insured properties

April 16, 2020

- The Illinois Commerce Commission suspended disconnections for all electric, natural gas, water and wastewater services. Late fees will be waived until May 1 or when the crisis is deemed to have passed.
- State-level unemployment benefits have been expanded.
- Individuals co-quarantined or isolated with an abuser can contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline 1800-799-7233, or the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline at: 1-877-TO END DV or 877-863-6338 (Voice), 1-877-863-6339 (TTY), Chat at thehotline.org.
- Many providers and programs are offering free or low cost internet <https://www.digitalinclusion.org/free-low-cost-internet-plans/>.

Questions from the Community

What is the likelihood Lake County will need to build a temporary facility like McCormick place? Have spaces already been identified?

There has been an Alternative Care Site team in place for several weeks now who have been planning and preparing for a temporary facility, should the need arise. The PHEOC is in close contact with Lake County hospitals every day to monitor the needs they have.

Seeking general clarification / update on the property tax implications of COVID-19 and any decisions made by the county which would impact school districts.

The Lake County Board discussed property tax relief options during the Finance & Administration Meeting on Thursday, April 16. The audio file for that meeting will be available online starting tomorrow: www.lakecountyil.gov and the meeting will also air on Channels 18 & 30 on Comcast/99 on U-Verse throughout the month.

We are looking at doing Drive In church services, where parishioners remain in their cars while the pastor teaches in view of the congregation and while they listen through their FM car radios. What rules would you have us follow?

Under the Governor's Stay at Home order, gatherings are not encouraged at this time. If you want to organize something where people stay in their cars, so people are staying 6 feet apart at all times, that technically is allowable, but please consider that people gathering in a parking lot may want to get out of their cars and socialize. Therefore, we do not recommend hosting such gatherings.

The City of Chicago is requiring healthcare providers to report demographic information. Is Lake County tracking demographic information here in Lake County/Waukegan?

We do track demographic information. This information is available on our Coronavirus data hub, which is being expanded as more information becomes available. <https://covid19response-lakecountyil.hub.arcgis.com/>

The CDC has recommended that individuals wear face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain such as grocery stores. Is there value from a health

perspective in mandating face coverings for all essential employees when they are in public and all customers of those establishments?

Our recommendations to businesses include having employees wear a mask or cloth face covering, make changes to store layouts, install barriers at checkouts, and other measures such as limiting customers in the store at one time to promote social distancing. The Health Department does not have authority to require businesses or customers to use face masks.

https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/DocumentCenter/View/33889/LCHD-Guidance-for-Worksites_20200407?bidId=

How have behavioral health services in our community been impacted during COVID-19?

- Lake County Health Department:
 - Most services are being provided by telephone or video, with a few being offered in person when absolutely necessary. All services remain open with the exception of Crisis Respite (8 beds), Women’s Residential Services (16 beds), Addictions Treatment Program (16 beds and 6 Detox beds), and the two Drop-In centers. We continue to provide all Outpatient Services and we continue to remain open for new clients in all these programs. We have seen a very good response to our telephonic and video formats for psychiatry and therapy.
 - We have not seen the demand for services greatly increasing. For example, our Child and Adolescent Behavioral Services has seen a 50 percent decrease in our crisis calls, similar to when school is out for the summer. Our Crisis Care Program reports that our adult crisis calls remain about the same when compared to pre COVID-19. Initially there was a decrease in crisis related calls and an increase in people calling wanting general information about COVID-19, until this week when we began receiving contacts through the state’s new Call4Calm program and the numbers have increased again.
 - In early April we implemented a Substance Use Disorder component to the Crisis Care Program and have fielded 51 calls.

At least 2 news agencies have reported that several states have experienced the federal government taking their supply orders. Has the county experienced or heard anything like this?

We are not aware of this happening in Lake County.