

Lake County Updates

- As of yesterday afternoon, **Lake County has 3,430 COVID-19 cases and 123 deaths.**
- Illinois has reported 50,355 cases and 2,215 deaths in the state. Over 256,667 tests have been administered. Governor J.B. Pritzker announced last week that **models now predict that Illinois cases may peak in mid-May.**
- The Health Department is investigating **32 long-term care facilities** that have at least 2 cases. These facilities have a combined total of **566 cases and 80 deaths.**
 - The Health Department routinely communicates with all long-term care facilities in the county to assure they are following best practices to prevent COVID-19 infections.
 - In any facility with a positive COVID-19 case, the Health Department offers personal protective equipment (PPE) and a Communicable Disease investigator is in daily contact with the facility to trace contacts of infected individuals, to assist in monitoring residents and staff for respiratory symptoms, and to advise the facility on mitigation actions they need to take to prevent further spread of the virus.
 - The Illinois Department of Public Health has launched a web page listing the locations of long-term care facility outbreaks in the State. The page is updated weekly.
<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/long-term-care-facility-outbreaks-covid-19>
- Case information is updated daily on our **Coronavirus Data Hub**, www.lakecountyil.gov/COVID19data. As of this week, the hub contains long-term care facility data, a new Lake County Food Pantry Locations map, a COVID-19 Testing Sites Locator, and a chart showing the number of COVID-19 cases reported by date.
- **Governor J.B. Pritzker has announced he is extending the stay-at-home order, which is set to expire on May 30.** Effective Friday, May 1:
 - Health Care Centers can conduct elective surgeries and procedures in compliance with the guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health.
 - Greenhouses, garden centers, nurseries, and animal groomers may re-open as essential businesses, provided they maintain social distancing requirements and require employees and customers to wear face coverings.
 - Retail stores designated as non-essential businesses and operations may re-open to fulfill phone and online orders for curbside pick-up and delivery.
 - State parks will begin a phased re-opening.
 - Fishing and boating in groups of no more than two people will be allowed.
 - Golf will be permitted under strict safety guidelines.
 - Starting tomorrow, Illinois will require face coverings in public places like stores and where social distancing is not possible. This new requirement applies to all individuals over age 2 who are medically able to wear a face covering.
 - Essential businesses and manufacturers will be required to provide face-coverings to all employees not able to maintain six-feet of social distance.
 - **Several Lake County municipalities already require face coverings in public.** Highland Park, Deerfield, Mundelein, North Chicago, and Waukegan have

announced these measures. Please pay attention to your local municipality for details on requirements.

- 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> and on the Health Department's website:
<https://www.lakecountyil.gov/4412/Information-for-Specific-Groups>
- **The State of Illinois will be opening a Community-Based Testing Site in Waukegan (2161 Northwestern Avenue, Waukegan.) starting Sunday, May 3.** The site will be open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. or until 500 test kits are completed for the day. The Illinois National Guard will be administering the tests, and results are provided by phone in 4-7 days. Testing is free. Please make sure you are subscribed to receive Health Department updates at <http://bit.ly/lccovid-19>.
- The site will follow the **new Illinois Department of Public Health testing criteria. Anyone with COVID-19-like illness or symptoms can be tested for COVID-19, even without a doctor's order.** Testing is now available for people who:
 - Have COVID-19 symptoms (cough, shortness of breath and fever) OR
 - Have a risk factor, such as
 - Contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19
 - A compromised immune system or a serious chronic medical condition
 - Testing is also available for those with or without symptoms who:
 - Work in a health care facility
 - Work in correctional facilities, such as jails or prisons
 - Serve as first responders, such as paramedics, emergency medical technicians, law enforcement officers or firefighters
 - Support critical infrastructure, such as workers in grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants, gas stations, public utilities, factories, childcare and sanitation.
 - While the State's testing criteria is easing, **individual providers and testing sites may have limited availability of tests or different criteria** for testing if they are using a private lab. Please contact your healthcare provider for information.
- We have received increasing questions about **types of testing** offered in Lake County. There are two main types available to Lake County clinicians.
 - **Molecular Testing** is used to detect active infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This test uses a sample taken from the nose and/or throat. Results are generally available in hours to several days, and some rapid tests are available with results available within an hour. Molecular tests may not detect if you were infected in the past, and also may not detect the virus in the early stages of the incubation period, before symptoms develop.
 - **Serology (Antibody) Testing** uses a blood sample to detect antibodies to SARS-CoV-2. A positive test result may indicate that person was previously infected with the virus. The test cannot be used to detect or diagnose active COVID-19 infection. It also can't tell you

if you are protected from infection, or your length of protection. The test may also detect other coronaviruses that do not cause COVID-19.

- When it comes to testing, **the Health Department's priority is expanding capacity for molecular testing** to identify residents who are currently infected so we can help prevent further spread of the virus. The Health Department is also reviewing new testing methods that are becoming available to identify those that have been scientifically validated.
- Our **Stay Home, Save Lives** campaign continues. Please share the Health Department's content via email newsletters, your website, and social media. For the full toolkit, visit our website, <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4431/Stay-Home-Save-Lives-Toolkit>. If your business or organization wants to participate, please contact Danielle Ryan at dryan@lakecountyiil.gov.
- The State is taking the lead on coordinating and opening alternate care sites in Illinois. Should the need arise, **Lake County has developed a plan for an alternate care site**, which is currently being reviewed by the State. At this time, Lake County hospitals have not requested an alternate care site because there is currently enough space in hospitals to care for patients.
- **Bookmark www.lakecountyiil.gov/coronavirus** for all local updates from the Lake County Health Department.
- **Reminder: These conference calls are held every Thursday.**
 - The key points, chat files, and audio recordings are posted to the Health Department's website. <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4428/Conference-Calls>
 - Don't forget to submit your questions by noon on Tuesdays. Form to submit questions: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6XYKQHJ>
 - Please encourage others to join the calls so we can keep the community informed.

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>
- People who receive **Social Security Income** benefits and also have children need to submit their information to the IRS to receive their full stimulus payment. <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>
- **We previously reported a new policy to assure essential employees access to workers compensation for those with COVID-19. A judge has ruled to block this policy through a temporary order due to a lawsuit.**
- The federal CARES act suspended monthly payments, interest, and involuntary collection of **student loans** from federal borrowers. Illinois announced that it is expanding upon this by providing relief to Illinoisans with commercially-owned Federal Family Education Program loans of privately held students loans that are struggling to make payments.

- Borrowers can access relief options like 90 days of forbearance, waiving fees, ensuring no negative credit reporting, ceasing debt collection lawsuits, and income-based repayment.
- Students must contact their student loan servicer to identify options appropriate to their situation.
- Illinois has been approved for the **Pandemic EBT program**, which will provide SNAP households in Illinois with roughly \$112 million in additional nutrition benefits for their children. These will be distributed automatically onto link cards. For households that do not receive SNAP benefits, but are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, a simplified application will be available soon on ABE.illinois.gov.

Businesses

- **Congress** passed a **\$484 billion dollar relief package** to provide funding for small businesses that are suffering during the COVID-19 crisis. More than \$320 billion is reserved for the Paycheck Protection Program, which provides forgivable loans to small businesses. **The Paycheck Protection Program reopened on Tuesday. There were reports in the news of the website crashing on the first day it reopened, so businesses may have continued challenges in accessing this program.** Further program information, and copies of required forms for application are located on the [Small Business Administration website](#).
- In cooperation with Lake County Partners, the Village of Gurnee and Village of Libertyville has compiled a **Readiness for Reopening guide** with a list of suppliers of items such as masks, gloves, sanitizer, and disinfecting supplies for businesses preparing to reopen. Find this and other **COVID-19 Informational Resources** on the Lake County Partners website, <https://www.lakecountypartners.com/>. Any companies that would like to be added should contact Barbara Prusila, Lake County Partners, bprusila@lakecountypartners.com.
- **The Health Department is working closely with the Office of the Attorney General to address workplace complaints around social distancing.** Anyone who is concerned about safety in their workplace because their employer is not following social distancing guidelines can contact the OAG Workplace Rights Bureau at (844) 740-5076 or through email workplacerrights@atg.state.il.us to file a complaint.
- **The Health Department continues to update its guidance** for essential businesses in both English and Spanish. <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/4412/Information-for-Specific-Groups>
- Applications for **one-time grants for artists and art organizations** through the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund are **temporarily closed** to allow time for processing communication and additional fundraising. The application will reopen Monday, May 4 at 9:00am. ArtsforIllinois.org.
- Up to date information for the **Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund** is available on the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity website <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/SmallBizAssistance/Pages/EmergencySBAIntiatives.aspx>

- **Illinois Helps** is an emergency response system to manage volunteer healthcare providers. Governor Pritzker has urged anyone in the medical field to register. <https://illinoishelps.net/>

Municipalities

- The Office of the Attorney General Workplace Rights Bureau is using its hotline 844-740-5076 and email workplacerrights@atg.state.il.us to receive **complaints of employers failing to abide by the social distancing guidelines** specified in the Executive Order.
- As a local government or special district, you 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.
 - Lake County has a document outlining 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 has provided guidance on how to apply. https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/ILLAKE/2020/03/31/file_attachments/1415985/Simplified%20Guidance%20on%20PA%20Application.pdf
- The Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, and Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) has announced the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) providing \$100 Million in financial assistance directly to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated emergency medical service (NAEMS) organizations, and State Fire Training Academies (SFTA) for critical Personal Protective Equipment and supplies needed to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The deadline to apply is May 30.
 - [AFG Grant Information](#)
 - [Cost Calculator](#)
- Residents can apply for **public benefit programs** including healthcare (Medicaid), food (SNAP), and cash assistance at ABE, the state's Application for Benefits Eligibility. 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/>
- **Illinois Helps** is 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 from April 15 to July 15.
- All **Illinois Secretary of State offices and Driver Services facilities** are closed to the public through April 30, 2020. Expiration dates for driver's licenses, identification cards, vehicle

registrations and other transactions and document filings will be extended at least 90 days after Driver Services Facilities reopen. Online services are available.

<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-Based Organizations

- **Lake County Community Action to Counter Hunger (CATCH) is a newly formed initiative working to secure food for people who are homebound or who do not have the social support needed to access food.** The initiative is led by the Alliance for Human Services includes partners from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Lake County Community Foundation, trusted community organizations like Mano a Mano and local libraries, health and hospital systems, and non-profit food providers like Roberti House, Curt's Cafe, and Community Action Partnership.
 - CATCH is working with faith communities to do outreach to community members to help them get to existing Northern Illinois Food Bank and partner sites, and to identify the individuals who can't leave their homes (seniors, immunocompromised, disabled, COVID+) who need food delivered who don't have friends/neighbors helping them out. CATCH will work to get these individuals to determine if they need groceries, hot meals, or "meal kits" delivered during this time.
 - Faith communities can help with identifying the folks who need help and with fundraising. CATCH is entirely philanthropy-funded and donations are accepted through the Lake County Community Foundation, including grocery store gift cards. <https://www.lakecountycf.org/>
 - To get involved, please contact Barb Karacic of the Alliance for Human Services, b.karacic1340@gmail.com.
- **United Way is coordinating volunteer opportunities** during COVID-19. Among the opportunities is an urgent request for sewn cloth mask donations to be distributed to vulnerable populations. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHlujrAxtmB21jNjy1cZ3jbr31k-LFbkbjguB7fKNcQpAymA/viewform>
- We have seen an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, specifically in the LatinX and African American communities within Lake County. **We are reaching out to all faith communities in Round Lake, Zion, Beach Park, Waukegan, Park City, North Chicago, and Highwood** areas and building a database and a process for partnering with faith communities to reach the community. To provide information on your faith community, please contact Jon Ashworth JAshworth@lakecountyil.gov.

Community Resources

- The Health Department has launched a **map of active food pantries** on the Coronavirus Data Hub: www.lakecountyil.gov/COVID19data. Direct link to Food Pantry Locator

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=ef0a7c562e1848ea93acb11613ce8572>

- **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.
- Illinois has launched **Call4Calm**, a free **emotional support text line** for Illinois residents experiencing stress and mental health issues related to COVID-19. To speak with a local mental health professional, text “TALK” or “HABLAR” (for Spanish) to 552020.
- 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** which has already disbursed many grants to community organizations providing relief to residents. <https://www.liveunitedlakecounty.org/covid19/>.
- Mano a Mano has a **COVID-19 Tanda Emergency Fund** to help immigrant families directly, who are often excluded from government benefits. Learn more or donate on their website: <https://mamfrc.org/page-18194>
- **SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) benefits are expanded for April and May.** Those currently receiving this benefit should see the maximum benefit amount which will be automatically deposited onto their Link card. Apply at ABE.Illinois.gov
 - If someone needs **help filling out an application**, the Northern Illinois Food Bank has a hotline: 844-600-SNAP (7627) or email snap@northernilfoodbank.org, or visit <https://solvehungertoday.org/get-help/snap-food-stamps/>.
- **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 or GetCoveredIllinois.Gov.
 - Additionally, people with low income may be eligible for **Medicaid**. People who are eligible can enroll in Medicaid at any time.
- **Rental evictions** have been suspended nationwide and a 60-day moratorium for all **evictions and foreclosures** on FHA, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac-insured properties began on March 18.

The Illinois Commerce Commission **suspended disconnections for all electric, natural gas, water and wastewater services**. Late fees are waived. <https://www.icc.illinois.gov/home/covid-19>.

- Individuals co-quarantined or isolated with an abuser can contact the **National Domestic Violence Hotline** 1-800-799-7233, 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

Will the Health Department eventually make N95 masks available to the general public at a reasonable cost?

- The Health Department does not sell N95 masks to the public, and we do not have plans to do so in the future. Given the shortages of PPE, the CDC does not recommend the general public use N95 masks, which are critical protective equipment for healthcare workers and first responders. As of this morning, we have distributed over 800,000 PPE items to long-term care facilities, first responders, and other organizations in the county.

Does the County see realistic hope for reliable widespread public testing anytime soon?

- Molecular testing for COVID-19 is continuing to expand in Lake County, with the opening of a drive-through site in the county next week that will test 500 people per day. The tests being used at this site, as well as the tests performed at many hospital systems in Lake County, are considered reliable. We cannot predict when the shortage of testing supplies and test kits will be resolved.

What is the status of the recent Health Department inquiry into partnering restaurants with food banks and faith-based organizations?

- There were logistical concerns with the restaurant to faith-based locations idea, particularly safe storage of food.
- This initiative has evolved into the Lake County Community Action to Counter Hunger (CATCH), a newly formed initiative working to secure food for people who are homebound or who do not have the social support needed to access food. The initiative is led by the Alliance for Human Services includes partners from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Lake County Community Foundation, trusted community organizations like Mano a Mano and local libraries, health and hospital systems, and non-profit food providers like Roberti House, Curt's Cafe, and Community Action Partnership.
- To get involved, please contact Barb Karacic of the Alliance for Human Services, b.karacic1340@gmail.com.

Our church would like to have confessions by appointment. Some essential businesses are by appointment only. We would like to be in that category. Is that possible?

- The Stay at Home order limits gatherings of 10 or more people, but allows religious organizations to provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life, to its congregants and needy individuals. Many religious institutions have recommended not conducting in-person services at this time. Please consider social distancing guidelines, masking requirements, sanitizing any commonly touched surfaces, and that many people with COVID-19 do not have any symptoms and can spread the virus to others.

We have a coworking community with conference rooms, 10x20 ft. If people are 6 feet apart, do they still need to wear a mask for protection during their meeting?

- We would recommend that essential businesses that utilize your space hold meetings virtually, whenever possible. According to the new State requirements, individuals will be required to wear a face-covering or a mask when in a public place where they can't maintain a six-foot social distance. If you choose to offer your space for in-person meetings, no more than 10 people should be in the room at one time, people should stay 6 feet apart at all times and should be masked coming in and out or in any time that they might get closer than 6 feet, but can take off their masks when maintaining the proper distance. Consider additional precautions, like offering hand sanitizer, doing health screenings of people entering the building, etc.

Why does the LC Health Department not report ethnicity of COVID-19 patients?

- The Health Department is currently working to add race-ethnicity data to its Coronavirus Data Hub. This information should be available soon. Detailed breakdowns by county and by zip code are currently available on the Illinois Department of Public Health website, <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid19-statistics> - first select the county or zip code, then scroll down to see the demographic information.

The CDC has recommended to cancel or suspend all activities in parks, such as baseball due to spread of the virus and when allowed to play. "Until local public health officials have coordinated with organizers to determine if/when it is safe to participate in such activities, all should be postponed or canceled." If the Shelter in Place restrictions are lifted, will baseball be allowed or will the CDC requirements have to be followed? There are local tournaments who think the Shelter is the guide to go by not CDC. I feel this is a safety issue for kids and adults.

- We are not able to predict what guidance will be announced when the current extended order expires, and there will likely be additional intermediate phases to re-opening things like group gatherings. Organizers should prepare for modifying events and programs, and potentially cancelling or postponing of events and notify participants of this reality.