

Lake County Updates

- As of yesterday afternoon, **Lake County has 4,468 COVID-19 cases and 157 deaths.**
- Illinois has reported 68,232 cases and 2,974 deaths in the state. Over 361,000 tests have been administered.
- The Health Department is investigating **35 long-term care facilities** that have at least 2 cases. These facilities have a combined total of **713 cases and 104 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>
- This week the Health Department celebrates that **we have distributed over 1 million PPE items** to our long-term care, first responders, and other agencies in Lake County. Yesterday we received a large shipment (semi truck and 6 DOT trucks) with 36 pallets of PPE to sort and distribute.
- **You're invited to Lake County's live COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall happening this evening at 7 p.m.** Hosted by Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart, panelists will discuss the ongoing Lake County Government COVID-19 response and recovery efforts and answer residents' questions.
 - **Registration is required.** [Register to attend through this link](#)
 - Participants can ask questions when they register for the event or through the chat feature during the live town hall. Chair Hart will be joined by the following panelists who will provide updates on Lake County's response and are available to answer questions from the community:
 - Mark Pfister, Executive Director, Lake County Health Department
 - Donny Schmit, President, Lake County Municipal League
 - Kevin Considine, President and CEO, Lake County Partners
 - Andrew Tangen, Superintendent, Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission
 - **Simultaneous Spanish interpretation will be provided during the town hall.**
 - Lake County will publish a recording of the virtual town hall for those who are unable to attend.

- **This week, Governor J.B. Pritzker announced “Restore Illinois,”** a five-phase, regional plan guided by public health metrics designed to provide a framework for reopening businesses, education, and recreational activities. The state is divided into four regions, and Lake County is in the Northeast region of the state.
<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/sfc/servlet.shepherd/document/download/069t000000BadS0AAJ?operationContext=S1>
 - **The entire state is currently in phase two, flattening.** In this current phase,
 - “The rise in the rate of infection is beginning to slow and stabilize.
 - Hospitalizations and ICU bed usage continue to increase but are flattening, and hospital capacity remains stable.
 - Face coverings must always be worn when social distancing is not possible.
 - Testing capacity increases and tracing programs are put in place to contain outbreaks and limit the spread.”
 - Moving to the next phase depends on Cases and Capacity. The determination of moving from Phase 2 to Phase 3 will be driven by the COVID-19 positivity rate in each region and measures of maintaining regional hospital surge capacity. These measures include:
 - At or under a 20 percent positivity rate and increasing no more than 10 percentage points over a 14-day period, AND
 - No overall increase (i.e. stability or decrease) in hospital admissions for COVID-19-like illness for 28 days, AND
 - Available surge capacity of at least 14 percent of ICU beds, medical and surgical beds, and ventilators
 - **Regional metrics are available on the IDPH website:**
<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/restore>
 - The Public Health Emergency Operations Center is reviewing the plan and will continue to share more information with the public in the coming weeks.
- **The Illinois stay-at-home order has been extended through May 29, 2020.** Effective 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.
 - Illinois requires 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.
 - Highland Park, Deerfield, Mundelein, North Chicago, and Waukegan have their own face covering requirements. 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.lakecountyl.gov/4412/Information-for-Specific-Groups>
- **The State of Illinois opened a drive-thru Community-Based Testing Site in Waukegan (2161 Northwestern Avenue, Waukegan.) on Sunday, May 3.** The site is 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 administers the tests, and results are provided by phone in 4-7 days. Testing is free. Residents need to come with a photo ID and will be required to give a phone number. Testing is available regardless of immigration status. **Demand is high, please expect long wait times.**
- The site follows 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.
 - *Note: please bring a workplace badge/ID.*
 - 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.
- **COVID-19 testing and treatment is available to all Illinois residents regardless of immigration status, including those without insurance.** Testing and treatment do not count towards "Public Charge." The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights has a text line – text "HC4ALL" to 52886 for the latest information.
- 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.

- 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.
- **Bookmark** www.lakecountyiil.gov/coronavirus for all local updates from the Lake County Health Department. Case information is updated daily on our **Coronavirus Data Hub**, www.lakecountyiil.gov/COVID19data.
- **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>
- Anyone still waiting on **economic impact payments** can check the status of their payment on the IRS website. <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>
- 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 is now available.** The DHS flyers in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) include details on how to apply.

Businesses

- **IDPH updated its guidance for workplaces this week.**
https://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-19_WorkplaceHealth_SafetyGuidance20200505.pdf
 - This includes actions to ensure 6 feet of separation for employees and customers, handwashing and sanitizing, and facility cleaning.
 - No employees should report to work sick. As a reminder symptoms of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), including fever (100.4° or above), cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, chest tightness, extreme fatigue, loss of sense of taste or smell, diarrhea, muscle aches, or headaches.
 - If you have concerns that your employer is not allowing for safe social distancing or that it is not maintaining a safe and sanitary work environment to minimize the risk of spread of COVID-19, please contact the Workplace Rights Bureau of the Illinois Attorney General's Office at 844-740-5076 or workplacerrights@atg.state.il.us.
 - If you believe that two or more employees at your workplace have COVID-19, you are encouraged to call the Health Department at (847) 377-8020.
- **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. Up to date 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 have reopened and will remain open until May 11. 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/EmergencySBAInitiatives.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 or sanitation guidelines**.
- 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.

May 7, 2020

- 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

- **The extended Stay-at-Home Order provided clarification that engaging in the free exercise of religion is considered an 'essential' activity.** Exercise of religion must comply with Social Distancing Requirements and the limit on gatherings of more than ten people in keeping with CDC guidelines for the protection of public health. Religious organizations and houses of worship are encouraged to use online or drive-in services to protect the health and safety of their congregants. <https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/Executive-Orders/ExecutiveOrder2020-32.aspx>.
- **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 Northern Illinois Food Bank is hosting a drive-thru Pop-Up Market this Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** at Six Flags Great America. Residents who need help can pick up fresh groceries. No ID is needed. Reserve a pickup time through the My Pantry Express website by 7 p.m. on Friday, May 8. www.MyPantryExpress.org/SFGApopup
- 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>
- **A printable list of food pantries** is also available in English and Spanish on the Lake County “How to Get Help” webpage. <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/4414/How-to-Get-Help>
- **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.
- Essential Workers can find **emergency childcare options** by calling (888) 228-1146 or visiting this website - <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Pages/For-Communities.aspx>
- 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/>.

May 7, 2020

- **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](https://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

What is the protocol for reporting a positive case in the workplace to the Health Department? I recently saw the IDOL notice for local government and there it stated if we had 2 or more cases we needed to report. Would this be at one time or once we reach our second case we need to report? What is the best method to report? What exactly needs to be reported?

- This is not a reporting requirement. The language suggests that people notify the health department if they think 2 or more people currently have COVID-19 at their workplace. The Health Department is notified of every positive case in our county. We contact employers that have cases among their employees. You may call (847) 377-8020 for support.