

## Lake County Updates

- As of yesterday afternoon, **Lake County has 5,799 COVID-19 cases and 189 deaths.**
- Illinois has reported 84,698 cases and 3,792 deaths in the state. Over 489,000 tests have been administered.
- The Health Department is investigating **41 long-term care facilities** that have at least 2 cases. These facilities have a combined total of **933 cases and 121 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>
- The COVID-19 pandemic is highlighting existing health inequities in Lake County and across the nation. When accounting for the differences in age between populations, **for every white non-Hispanic person contracting COVID-19 in Lake County, four African American non-Hispanic and eight Hispanic residents are contracting the disease.** The Health Department is working with community leaders in our Latino and African American communities to develop strategies to protect those who are disproportionately affected by the pandemic.
- **On May 5, 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. The entire state is currently in Phase 2: Flattening.  
<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/sfc/servlet.shepherd/document/download/069t000000BadSOAAJ?operationContext=S1>
  - During Phase 2:
    - “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.

- 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
- **As of May 14, the Northeast region, which includes Lake County, has just reached the positivity rate benchmark of 20% to move to the next phase, with a positivity rate of 19.9%.** Other measures such as hospital admission change, ventilator availability, ICU bed availability, and Med/Surg bed availability have also been met for the region to enter phase 3. <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/restore>
- The Health Department has been analyzing our county data to see how we are doing in respect to the guidelines set forth in the Restore Illinois plan. According to IDPH data, **Lake County has the highest testing positivity rate of the Northeast region**, higher than neighboring Chicago and Cook County.
- **Infectious diseases know no boundaries.** We are a diverse county, and we are interconnected--from our health systems to our places of employment and where we shop--so we have to think about this regionally. We stand beside our neighboring counties and ask all Lake County residents to continue in their resolve to stop the spread of COVID-19. The success of our efforts depends on everyone doing their part.
- **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 **750** test kits are completed for the day. **Wait times are low in the afternoons.** You can check the live cameras at the Lake County Passage website to see current traffic on Sunset Ave. in the lane leading to the test site. <https://www.lakecountypassage.com/>
  - The Illinois National Guard administers the tests, and results are provided by phone in 4-7 days. Testing is free and available regardless of immigration status. Photo ID is recommended to keep the process moving quickly, but is not required. People being tested are required to give a name and phone number.
- The Waukegan 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

May 14, 2020

- 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.
- **COVID-19 testing and treatment is available to 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.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, we understand that many residents are experiencing added stress in their lives and may need some extra support. The Lake County Health Department’s **Crisis Care Program** has a free, confidential hotline staffed by professional counselors for those experiencing a mental health crisis or substance use issue. Services are available 24/7 to anyone. (847) 377-8088
- 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](mailto:dryan@lakecountyiil.gov).
- **Bookmark [www.lakecountyiil.gov/coronavirus](http://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](http://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

- **Unemployment insurance** is now available to independent contractors, “gig workers,” and other individuals who may have initially been denied benefits in Illinois. People can access the Pandemic Unemployment insurance application from the Illinois Department of Employment Security: [ides.illinois.gov](http://ides.illinois.gov).
- The **Lake County Board** passed several measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

May 14, 2020

- An ordinance giving Lake County property owners more time to pay each installment of their **property taxes** due to impacts of COVID-19.
  - The payments were originally due on June 8 and Sept. 8. Under the ordinance, property owners must still pay the full amount of taxes due, but may spread them over four payments on the schedule outlined below without incurring any interest penalties for late payments:
    - 50% of the first installment payment is due by June 8, 2020
    - 50% of the first installment payment is due by Aug. 7, 2020
    - 50% of the second installment payment is due by Sept. 8, 2020
    - 50% of the second installment payment is due by Nov. 9, 2020
- A **temporary ban on open burning** in unincorporated Lake County.
- A resolution establishing a **special committee** focused on supporting residents and businesses with recovery and relief utilizing COVID-19 federal funds.
  - The special committee's first meeting will be held virtually on Friday, May 15 at 8:30 am. View the agenda:  
<https://lakecounty.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=788860&GUID=10B829AE-A232-4552-9679-0536A5C9A9C9>
- The allocation of **\$2.4 million in federal funds** received by the County to nonprofit organizations in Lake County providing housing, food and utility assistance.
  - Organizations who received the funds and how much has been awarded:  
<https://lakecounty.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8270869&GUID=8411565E-4C89-466A-B45D-BF448A1A4BC2>
- Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker issued [Executive Order 2020-32](#) effective Friday, May 1 through May 29, 2020. This new order allows Illinoisans to leave their home for essential activities but otherwise requires them to stay at home or their place of residence to prevent spread of COVID-19. Individuals are required to wear a face covering in public places when they are unable to maintain a six-foot social distance, such as in stores. For more information, please visit <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/stay-at-home-faqs>.
- 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>
- If people are still waiting on economic impact payments, they 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

- The CDC provides **workplace guidance** for safety on its website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/worker-safety-support/index.html>
- The State of Illinois Department of Human Rights released an **FAQ for Businesses Concerning Use of Face-Coverings**. It discussed when face coverings are required and exceptions, reasonable accommodations, and discrimination. It is a violation of the Illinois Human Rights Act for a business to take actions or profile a person based on factors such as their race, national origin, religion, or disability. Individuals who believe they have been profiled by a place of public accommodation, such as a business, can contact the Illinois Department of Human Rights to file a discrimination charge by visiting [www.illinois.gov/dhr](http://www.illinois.gov/dhr) or by calling (312) 814-4320 or (866) 740-3953 (TTY). [https://www2.illinois.gov/dhr/Documents/IDHR\\_FAQ\\_for\\_Businesses\\_Concerning\\_Use\\_of\\_Face-Coverings\\_During\\_COVID-19\\_Ver\\_2020511b%20copy.pdf](https://www2.illinois.gov/dhr/Documents/IDHR_FAQ_for_Businesses_Concerning_Use_of_Face-Coverings_During_COVID-19_Ver_2020511b%20copy.pdf)
- The **Illinois Liquor Control Commission** has developed a COVID-19 compliance frequently asked questions guide. [https://www.lakecountypartners.com/images/uploads/ILCC\\_QA.pdf](https://www.lakecountypartners.com/images/uploads/ILCC_QA.pdf)
- Testing and contact tracing are key strategies to preventing the spread of COVID-19. **Employers are encouraged to allow employees who may have been exposed to COVID-19 to get tested to help prevent additional exposures at the workplace.** Please be accommodating if work schedules make access to testing difficult. The Communicable Disease team works closely with employers who have positive cases among employees to help identify others who may have been exposed and to provide guidance on isolation, quarantine, cleaning procedures, and more.
- **IDPH updated its guidance for workplaces** [https://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-19\\_WorkplaceHealth\\_SafetyGuidance20200505.pdf](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.

May 14, 2020

- 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](mailto: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/>.
- **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](mailto: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 now closed. There may be additional rounds of funding in the future. More information at [ArtsforIllinois.org](http://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

- On Tuesday, May 12 Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced **Fast-Track Public Infrastructure Grants** to fund local public

infrastructure projects that are ready to begin work this summer, as many local governments face lost revenues, impacting their ability to finance these projects.

- Informational webinars are available on two dates: Friday, May 15 at 10:00 a.m. and Tuesday, May 19 at 12:30 p.m.  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/CommunityServices/CommunityInfrastructure/Pages/RbuildIllinois-FastTrack.aspx>
- A guidebook and FAQ are available on the State's website:  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/CommunityServices/CommunityInfrastructure/Pages/default.aspx>
- The Office of the Attorney General Workplace Rights Bureau is using its hotline 844-740-5076 and email [workplacerrights@atg.state.il.us](mailto:workplacerrights@atg.state.il.us) to receive **complaints of employers failing to abide by the social distancing or sanitation guidelines.**
- The **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has scheduled webinars this week** to provide instruction on how to use its Grants Portal AND to provide a COVID-19 Application overview. Organizations that are planning to participate in the Public Assistance Program are strongly encouraged to attend the Application Overview Webinar. Make sure to attend a Grants Portal Applicant Webinar if you haven't done so yet.
  - Learn more about the webinars and the FEMA Public Assistance program through this link: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/bulletins/28a9cfe>
- On May 13, the **Wisconsin Supreme Court** voted 4-3 to overturn the statewide order restricting businesses from opening through May 26. Several Wisconsin counties and cities will continue to follow Safer at Home orders.
  - <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/local/wisconsin/2020/05/13/wisconsin-stay-home-order-not-over-dane-brown-counties-milwaukee-city-racine/5188700002/>
- 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. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.
- Individuals co-quarantined or isolated with an abuser can contact the **National Domestic Violence Hotline** 1-800-799-7233, or the **Illinois Domestic Violence Help Line** at: 1-877-TO END DV or 877-863-6338 (Voice), 1-877-863-6339 (TTY), Chat at [thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org).
- 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](http://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](mailto:snap@northernilfoodbank.org), or visit <https://solvehungertoday.org/get-help/snap-food-stamps/>.

May 14, 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](https://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>.
- Many providers and programs are offering **free or low cost internet** <https://www.digitalinclusion.org/free-low-cost-internet-plans/>.

### Questions from the Community

Please share any recent updates to COVID 19 county or state policy regarding swimming in local lakes, ponds and country club pools. Do you see this policy changing through the summer in any way up to Labor Day? Thank you for everything you have been doing for the Lake County residents and your answer.

- At the present time swimming pools are closed, we are waiting for direction from the State on whether pools and beaches will be open or what restrictions will be required.

Heard rumor that Covid 19 death numbers are inflated with non-Covid 19 true deaths for hospitals to gain more government funding relative to COVID 19. Death certificates may have COVID 19 listed where there was not covid 19, ex. car accident.

- In Lake County, our Coroner classifies cases based on their cause of death. People who died from a medical condition or illness who tested positive for COVID-19 are classified as a COVID-19 death. People who die in a car accident are not classified as COVID-19 deaths.
- About a month ago a media story featured a Minnesota Senator alleging that because hospitals get higher rates of reimbursements for patients who are diagnosed with COVID-19 or use ventilators, that hospitals may be motivated to inflate numbers for financial reasons.
- Hospitals and doctors do get paid more for Medicaid and Medicare patients diagnosed with COVID-19 and/or if the patients are placed on a ventilator. The higher rates of reimbursement are a provision of the CARES act and are intended to cover the cost of care and loss of business resulting from a shift in focus to treat COVID-19 cases.
- We are not aware of any evidence of fraudulent reporting in Illinois.

Will the county be giving guidance to houses of worship as to how to follow the state's Restore Illinois plan?

- We will continue to provide updates for our faith-based groups as we move through the Restore Illinois phases. Currently, our region is in Phase 2, in which religious gatherings of 10 or less are

May 14, 2020

allowed. Social distancing and face covering guidelines need to be followed. It is not until Phase 4 that we see a significant change in which gatherings of 50 or fewer are permitted.

Before we get to phase 4, are churches allowed to have drive-in worship services outside in their parking lot? Are there specific recommendations and/or restrictions to a drive-in worship service?

- Under the second stay-at-home order, the State has added exercise of religion as an essential activity, and encourages virtual or drive-in services. For safety, we would advise continuing to follow social distancing, discourage people from gathering in groups outside their cars, and sticking to only one family per car. You may want to take a look at the school graduation ceremony guidance from IDPH for some guidelines for drive-in or drive-through services. <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-ISBE-Grad-Ceremony-Guidance.pdf>

I am the wife of an immunocompromised individual, I will be travelling home from a hotspot in FL thru GA and want to be tested before I see my husband, can we open testing for individuals who may have contact, but are fearful for their spouses, or other family members?

- The State-run Community-Based Testing Site at 2161 Northwestern Ave., Waukegan will test individuals who believe they've been exposed to COVID-19 and to people in at-risk groups. You may seek testing there or contact your doctor for information on testing availability. For more information, visit <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/4435/COVID-19-Testing>.