

Lake County Updates

- As of yesterday afternoon, **Lake County has 7,913 COVID-19 cases and 262 deaths**. Over 39,702 tests have been administered.
- Illinois has reported 114,306 cases and 5,083 deaths in the state. Over 803,000 tests have been administered.
- The Health Department is investigating **51 long-term care facilities** that have at least 2 cases. These facilities have a combined total of **1,293 cases and 178 deaths**.
- **Lake County (as well as all regions in the state) will begin Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois Plan on May 29, 2020.**
 - Bars and restaurants will have the option to resume outdoor seating operations. Tables must be six feet apart and away from sidewalks.
 - All retail stores can open their doors to in-person shopping with capacity limits.
 - Manufacturing facilities, service businesses, and offices can reopen following safety guidelines.
 - All state parks will reopen in Phase 3 and indoor and outdoor tennis facilities can reopen with precautions.
 - Golf courses can allow four people per tee times and golf carts will be allowed for one person or immediate household per cart.
 - Boating and camping in groups of up to ten people will be permitted along with driving ranges, outdoor shooting ranges and paintball courses being allowed to open.
 - Gyms, health clubs and fitness studios can provide one-on-one personal training in indoor facilities and outdoor fitness classes of up to ten people.
 - Personal care services like nail salons, tattoo shops, hair salons and spas can open with safety precautions and capacity limits.
 - What remains the same
 - Telework is still encouraged when possible
 - Face coverings in public continue to be required
 - Social distancing and capacity limits stay in place
 - Plan: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/sfc/servlet.shepherd/document/download/069t000000BadSOAAJ?operationContext=S1>
 - Metrics: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/restore>
 - Toolkit: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/pages/restoreLP3.aspx>
- **The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in Lake County communities**, and with no vaccine available, the risks to public health remain, especially for our vulnerable populations. We must continue to take personal responsibility to protect ourselves and others. As restrictions ease, please continue these simple ways to reduce your risk:

- Wearing masks;
- Keeping your distance from others;
- Avoiding gatherings;
- and practicing good hand washing.
- **Lake County is one of two counties to partner with the state to pilot the Contact Tracing Collaborative**, an effort to scale up contract tracing on the local level to help control and reduce the rate of spread of COVID-19. <https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/news-item.aspx?ReleaseID=21553>
 - Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had 5 staff in our Communicable Disease program to investigate cases and perform contact tracing.
 - With the rapid increase in cases in Lake County needing investigation, we have scaled up our operations to have approximately 70 staff in this area, comprised of Health Department staff reassigned to these roles, medical students, and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers.
 - With our state grant funding and local partnerships, we are looking to add approximately 150 staff for case investigation, contact tracing, resource coordinators, and data entry.
 - Those interested applying to become a contract tracer can fill out the interest form on the IDPH website. <https://redcap.dph.illinois.gov/surveys/?s=KWKJL93TM7>
- **Lake County Special Committee on COVID-19 Recovery Update**
 - At its May 22 meeting, the Committee met to review program concepts that would assist residents and businesses with the impacts of COVID-19. The Committee provided guidance to the Lake County Staff to develop programs for funding rental assistance, small business assistance, and local food pantries.
 - The committee recommended that the following dollar amounts be directed towards the following programs:
 - \$4 million Rental Assistance
 - \$2 million Food Insecurity
 - \$10 million Small Business Assistance
 - \$2 million Lake County COVID-19 Expenses
 - These programs will be discussed in greater detail at the next Special Committee meeting on May 29 and then will move forward to the Finance and Administrative Committee on June 4. If approved, these recommendations will move to a final vote at the June 9 Lake County Board Meeting.
- **The Health Department is no longer issuing daily news releases regarding COVID-19**, except in the case of breaking news.
 - Please make sure you are signed up to receive the email newsletter (<http://bit.ly/lccovid-19> or Spanish: <https://bit.ly/lccovid-19-es>)

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- **Continue to check the Coronavirus Data Hub, www.lakecountyiil.gov/COVID19data which is updated daily** and now includes number of tests performed in Lake County, race and ethnicity data of cases and deaths, age and sex breakdowns of deaths, and more.
- For the safety of the public and the staff of the **19th Judicial Circuit, beginning Monday, June 1, all court cases in Family, Civil, Criminal, and Orders of Protection will be heard remotely through ZOOM.**
 - Whether on a tablet, smart phone, desktop or laptop, those that are due in Court can download the free ZOOM application, and then visit the [19th Judicial Circuit's website](#) and click on [Remote Hearings tab](#).
 - If you are due in Court, but do not have access to a phone or the internet, ZOOM stations have been set up in the Courthouse Law Library at 18 N. County Street in Waukegan.
- **Reminder: Conference call information is posted online.**
 - 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

- **New CDC resources are available to help states, localities, businesses and community organizations prepare for reopening.**
 - [CDC Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President's Plan for Opening America Up Again](#) summarizes CDC's initiatives, activities, and tools in support of the whole-of-government response to COVID-19. The document includes information on general and healthcare surveillance as well as previously posted guidance on infection control, contact tracing, and testing.
 - The second resource is a set of **health considerations to be used by [summer camps](#), [schools](#), [youth sports organizations](#), [institutes of higher education](#), and [restaurants and bars](#) as they plan for safe re-opening.** Considerations documents are concrete, actionable resources that focus on four categories of safeguards:
 1. promoting behaviors to reduce spread,
 2. maintaining healthy environments,
 3. maintaining healthy operations, and
 4. preparing for when someone gets sick.
- **Unemployment insurance** is 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.

- 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. Students must contact their loan servicer for details.
- 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 Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity released the **Phase 3 toolkit for businesses** with guidelines for operation. There are toolkits designed for different industry categories including manufacturing, health and fitness centers, retail, offices, restaurants and bars, outdoor recreation, recreational youth programs, personal care, among others <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/pages/restoreILP3.aspx>.
- **Illinois launched the “Get Hired Illinois” online portal to connect job seekers and employers.** <https://www2.illinois.gov/gethired/pages/default.aspx>. Also see the Job Center of Lake County website for opportunities - <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/167/Job-Center-of-Lake-County>.
- **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, and cleaning procedures.
- 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 discusses when face coverings are required and exceptions, reasonable accommodations, and discrimination.

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- 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 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
- The **Illinois Liquor Control Commission** has developed a COVID-19 compliance frequently asked questions guide. https://www.lakecountypartners.com/images/uploads/ILCC_QA.pdf
- **IDPH updated its guidance for workplaces** including actions to ensure social distancing for employees and customers, handwashing and sanitizing, and facility cleaning. https://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-19_WorkplaceHealth_SafetyGuidance20200505.pdf
- **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.
- **The Paycheck Protection Program** 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 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.
- 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 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is hosting webinars this week** to provide instruction on how to use its Grants Portal and to provide a COVID-19 Application overview. The webinars will cover the same topics as the webinars held the weeks of May 11 and 18.
 - Organizations that are planning to participate in the Public Assistance Program are strongly encouraged to participate in both webinars if they have not done so yet.
 - To learn more about the webinars and the FEMA Public Assistance program through this link: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/bulletins/28cefee>
- Lake County property owners age 65 and older who have total household incomes of \$65,000 or less are encouraged to apply for the **Senior Citizen's Assessment Freeze**.
 - This program may reduce property tax bills by freezing the property's equalized assessed value, which impacts the total tax bill. Even if you have received the exemption in past years, you must apply every year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the application deadline has been extended to Oct. 1, 2020.
 - To learn more about how to qualify, how to apply and how to get help applying, visit www.lakecountylil.gov/assessor.
- **Lake County dispersed \$2.4 million in county funds to nonprofits** for Shelter, Food, Rental Assistance, and Rapid Rehousing.
<https://lakecounty.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8270869&GUID=8411565E-4C89-466A-B45D-BF448A1A4BC2>
- The State of Illinois announced **Connected Illinois grant program** designed to assist local governments, schools, and community organizations with building broadband capacity. The \$150,000 grant opportunity will help communities close existing gaps and lay the groundwork for improved broadband access, adoption, and utilization. Grants will be provided on a competitive basis, with applications accepted through June 12th via <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities/Pages/2424-1617.aspx>.
- 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.
 - 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 to receive **complaints of employers failing to abide by the social distancing or sanitation guidelines**.
- 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](#)

- 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 CDC has a webpage dedicated to communities of faith.** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>
- **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 those 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.
- **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>.

- **United Way continues to coordinate 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-LFbkjguB7fKNCqAymA/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 faith communities** 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

- **COVID-19 testing and treatment is available to all Illinois residents, 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.
- **A Safe Place** is a local domestic violence resource for those in need: A Safe Place: 24-Hour Help Line (847) 249-4450 / Toll-Free Help Line 1-800-600-SAFE / TTY (847) 249-6557 <https://asafeplaceforhelp.org/>
 - Staff and trained volunteers offer immediate counseling and support to survivors of domestic abuse using dedicated crisis lines. Once a caller’s immediate safety is established, they are encouraged to tell their story so that their pain and fears can be validated. The caller is then assisted in exploring options available to them, including the emergency shelter.
- 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.
- Lake County’s **map of active food pantries** can be found on the Coronavirus Data Hub: www.lakecountyil.gov/COVID19data. <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.
- 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@northernifoodbank.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>.
- Many providers and programs are offering **free or low cost internet** <https://www.digitalinclusion.org/free-low-cost-internet-plans/>.

Questions from the Community

Can you please clarify, are temperature checks required for all employees and/or customers entering our business? Any information you can provide would be appreciated.

- Temperature checks and other health screening steps are **recommended for all employees**. They are not mandatory for employees or customers.

How should financial institutions proceed regarding security concerns with people coming into banks wearing masks?

- At this time, it is still safest to encourage drive-up and services by appointment.
- Please make sure your staff are trained in responding to a person they perceive as threatening in their work environment, keeping in mind that 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.