

Lake County Updates

- As of yesterday afternoon, **Lake County has 9,154 COVID-19 cases and 357 deaths**. Nearly 65,000 tests have been administered.
- Illinois has reported 134,185 cases and 6,485 deaths in the state. Over 1.2 million tests have been administered.
- The Health Department is investigating **57 long-term care facilities** that have at least 2 cases. These facilities have a combined total of **1,746 cases and 249 deaths**.
- **The Health Department is now facilitating COVID-19 testing for residents and staff of long-term care facilities**. The initiative launched June 1 and aims to identify active COVID-19 infections and collect baseline data to inform the facilities' ongoing testing plans. Facilities with current outbreaks that have not yet tested all residents and staff are being prioritized. Results from the first two facilities to participate identified three asymptomatic staff members carrying the virus, who were promptly sent home to self-isolate.
- Lake County is holding its second live **COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall** this coming Tuesday, June 23, at 7 p.m. Hosted by Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart, panelists will discuss the current COVID-19 situation, funding and relief efforts for residents and businesses, and a look ahead at what to expect in the coming weeks.
 - **Registration link:**
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HW0c1TotSym0yVgDn5_w4A
 - Chair Hart will be joined by the following panelists who will provide updates and answer questions from the community.
 - Paul Frank, Chair of the Lake County Financial and Administrative Special Committee on COVID-19 Recovery
 - Dulce Ortiz, Executive Director of Mano a Mano Family Resource Center
 - Mark Pfister, Executive Director of the Health Department
 - Donny Schmit, President of the Lake County Municipal League
 - Dr. Scott Warren, Superintendent of Lincolnshire–Prairie View School District 103
 - Demetrius Willis, Co-Chair of the African American Community Partnership Group, Lake County Health Department
 - This virtual meeting will be hosted through Zoom and simulcast in Spanish. Attendees can view and listen to the meeting through their computer, tablet, or phone. Information on how to access the meeting is sent to the email address provided upon registration.
 - If you would like to take part in this event, make sure to **register**. Lake County will publish a recording of the virtual town hall for those who are unable to attend.

- **The State remains in Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois Plan. Currently, all regions in the state are on track to move to Phase 4 on June 26.**
 - **The state is advising that the Phase 4 changes will happen gradually and not all at once.** More details are expected in the coming week.
 - **During Phase 4,** face coverings and social distancing continue to be the norm.
 - **Restrictions will continue to gradually be eased, including:**
 - **Allowing** gatherings of up to 50 people or fewer will be allowed,
 - All outdoor recreation being allowed; and
 - **Education, Childcare, and Businesses being allowed to reopen following Illinois Department of Public Health safety guidance.**
 - All schools, higher education, summer programs and childcare programs are allowed to open
 - All manufacturing is open
 - All employees may return to work, however businesses should allow accommodations for vulnerable employees
 - Bars and restaurants will be open with capacity limits
 - Personal care services and health clubs are open with capacity limits; and
 - Cinema and theaters are open with capacity limits.
 - Please make sure you are signed up for our email updates, as we will be sharing information on restrictions lifting as they are announced.
 - English: <http://bit.ly/lccovid-19>
 - Spanish: <http://bit.ly/lccovid-19-es>
 - Plan: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/sfc/servlet.shepherd/document/download/069t000000BadS0AAJ?operationContext=S1>
 - Metrics: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/restore>
 - Toolkit: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/pages/restoreLP3.aspx>
- **“Open” does not mean “over.” 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 to wear face coverings, keep 6 feet of distance from others, practice good handwashing, stay home if you are ill and contact your physician. Staying home is still the best way to protect your family and others.

- **Tomorrow is Juneteenth**, also known as Emancipation Day, commemorating the day in 1865 when the Emancipation Proclamation — the federal order ending slavery in the United States — was read to enslaved African Americans in Texas.
 - There continues to be protests and demonstrations for racial justice throughout the country, and the Health Department continues to advise that anyone who attends wear a face covering, stay 6 feet apart from others as much as possible, stay home if ill, wash your hands, and cover your coughs and sneezes.
 - IDPH also recommends anyone who has recently participated in such an event get tested for COVID-19. IDPH recommends getting tested 5-7 days after attending, or immediately if symptoms develop.
- The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Rho Tau Chapter is hosting a **Bridge Building Forum this evening from 7-9 p.m. on Zoom and Facebook Live**. The event will include conversations about COVID-19 and disparities, Police-Community Relations, and Policy Change. The Health Department's Demetrius Willis will be on the panel this evening, along with moderator Marc Jones and several community members.
 - Registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84179265979>
- **Contact tracing is a critical tool that health departments use to slow the spread of illnesses like COVID-19**. If a person has been exposed, we will call them and ask them to self-quarantine at home for 14 days from the date of exposure. There is rampant misinformation spreading about contact tracing, and unfortunately, scams occurring where people pose as contact tracers to trick people into giving personal information and payment. The Health Department has developed a FAQ and Myths vs. Facts on a new Contact Tracing page: <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4469/Contact-Tracing>. Help us slow transmission and **answer the call to slow the spread**.
- **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> The Health Department is currently working to screen applicants for contact tracing positions and anticipates the first group of new hires to begin in July.
- **The Community-Based Testing Site at 102 W. Water St., Waukegan is open to everyone with or without symptoms**. The site currently only offers drive-thru testing and does not allow walk-up tests. Testing offered at the site is the molecular test done with a nasal swab to determine if you have an active infection of COVID-19. The site does not offer antibody testing.
 - 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. 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. A phone number and name are required in order to receive testing results.
 - For more details, visit our website: <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4435/COVID-19-Testing>

- During the pandemic, it is still important to **take care of your health**. The Health Department is promoting messaging about the importance of routine health care such as annual wellness checks, immunizations, and getting prescription refills. Many health care providers are offering telehealth services and have special precautions in place to prevent infections of COVID-19 in healthcare settings.
- **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 weekly email newsletter (<http://bit.ly/lccovid-19> or Spanish: <https://bit.ly/lccovid-19-es>)
 - Continue to check the Coronavirus Data Hub, www.lakecountyiil.gov/COVID19data which is updated Monday through Friday.
- **Our next conference call is scheduled for July 2, 2020.**
 - 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 before the call. Form to submit questions: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6XYKQHJ>

Policy

- **Governor Pritzker signed legislation to expand voting by mail.** The legislation requires the Illinois State Board of Elections to:
 - Post an application for a vote by mail ballot on its website;
 - Modify the online voter registration system to allow a new registrant to apply for a VBM ballot when completing the online registration;
 - Provide notice to each election authority about what it must do to comply with the new law; and
 - Adopt emergency rules to provide reimbursement for expenses related to the 2020 general election incurred as a result of COVID-19 and the new requirements.
- **The Illinois budget that was passed included a provision that would allow seniors who are undocumented to enroll in health coverage similar to Medicaid. Rules will need to be published around this program before enrollment can begin.**
- **The State of Illinois announced a \$270 million grant program for childcare providers. The "Intent to Apply" survey launched and is available online through tomorrow, June 19. The information gathered will help to inform the development of the grants program to be released in July 2020 and providers will receive their first installments later this summer.** <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Media/PressReleases/Pages/PR20200610-2.aspx>
- **SNAP (food assistance benefit) can now be used online through Walmart and Amazon. Amazon offers free delivery if someone purchases at least \$35 of groceries.**

- **The Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020 was signed into law. The law makes modifications to the Paycheck Protection Program. It allows a greater portion of the forgivable covered loan to be spent on non-payroll expenses, extension of the covered period for loan forgiveness, extends deferral period for borrower payments. June 30 will be the last day to submit a Paycheck Protection Program Application. More details on changes are available online - <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm1026>.**
- **The County has allocated \$19 million dollars in support for small businesses, rental assistance, and food security.**
- **The state is extending the ban on evictions, utility shutoffs, and repossession of vehicles due to the financial challenges related to COVID-19.**
- 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 Health Department continues to update its guidance** for essential businesses in both English and Spanish. <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/4412/Information-for-Specific-Groups>
- **The Small Business Administration website has information on business relief options:** <https://www.sba.gov/>
- **The CDC released a 'Resuming Business Toolkit' to help businesses in reopening-** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/resuming-business-toolkit.html>
- Employees can search for **childcare providers operating in Phase 3 and 4** by calling the Early Learning Helpline at (888) 228-1146 or by visiting this website - <https://emergencycare.inccrra.org/>
- **Workplace outbreaks of COVID-19 continue to be a concern.** Please make sure to thoroughly review industry-appropriate guidance from the State, implement the recommended safety measures, and communicate expectations clearly to employees and customers, also making sure

to reach all staff and contractors who enter your facilities, i.e., cleaning crews, security guards, catering company staff, etc. with information.

- **The “Get Hired Illinois” online portal to connect job seekers and employers and currently has over 56,000 positions listed.** <https://www2.illinois.gov/gethired/pages/default.aspx>. Also see the Job Center of Lake County website for opportunities - <https://www.lakecountyl.gov/167/Job-Center-of-Lake-County>.
- Lake County Partners continues to add to its **Readiness for Reopening Business Supply/Resource Guide** with a list of suppliers of items such as masks, gloves, sanitizer, and disinfecting supplies for businesses. Find this and other **COVID-19 Informational Resources** on the Lake County Partners website, <https://www.lakecountypartners.com/>.
- The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity **Phase 3 toolkit for businesses** is available in several languages. <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/pages/restoreILP3.aspx>.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 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.
 - 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

- 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 Lake County Suicide Prevention Task Force is hosting a virtual seminar, “Impact of a Pandemic in First Responders”** on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 11 a.m.-noon This is the first seminar of a 3 part series. In this first session, Dr. Alice Schrubka a clinical psychologist at Amita Health with research and area of expertise in crisis/disaster relief will discuss compassion fatigue & burnout. Detective Matt Thornton from Zion Police Department and founder of the organization My Father’s Business will explain the importance of self-care and coping skills. The meeting will be held on Zoom. Registration is required – please visit <http://www.bit.ly/LCHDresiliency>.
- IDPH has released **swimming facility guidelines**. During Phase 3, swimming facilities licensed by IDPH are not to be opened except for lap swimming, diving, swimming lessons, swim team practices, and therapy pool use. Water parks and bathing (swimming) beaches are not to be opened in Phase 3. <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/swimming-facility-guidelines>
- Due to the number of applications received, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) **Fast-Track Public Infrastructure Grants** program has been paused.
- 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 are being done remotely through ZOOM**. Please help share this information with the community.
 - 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.
- 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.lakecountyil.gov/assessor.

- 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.**
- 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/>
- 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 Health Department is co-chairing two **community partnership groups** to represent the Hispanic and African American communities being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The Asociación Comunitaria Latina and African American Community Partnership Group
 - Over 50 local organizations that serve these communities are represented
 - Both groups independently identified a need to get prevention materials (masks, sanitizer, soap, cleaning products, etc.) and culturally relevant educational materials out to the community. The groups are working on a collaborative effort to fund, procure, assemble, and distribute 80,000 "safety packs" to community members.
 - If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please email Anna Yankelev, ayankelev@lakecountyl.gov.
- **Guidelines for Places of Worship are available on the IDPH website – we encourage everyone to read this document:** <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/places-worship-guidance>. The page calls out specific guidance on:
 - **Remote, outdoor, and drive-in services**
 - **Social distancing**
 - **Cleaning and disinfecting**
 - **Face coverings and health screenings**
 - **Singing and group recitation**
 - **Food and beverage**
 - **Capacity limits**

- This guidance does not obligate or encourage places of worship to resume in-person activity. It is strongly recommended that places of worship continue to facilitate remote services, particularly for those who are vulnerable to COVID-19 including older adults and those with co-morbidities.
 - Even with adherence to physical distancing, multiple households convening in a congregational setting to worship carries a higher risk for widespread transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19, and may result in increased rates of infection, hospitalization, and death, especially among vulnerable populations.
 - In particular, the high risk associated with activities such as singing and group recitation can negate the risk-reducing behaviors such as physical distancing.
- **The CDC has a webpage dedicated to communities of faith.**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>
- **The Lake County Community Action to Counter Hunger (CATCH) initiative continues to grow.** The initiative is currently serving 97 families, plus another 60 at the Highwood Library. The program recently started piloting grocery shopping for seniors and is looking to expand. Individuals can now call 211 to be self-referred to the program.
 - To get involved, please contact Barb Karacic of the Alliance for Human Services, b.karacic1340@gmail.com.
- **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-LFbkbjguB7fKNcQpAymA/viewform>

Community Resources

- Lake County's **map of active food pantries** was upgraded this week to allow for better search functionality can be found on the Coronavirus Data Hub: www.lakecountyiil.gov/COVID19data.
<https://covid19response-lakecountyiil.hub.arcgis.com/app/6990ca841cf74286ba7930e0fd9e4c6a>
- **A printable list of food pantries** is also available in English and Spanish on the Lake County "How to Get Help" webpage. <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4414/How-to-Get-Help>
- 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. People can also get connected to this line by calling 211.
- Employees can search for **childcare providers operating in Phase 3 and 4** by calling the Early Learning Helpline at (888) 228-1146 or by visiting this website - <https://emergencycare.inccrra.org/>

- 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/>
- United Way of Lake County, Lake County Government, Lake County Community Foundation, and the Lake County Municipal League 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.
 - The fund is aimed at meeting critical needs, such as emergency food and shelter, rental and utility assistance, essential basic needs for children and families, and other basic needs identified real time through 211.
 - For more information or to give, visit LIVEUNITEDlakecounty.org/covid19.
- **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/>
- 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.
- 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.** 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.

June 18, 2020

- **Rental evictions** have been suspended nationwide and a 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

I operate a Family Entertainment Center that is approximately 30,000 sq ft. Will gathering size be based upon building capacity rather than an arbitrary number like 50 people?

- We are expecting guidance for entertainment venues coming from IDPH soon. Our understanding is that capacity limits will be based on a percentage of the facility's allowable capacity or a number of people per square feet of space.