

Lake County Updates

- As of yesterday afternoon, **Lake County has 9761 COVID-19 cases and 396 deaths**. Nearly **85,000** tests have been administered. An estimated **94.5 percent of cases who tested positive over 42 days ago have recovered**.
- Illinois has reported **114,013** cases and **6,951** deaths in the state. Over **1.6** million tests have been administered.
- The Health Department is investigating **60 long-term care facilities** that have at least 2 cases. These facilities have a combined total of **1,829 cases and 278 deaths**.
- **The State moved to Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan on June 26.**
 - **During Phase 4**, face coverings and social distancing continue to be the norm.
 - **Restrictions have been eased, including:**
 - Gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed, but they must be socially distanced and masked;
 - Travel is permitted following CDC guidance;
 - Outdoor recreation is allowed; and
 - **Education, Childcare, and Businesses can reopen following Illinois Department of Public Health safety guidance.**
 - Plan: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/sfc/servlet.shepherd/document/download/069t000000BadSOAAJ?operationContext=S1>
 - Metrics: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/restore>
 - Toolkit: <https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4/>
- **“Open” does not mean “over.” The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in Lake County communities.** With no vaccine available, the risks to public health remain. If we fail to follow public health guidance resulting a surge in cases, **we can go back in Phases of the Restore Illinois plan**. We see the tightening of restrictions happening in several other states right now. 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 seek medical care as needed. Staying home is still the best way to protect your family and others.
- **The State has launched county-level risk metrics** to help individuals, families, and communities inform their choices about personal and family gatherings and other activities. The metrics are updated weekly and indicate on a color-coded map of the state if the county is experiencing overall stable COVID-19 metrics (blue) or there are warning signs of increased risk (orange). Right now, all counties but one (Cass) are blue.
 - **County-level risk metrics:** <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics>

- For the week ending June 20, Lake County's testing positivity rate was 4.1%, there were only 31 COVID-like illness hospital admissions, and ICU availability was at 43%.
- **Contact tracing is a critical tool that health departments use to slow the spread of illnesses like COVID-19.** The Health Department is currently working to screen applicants for 130-150 new contact tracing positions and will begin hiring once State funds are received.
 - Contact Tracing information: <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/4469/Contact-Tracing>.
- **The Community-Based Testing Site at 102 W. Water St., Waukegan is open to everyone with or without symptoms.** The site offers drive-thru and, recently added, **walk-up testing**. 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.lakecountyil.gov/4435/COVID-19-Testing>
- **The pandemic continues to highlight existing health disparities** in in Lake County. When using age-adjusted calculations, for every white non-Hispanic person testing positive for COVID-19, there are 4 African American and 9 Hispanic people testing positive.
 - The Health Department is co-chairing two **community partnership groups** to represent the communities being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The Asociación Comunitaria Latina and African American Community Partnership Group.
 - 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@lakecountyil.gov.
 - Get connected to the two groups on facebook
 1. <https://www.facebook.com/AACPLakeCounty>
 2. <https://www.facebook.com/asociacioncomunitarialatinalc/>
- During the pandemic, it is still important to **take care of your health**. Routine health care such as annual wellness checks, dental care, immunizations, and getting prescription refills are very important to staying healthy. 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 launched an Instagram page on July 1** where we are sharing COVID-19 information and other healthy living tips. <https://www.instagram.com/lakecohealth/>

- Continue to check the **Coronavirus Data Hub**, www.lakecountyiil.gov/COVID19data which is updated Monday through Friday. The hub now features a breakdown by age of cases and deaths in people who have underlying health conditions and our county recovery rate.
- **The updated schedule for conference calls will be sent out next week.**
 - Please make sure you are signed up to receive our email newsletter (<http://bit.ly/lccovid-19> or Spanish: <https://bit.ly/lccovid-19-es>)
 - The key points, chat files, and audio recordings are posted to the Health Department's website. <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4428/Conference-Calls>

Policy

- Many Illinoisans still haven't gotten their stimulus checks. **Get My Payment Illinois** is a coalition of nonprofit partners here to help. The hotline is now available at (888) 553-9777. The website and fact sheets are also translated in six languages: English, Spanish, Polish, Chinese, Arabic, and Tagalog. <https://getmypaymentil.org/>
- The **2020 Census** is happening now and the **deadline for self-response has been extended from July 31 to October 31**. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail. Citizenship information is not collected. <https://my2020census.gov/>
- 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.** <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Media/PressReleases/Pages/PR20200610-2.aspx>
- **The state is extending the ban on evictions, utility shutoffs, and repossession of vehicles due to the financial challenges related to COVID-19.**
- The federal CARES act suspended monthly payments, interest, and involuntary collection of **student loans** from federal borrowers. Students must contact their loan servicer for details.
- **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.
- 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 Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020 was signed into law** modifying 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. A bill was passed in Congress yesterday to extend the application period through August 8 – it had closed on June 30 – and it is expected to be signed into law. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm1026>.
- **Small Businesses Administration loans are available to Lake County small businesses and communities damaged by civil unrest:**
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/bulletins/2929cc0>
- The Lake County Board has allocated \$10 million to fund a **Lake County Small Business Assistance COVID-19 Grant Program**.
 - Beginning July 7, 2020, businesses will be able to apply online for up to \$30,000 to cover up to four months of occupancy costs (rent, mortgage, utilities) as well as expenses incurred due to COVID-19 (new equipment, plexiglass, masks, sanitization services/materials, employee training, etc.).
 - Businesses can begin applying for the grant on July 7 at 8 a.m. at lakecountyiil.gov/forward. The application period will be open for two weeks, with submissions accepted until July 20 at 11:59 p.m.
- **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 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 helps 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.lakecountyiil.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/>.
- **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.
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

- IDPH has released **swimming facility guidelines**. In Phase 4, swimming facilities including pools, water parks, splashpads, and beaches can operate at 50 percent capacity. Operators, employees, and customers should wear face coverings when not swimming. Social distancing, hand washing, face coverings, and sanitization practices are included in the Swimming Facility Guidelines:
<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/swimming-facility-guidelines>
- For the safety of the public and the staff of the **19th Judicial Circuit**, **all court cases in Family, Civil, Criminal, and Orders of Protection are being done remotely through ZOOM**. Visit the [19th Judicial Circuit's website](#) and click on [Remote Hearings tab](#).
- 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

- **On June 30th, the Illinois Department of Public Health shared updated guidance for faith communities.** https://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-19_Places_of_Worship_Guidance_06.30.2020.pdf
 - The safest options for services are still remote services and drive-in services.
 - If holding in-person services, ensure proper use of face coverings. Visitors and congregants should be screened for temperature and/or symptoms upon arrival and asked to use hand sanitizer and wear face coverings. Encourage staff and congregants/visitors who are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or who have family members that are ill to stay home.
 - Avoid risky activities!
 - For in-person gatherings, faith groups should strongly consider discontinuing singing, group recitation, and other practices and performances where there is increased likelihood for transmission. If continuing with singing and group recitation, increase social distancing to at least 10 feet between groups and ensure face coverings are worn.
 - Do not offer food or beverages or hold potluck meals.
 - Discourage staff, congregants, and visitors from engaging in handshakes, hugs, and similar greetings that break social distance.
 - Consider modifying practices that might encourage the spread of COVID-19 such as kissing of ritual objects or use of a shared communion cup
 - As gatherings grow, they pose a greater risk of becoming a source of COVID-19 transmission. The current statewide guidelines recommend gatherings of no more than 50 people. Where the 50-person limit cannot be followed in places of worship, these guidelines are recommended: set a capacity limit that allows for social distancing (6 feet or more). Consider limiting attendance to 25% of building capacity or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower.

- Consider separate or remote services for those over 65 years or who have serious underlying medical condition.
- It is safer to worship outdoors if possible.
- Post signage and remind congregants and visitors to practice social distancing, hand washing and sanitizing.
- **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 142 families, an increase of 150% over the last 2 weeks. 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

- Eligible Illinoisans seeking **emergency assistance to cover costs of utility bills, rent, temporary shelter, food, and other household necessities** can see if they qualify for assistance at Help Illinois Families. <http://helpillinoisfamilies.com/>
- **Illinois launched a patient monitoring program for COVID-19.** Through this **free program**, health workers will contact you when you have COVID-19 symptoms but do not need hospital care. You can receive daily check-ins and get wellness kits that include things like thermometers, blood pressure cuffs, and alcohol wipes. **This program is open to people with any type of health insurance.** Call 1-800-889-3931, text CARE and your Zip Code to 36363 or visit <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/telehealth> to get more information and sign up.
- Lake County's **map of active food pantries** can be found on the Coronavirus Data Hub: www.lakecountyil.gov/COVID19data. <https://covid19response-lakecountyil.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.lakecountyil.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 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/>
- **Lake County** has allocated \$4 million for rental assistance and \$1 million for utility assistance to eligible municipalities/townships and social service providers through the CARES ACT.
- 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](https://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/>.

July 2, 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 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/>.