

## Lake County Updates

- As of yesterday afternoon, **Lake County has had 30,034 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 950 probable cases, and 555 deaths.** Over 400,000 tests have been administered. **Lake County's recovery rate is 96.8 percent.** Visit our data hub for details: <https://covid19response-lakecountyil.hub.arcgis.com/>
- **The Health Department continues to work closely with long-term care facilities** to prevent the spread of disease among this vulnerable population. In total, we have 90 long term care, assisted living, memory care, independent living, and developmentally delayed facilities.
  - Currently, we are assisting nearly 70 facilities who have 2 or more cases reported. Throughout the course of the pandemic, our 90 facilities have reported over 2800 cases and 355 deaths.
- **Yesterday, Governor Pritzker announced that the entire state will move into Tier 3 mitigation as of 12:01 a.m. this Friday, November 20,** due to the dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in the state and across the Midwest. This round of mitigations aims to limit social gatherings, encouraging residents to **stay home as much as possible.**
  - The mitigation measures are extensive, please review them. Key changes include:
  - Tier 3 Mitigations: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-mitigation-plan>
    - Tighter capacity limits on most businesses and industries;
    - All employees who can work remotely should do so;
    - “Pausing” indoor group activities including banquet halls, party rooms and event spaces; theaters and cultural institutions; no indoor group fitness, group sports or recreational activities; and closure of gaming and casinos;
    - Outdoor group activities are limited to 10 people or less; and
    - **Social gatherings should be limited only to your own household members;**
  - Childcare facilities may continue to operate, and schools should continue to follow the guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education to determine their learning model.
  - This is an intermediate step and not a stay at home order. However, the State has warned that if the situation does not improve, a stay at home order may be necessary.
  - **What hasn't changed is our need to follow the 3 Ws: Wear a mask; Wash your hands; Watch your distance. If we all do these things consistently, we will greatly reduce the chances the virus can spread.** <https://3ws.lakecohealth.org>
  - Regions can move back to Tier 2 mitigations once they meet the following criteria:
    - Less than 12 percent test positivity rate for three consecutive days; AND
    - Declining COVID-19 hospitalizations in 7 out of the last 10 days; AND
    - Greater than 20 percent available intensive care unit (ICU) and hospital bed availability.

- Lake and McHenry Counties make up Region 9, and as of noon yesterday, our testing positivity rate was at 16.2%. We have seen increases in testing positivity in 27 of the past 30 days, increases in hospitalizations in 22 of the past 30 days, and our hospital capacity is currently at 30% for med-surg beds and 44% for ICU.
- Region 9 has been in mitigation since October 31. Metrics are updated daily: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=9>
- **The Illinois Department of Public Health tracks county-level metrics weekly** and has a map indicating if a county is at an orange warning level, indicating increasing COVID-19 risk, or blue – stable. <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics?county=Lake>
  - Lake County reached warning level for the third time on Friday, November 6, due to increases in case prevalence, hospital admissions and emergency department visits for COVID-19-like illness, and testing positivity. All but six counties in Illinois are in the orange warning level as of November 13.
  - As of last week, our weekly rate of new cases is 423 cases per 100,000 residents, over four times higher than a month ago. 100 cases per 100,000 is considered substantial community spread of COVID-19.
  - While it is difficult to cancel holiday plans, **please prioritize the health of your loved ones this Thanksgiving. Please do not travel or gather with people outside of your household.** If you do still choose to attend or host a small gathering, take as many precautions as you can to reduce risk: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/holiday-season-safety-tips>
- Demand for testing is currently very high in Lake County. **The Community-Based Testing Site at 102 W. Water St., Waukegan is open to everyone with or without symptoms.** The site offers free drive-thru and walk-up testing. Testing offered at the site is the molecular PCR test done with a nasal swab to determine if you have an active infection of COVID-19.
  - The site is open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tests are administered by testing site staff using a nasal swab, and results are provided by phone in 4-7 days. **Current turnaround time has been reported at approximately six to seven days.**
- **The Health Department is working with IDPH to organize mobile COVID-19 testing in the county.** Check our website for upcoming dates. <https://www.lakecountyl.gov/4435/COVID-19-Testing>. The mobile unit will be stationed in Lake County according to the following schedule:
  - Saturday, 11/21, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., **Round Lake High School**
  - Wednesday, 11/25, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., **Highwood Public Library – WALK UP ONLY**
  - Saturday, 12/5, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., **College of Lake County, Grayslake**
  - Sunday, 12/6, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., **Grant Community High School - South Lot, Fox Lake**
  - Monday 12/14, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., **College of Lake County, Grayslake**

- **Due to the escalating situation in Lake County, these conference calls will now be held the first and third Wednesday of every month.** Our next conference calls are scheduled for December 2 and December 16.
  - The key points, chat files, and audio recordings are posted to the Health Department's website. <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4428/Conference-Calls>
- **In the past two weeks, two companies, Pfizer and Moderna, have announced exciting results of their Phase 3 trials for a COVID-19 vaccine.** Pfizer announced 95% effectiveness of their vaccine, and Moderna announced 94.5% effectiveness, both with very few side effects.
  - Data from both vaccine trials will be thoroughly and independently reviewed before a vaccine can gain FDA approval. One or more could be approved in December, and initially the number of doses available will be limited.
  - In contrast to traditional viral vaccines which introduce a viral protein or antigen into the body to elicit an immune response, these mRNA vaccines deliver messenger RNA into the body, whose cells read it as instructions to build the viral protein. The body then makes an immune response to the protein.
- **Once a vaccine is available,** it will be distributed in phases over several months. Priority will be given to first responders and frontline workers, followed by vulnerable populations such as long-term care facility residents and immunocompromised people, before being available to the general public.
  - CDC - Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>
  - CDC - Busting Myths and Misconceptions about COVID-19 Vaccination: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines/vaccine-myths.html>
  - CDC - Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19 Vaccinations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>
- **The Health Department's email newsletters will soon be used to deliver mass vaccination information.** Please help spread the word about these newsletters and make sure you are signed up (English: <http://bit.ly/lccovid-19>, Spanish: <https://bit.ly/lccovid-19-es>). If you have an email newsletter or social media platforms, **please help us promote sign ups this month.**
- **Wearing a mask is one of our most effective tools to fight the spread of COVID-19.** The CDC shared research last week with new evidence that masks not only protect others around you if you are infected – they also help protect you from getting the virus. Remember that masks are not a substitute for social distancing, and you should still stay 6 feet away from anyone who does not live in your household.
  - CDC - Considerations for Wearing Masks: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>
  - Lake County's Mask Up campaign geared toward teens and young adults: [www.maskuplakecounty.com](http://www.maskuplakecounty.com)

- In Lake County, we have seen a recent uptick in **potential exposures and spread in school age children related to travelling sports leagues** that practice or compete and do not follow the three Ws. It is important that all student athletes, high school sports, and private sports leagues are following the sports safety guidance. <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/sports-safety-guidance>
- **Contact tracing is a critical tool for slowing the spread of COVID-19.** Calls and text messages from Lake County contact tracers come from 312-777-1999 and caller ID – IL COVID HELP.
  - **Please do your part; answer the call** and provide our staff with all the information needed. Through these calls and text messages, they ensure that people have information and the necessary support to isolate or quarantine safely.
- **Earlier this month, the Illinois Department of Public Health published contact tracing data to its website. You can now track:**
  - Contact Tracing Data – <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/contact-tracing-data?DV=2>
  - COVID-19 Outbreak Locations – <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/outbreak-locations?regionID=0&rPeriod=1>
  - COVID-19 Cases By Potential Exposure Location – <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/location-exposure?regionID=9>
  - COVID-19 School Aged Metrics and School Outbreaks – <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/school-aged-metrics?countyName=Lake>
  - Schools with Potential COVID-19 Exposures – <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/school-exposures?countyName=Lake>
- **LCHD continues its work with two community partnership groups**—Asociacion Comunitaria Latina (ACL) and the African American Community Partnership Group (AAPG) to address COVID-19 disparities along racial and ethnic lines.
  - The ACL is holding a youth mask awareness campaign by sponsoring a contest for a mask design that will be printed and distributed on 5,000 masks in Lake County. Contest participants should send a JPEG or TIFF design to ACL through Facebook Messenger by November 22.
  - You can learn more about these groups on their Facebook pages:
    - <https://www.facebook.com/AACPGLakeCounty>
    - <https://www.facebook.com/asociacioncomunitarialatinalc>
- **It is still very important to get your annual flu vaccination.** The CDC recommends **every person over the age of 6 months** get their flu vaccine every year. Visit the Vaccine Finder website (<https://www.vaccinefinder.org>) to find a flu shot provider near you.

## Policy

- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) **open enrollment began November 1** and ends December 15. This is the time when you can sign up for health insurance at [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov). People who are low-income and eligible for Medicaid can sign up at any time at

<https://enrollhfs.illinois.gov/choose/compare-plans>. People who have lost their job-based health insurance are eligible for a special enrollment period.

- Illinois has extended the **moratorium on evictions through December 12. The moratorium applies only to renters who have earned no more than \$90,000 in annual income- or \$198,000 for joint filers during the calendar year, and are unable to make a full rent or housing payment due to a COVID-19 related hardship.**
- Visit [www.lakecountyil.gov/forward](http://www.lakecountyil.gov/forward) to view how **\$121 million in CARES Act funding** is being distributed throughout the County.

## Businesses

- **Thank you, businesses, for all you are doing to keep your staff and customers safe during the pandemic.** This is no easy task, and we are grateful for your efforts and for following public health guidance. **If you have questions about how to operate safely, or to report a business-related concern, please call the Health Department's Environmental Health division at (847) 377-8020.**
- **The Illinois Department for Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has a variety of small business and community relief programs.** For more information on programs available for businesses and communities, please visit DCEO website: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/default.aspx>
- **ComEd is offering a new bill assistance program to help local small businesses** facing financial difficulties as a result of COVID-19. Eligible small business customers that are past due on their energy bills can receive a one-time grant equal to 30 percent of their total ComEd balance (up to \$1,000) for a limited time. Customers whose electric service has not been disconnected can then set up their remaining balance due on a payment plan of up to six months. Visit [ComEd.com/SmallBizAssistance](http://ComEd.com/SmallBizAssistance) or call 1-877-4-COMED-1 for more info.
- More than 1000 local businesses applied for the **Lake County Government Small Business Assistance Grant Program**. To date, more than \$16 million dollars has been distributed to our local small businesses. For a list of what businesses have received grants, visit [www.lakecountyil.gov/forward](http://www.lakecountyil.gov/forward).
- **The Health Department has a form for workplaces and facilities to use to report cases of COVID-19 and close contacts.** <https://redcap.dph.illinois.gov/surveys/?s=NHECLHEHFP>
  - Information submitted is confidential and stored in a secure system. A member of our Communicable Disease team will follow up to provide guidance and perform contact tracing, as necessary.
- The Health Department has a new **Lake County Businesses email subscription list** for sending updates about upcoming conference calls and other important news. You can also provide your phone number to receive text notifications. Invite your colleagues or anyone else who may be interested to sign up as well. <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/signup/18495>
- **Additional business resources:**

- **Lake County Health Department** <https://www.lakecountyl.gov/4412/Community-Guidance-and-Resources>
- **Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity** <https://dceocovid19resources.com/for-businesses/>
- **Lake County Partners** <https://www.lakecountypartners.com/>
- **Small Business Administration** <https://www.sba.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](mailto:workplacerrights@atg.state.il.us).

## Municipalities

- **The Health Department is seeking your assistance in finding mobile testing unit locations throughout Lake County.** Please contact Patti Corn if you could provide parking lot space or help coordinate a location in your community for COVID-19 testing. [pcorn@lakecountyl.gov](mailto:pcorn@lakecountyl.gov)
- **You play a vital role in keeping your community informed about COVID-19.** Please utilize content from the Health Department's email newsletter in your own communications, promote sign-ups to your distribution lists, and share the Health Department's social media content whenever possible. **Thank you** for all you are doing to keep our communities safe!
- **To provide more rapid COVID-19 diagnostic testing, the Health Department is working with IDPH to distribute BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Antigen Card tests to appropriate entities within our community.**
  - BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Antigen Card tests are antigen tests purchased by the federal government and disseminated to states for distribution. These tests provide more rapid results than PCR diagnostic tests.
  - Entities that are prioritized include schools, higher institutions of learning, correctional facilities, long-term care facilities, federally qualified health centers, essential/critical infrastructure workers, and homeless service providers.
  - <https://www.lakecountyl.gov/DocumentCenter/View/37198/Guidance-for-Dissemination-of-BinaxNow-Tests-PDF>
- Please continue to use and promote the Health Department's **form for schools, workplaces, and facilities to use to report cases of COVID-19 and close contacts.** <https://redcap.dph.illinois.gov/surveys/?s=NHECLHEHFP>
  - Information submitted is confidential and stored in a secure system. A member of our Communicable Disease team will follow up to provide guidance and perform contact tracing, as necessary.
- 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.**

## Faith-Based Organizations

- **Faith based communities are encouraged to follow mitigation guidance for the state of Illinois and Region 9.** The State announced that all of Illinois be in Tier 3 mitigations on Friday, November 20.
  - Per Tier 3 guidance, in-home gatherings should be limited to household members only.
  - Funerals are limited to 10 family members of the decedents.
  - All employees who can work remotely, should work remotely.  
<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-mitigation-plan>
- As a reminder, remote or drive-in services are the lowest risk options for worship services and activities.
- **Please encourage everyone to be vigilant about following the 3Ws** if you do host any in-person events or services. Keeping a list of attendees and phone numbers can be helpful if attendees are exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- **The state has shared COVID-19 outbreak locations data with the public.** Outbreaks are defined as 5 or more cases linked to a common location.
  - Illinois has had 32 outbreaks reported at religious locations since July. Region 9, which includes Lake County has had 2 outbreaks in religious locations since July.  
<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/outbreak-locations?regionID=0&rPeriod=1>
- The state also shared data on potential exposure locations, which are dependent on willingness of cases of COVID-19 to report location information. **Locations provided by cases should be interpreted as locations where COVID-19 exposure *may* have occurred, not definitive exposure or outbreak locations.**
  - In the last 30 days in Region 9, there have been 24 cases of COVID-19 where a potential exposure location was a place of worship, and 8 cases where a potential exposure location was a funeral home. <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/location-exposure?regionID=9>
- **Emily Gelber-Maturo is the Health Department's dedicated liaison for faith communities during COVID-19.** You can reach her by emailing [egelber@lakecountyl.gov](mailto:egelber@lakecountyl.gov).
- Please continue to utilize the **Health Department's form for schools, workplaces, and facilities to use to report cases of COVID-19 and close contacts.**  
<https://redcap.dph.illinois.gov/surveys/?s=NHECLHEHFP>
  - Information submitted is confidential and stored in a secure system. A member of our Communicable Disease team will follow up to provide guidance and perform contact tracing, as necessary.
- The Health Department has a new **Lake County Faith Leaders email subscription list** for sending updates about upcoming conference calls and other important news. You can also provide your phone number to receive text notifications. Invite your colleagues or anyone else who may be interested to sign up as well. <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/signup/18498>

- **Lake County Health Department Worshipping Together Safely guide:**  
<https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/DocumentCenter/View/36546/Worshipping-Together-Safely---English>
- **Guidelines for Places of Worship are available on the IDPH website –**  
<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/places-worship-guidance>
- **The CDC has a webpage dedicated to communities of faith –**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

## Community Resources

- Anyone needing assistance finding food, shelter, rent or utility assistance, or other essential services can CALL 211 or TEXT your zip code to 898211 to speak with someone who can help. **211 is available 24/7.** <https://211lakecounty.org/>. This includes connecting to:
  - **Lake County CATCH:** 2 weeks worth of free meals delivered to families who have to stay home due to quarantine or isolation
  - **Lake County CHRP** (Coronavirus Housing Relief Program): rental assistance for families experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19  
<https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4476/Lake-County-COVID-Housing-Relief-Program>
- **Live Well Lake County is promoting new behavioral health resources** for Lake County residents in response to pandemic's impact on mental health and substance use.  
<https://www.livewellllc.org/takecare>. These resources include:
  - **A new telehealth network:** locations that people who have trouble accessing a computer or just need a safe, private place for a behavioral health appointment, can go to meet virtually with their provider. <https://www.livewellllc.org/telehealth/>
  - **Grief counseling groups and a Grief and COVID-19 Virtual Seminar Series**  
<https://www.livewellllc.org/griefsupport/>
  - **Training sessions on harm reduction,** therapeutic tactics, public health strategies and substance use disorder treatments for both health providers and family members or caregivers. <https://www.livewellllc.org/harmreduction>
- **Many more community resources are available for those in need.** Visit <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4414/How-to-Get-Help> for an updated list.
- **If you are looking for opportunities to help others during this time,** please visit <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4413/How-You-Can-Help>