

## Lake County Updates

- **Americans are getting vaccinated at an accelerated pace.** As of April 15, more than 125 million Americans have received at least one dose, and more than 78 million Americans are fully vaccinated. COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are on the rise among younger people who have not been vaccinated yet. These cases are also potentially linked to the COVID-19 variants in some communities.
  - **Nationally, as of April 15, over 80% of people age 65 and older have received at least one dose and 63.7% are fully vaccinated.** Emergency department visits and hospitalizations among people ages 65 years and older have decreased.
  - More information can be found here, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/index.html>.
- **Lake County has had over 58,600 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 960 deaths.** Over 987,000 tests have been administered. Lake County's recovery rate is 98.3 percent. <https://covid19response-lakecountylil.hub.arcgis.com/>
- **From end of March to April 18, the incidence of COVID-19 among those 14-18 years old has doubled.** Last week alone, our team investigated 22 exposures in high school settings such as sports teams, classroom exposures, and other extracurricular activities.
  - Eligibility just opened April 12 for those 16-17 years old, and we must remain vigilant to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Spread among this younger population can lead to infections in many families across our communities.
  - We are far from reaching herd immunity, so continue to practice the 3Ws consistently – wear masks, wash hands, watch your distance – and GET YOUR VACCINE as soon as you can.
- **A majority of our long-term care facility (LTCF) residents have been vaccinated in Lake County. The IDPH Pharmacy Provider Program continues to assist residents and staff in getting vaccinated.** Sporadic cases are being identified in the unvaccinated within LTCFs. We continue to work with these facilities to address vaccine hesitancy and encourage vaccination among staff and residents. We have seen the lowest number of LTCF resident deaths over the last 30 days since the start of the pandemic. The vaccine is working! Additionally, we are coordinating efforts with a pharmacy provider to get our elders in senior housing vaccinated.
- **Since February 2021, Lake County has had 32 identified B.1.1.7 (UK) variant cases, three P.1. (Brazilian) cases, and two B.1.427 (California) variant cases.** Variant cases are identified by designated laboratories performing whole genome sequencing. This sequencing is only being done on a small percentage of collected specimens as the IDPH looks to build further capacity for this analysis.
  - The emergence of new variants of COVID-19 across the world and in Lake County underscores the importance of following public health strategies to limit the spread of the virus. The virus can't mutate if it can't replicate.
  - New COVID-19 Variants (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>

- **Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart will host a virtual town hall tonight at 7pm**, joined by Health Department Executive Director Mark Pfister and other community representatives.
  - Register: <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/news>
- **Lake County continues to see disparities in COVID prevalence and vaccination rates among our communities of color.** Of those who have been vaccinated, 3.2% are Black and 8.9% are Hispanic (Lake County's demographics are 6.5% Black and 14% Hispanic). LCHD continues its work with two community partnership groups— Asociacion Comunitaria Latina (ACL) and the African American Community Partnership Group (AACPG) to address these disparities.
  - You can learn more about these groups on their Facebook pages:
    - <https://www.facebook.com/AACPGLakeCounty>
    - <https://www.facebook.com/asociacioncomunitarialatinalc>
- **Community organizations, municipalities, businesses, and faith centers are invited to help support COVID-19 vaccination across Lake County by becoming a Community Health Ambassador.** Over 230 individuals representing over 90 community organizations are hard-at-work hosting AllVax registration events and sharing educational materials and resources with our community members.
  - **CHA materials:** <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4524/Community-Health-Ambassadors>
  - **Sign up:** [https://lchd.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_e3BOCd49aly8xFz](https://lchd.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e3BOCd49aly8xFz)
- **The Lake County Health Department is hiring!** We are starting two new programs to support our community members in accessing the resources, information, and support they need to stay healthy during this time. If you know of any community-minded individuals who would make great Case Managers or Community Health Workers, please encourage them to apply at [LCHDcareers.com/jobs](http://LCHDcareers.com/jobs). Currently also looking for a Community Health Worker program supervisor and several lead positions. If you have any questions, please email Anna Yankelev, [ayankelev@lakecountyiil.gov](mailto:ayankelev@lakecountyiil.gov).
  - <https://www.LCHDcareers.com/jobs>
- **Vaccination site volunteers are needed!** Visit our website to find information on the roles available to volunteer, get answers to frequently asked questions, and apply to be part of the effort. <http://lakecountyiil.gov/volunteer>
- **Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 26 – May 2**, we will be celebrating our volunteers and staff who have been working so hard to support vaccination efforts. We are asking for your help to thank them! Over the next few weeks, we encourage our Lake County community to send in thank-you notes via email to [covid19@lakecountyiil.gov](mailto:covid19@lakecountyiil.gov), or through our social media channels, Facebook and Instagram.
- Handwritten notes can be mailed to: Rebecca Kumar, Lake County Emergency Management Agency, 1303 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville, IL, 60048

- **The CDC has issued new guidance on travel for people who are fully vaccinated.** It is still recommended to delay travel until you are fully vaccinated. People who are fully vaccinated are less likely to get and spread COVID-19. For fully vaccinated people:
  - **Domestic:**
    - You do not need to get tested before or after travel unless the destination requires it
    - You also do not need to self-quarantine
  - **International:**
    - **All travelers, including those who are fully vaccinated, are still required to get tested or show documentation of recovery before flying to the United States and should still get tested 3–5 days after travel.**
    - Fully vaccinated travelers do not have to get tested before departing the United States unless their destination requires it
    - Fully vaccinated travelers do not need to self-quarantine after returning from international travel.
    - Testing for international travelers provides an additional layer of protection while still lifting the burden of self-quarantine.
    - People who are NOT fully vaccinated should still get tested 1–3 days before international travel and again 3–5 days after travel. They should stay home and self-quarantine for 7 days after travel or for 10 days if they don't get tested.
  - **Regardless of destination or vaccination status:**
    - You should still follow CDC's recommendations for traveling safely including:
      - Wear a mask over your nose and mouth
      - Stay 6 feet from others and avoid crowds
      - Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer

Travel guidance for vaccinated people: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0402-travel-guidance-vaccinated-people.html>

- **Continue to be vigilant to prevent the spread of COVID-19, even after vaccination.** Wear a mask, wash your hands often, watch your distance—keeping at least 6 feet apart—and avoid crowds. The more steps you take, the more you protect yourself and others from COVID-19.
- **Illinois remains in Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan.** While the state has met the target for vaccinations to move to the 'bridge phase' (70% of the population 65 years and older has received at least one dose of vaccine), rates of cases and COVID-related hospital admissions have been increasing. State health officials said Monday that regions will no longer automatically trigger Tier 1 mitigations, even if they hit those metrics amid another rise in cases and hospitalizations.
  - <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/statewidemetrics>.

- DCEO guidelines: <https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois-phase-4/>
- **As of April 18, the Region 9 positivity rate is 4.2% (Lake 3.2%) (McHenry 7.8%).** Region 9 has had 5 days of increases in COVID hospital admissions in the past 10 days, and ICU bed availability is gradually decreasing to 34%. <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=9>
- **In total, over 420,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Lake County residents.** Over 171,000 of our residents, or 24.48% of our population, are fully vaccinated. Over 76% of our 65 and older population and 37% of our population age 16-64 have received at least one dose. Our county is averaging 5,925 doses administered daily on a 7-day rolling average. In the last two weeks, approximately 94,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Lake County residents, and the total of fully vaccinated residents has increased by 8%.
  - Vaccination data: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccinatedata?county=Lake>
- **As of April 12, all Illinoisans age 16 and older are eligible to get their vaccine.** However, eligibility does not mean availability, and it will take time for enough vaccine to be available to everyone.
  - **The Lake County Fairgrounds site is now vaccinating up to 2,500 per day, dependent on staffing and vaccine supply. The Fairgrounds has transitioned to offer exclusively walk-through appointments.**
  - **102 W. Water Street in Waukegan** offers both drive-through and walk-through appointments through AllVax. **Both sites are by appointment through AllVax.**
  - A new vaccination site in Round Lake Beach opened yesterday, April 20, located at 400 E. Rollins Road, Round Lake Beach (the former K-Mart). The site is sponsored by Baxter and operated by Curative. AllVax registrants who have opted-in to share their registration information may be contacted to schedule appointments, and public scheduling is available at <https://cur.tv/lakeco>. When vaccine supply allows the facility to reach its peak capacity of 5,000 vaccinations per day, this will be the largest vaccination site in the county.
  - Additional partnering vaccination sites in Lake County are now in operation in Round Lake, Grayslake, and Deerfield. A new site in Zion will open at the end of this month.
  - The full press release can be found here: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/bulletins/2cc7a06>
- **Last Tuesday, the Lake County Health Department paused the use of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and as required by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).** This was done out of an abundance of caution due to six cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the United States. Here's what you need to know:

- These adverse events are extremely rare - six cases out of more than 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine administered in the United States (less than one in a million).
- All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination.
- There are no cases reported in Lake County.
- Lake County providers are only using Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for appointments currently.
- A key reason for the pause is to ensure that doctors know what to look for and to use the correct treatment for this type of blood clot.
- **Despite the pause in Johnson & Johnson vaccine, Lake County's vaccine supply has increased substantially this week.** Our first doses more than doubled this week and we anticipate similar supply next week. The Health Department is both increasing appointments at the fairgrounds and pushing out a majority of the supply to partners who are ready and waiting to scale up vaccination efforts.
  - Track weekly vaccines received on our data hub: <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/covid19data>
- **The Health Department is currently vaccinating our Community Health Center patients at the Grand Avenue Health Center, Zion Health Center, and Midlakes Health Center.** Patients should register through AllVax for appointments.
- **Earlier this month, the Pfizer company requested expansion of the use of its COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents.** In participants aged 12–15 years old, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine demonstrated high efficacy and was well tolerated. In a matter of weeks, the FDA may review and amend the current Emergency Use Authorization. The Health Department is working with local healthcare providers including pediatricians to get them set up as vaccine providers in Lake County. There are over 100 vaccine providers able to provide vaccine if supply permits.
  - Healthcare providers webpage: [https://allvax.lakecohealth.org/s/healthcare-providers?language=en\\_US](https://allvax.lakecohealth.org/s/healthcare-providers?language=en_US)
- **Our Health Department encourages people to explore their options for COVID-19 vaccination and take the first available appointment if they are eligible.** There are four ways to access the vaccine:
  - **Registering and being notified of appointment availability in the AllVax system;** <https://AllVax.lakecohealth.org>. Over 439,000 people have registered so far. Remember that you can opt-in and consent to allow the Health Department to securely share your registration information with local vaccination partners. This option gives you more access to vaccination opportunities;
  - Using the State's Vaccine Locator website that lists pharmacies and other public sites; <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccination-location> or calling the state Vaccine

- Appointment Call Center at 833-621-1284. The call center is open 7 days a week from 6 a.m. to midnight.
- Checking with their health system (i.e. hospital system or healthcare provider group) for registration and availability; and
  - Community vaccination sites are opening and are being listed on our website as they become available – <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/vaccine>.
  - As a reminder, these conference calls are held the first and third Wednesday of every month. Our next conference calls are scheduled for May 5 and May 19.
    - The key points, chat files, and audio recordings are posted to the Health Department’s website. <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4428/Conference-Calls>
  - **Make sure you are subscribed to our email newsletters for updates** (English: <http://bit.ly/lccovid-19>, Spanish: <https://bit.ly/lccovid-19-es>).

## Policy

- **The American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion dollar package is now law.**
  - **Many people will be receiving a \$1400 stimulus payment as a result of this legislation. People can check on the status of their payment on the IRS website:**  
Get My Payment: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>
- **Lake County is working with community partners to help keep families in their homes as we work to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.** Through the federal emergency rental assistance program eligible households may receive up to 12 months of past due rent and up to three months of assistance with future rent, but no more than 12 months of assistance total. Payments from the program will be made directly to landlords and/or utility companies. Eligibility and application information is available on the Lake County website.
  - Rental Assistance: <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/renthelp>.
- **A special enrollment period for health insurance, due to the COVID-19 pandemic will end on May 15th.** People can go to [healthcare.gov](https://healthcare.gov) to find out more about their health insurance options. <https://healthcare.gov>
- **Illinois has extended the moratorium on evictions through May 1.** The moratorium applies only to renters who are unable to make a full rent or housing payment due to a COVID-19 related hardship. Income limits apply.
  - Under the Executive Order, tenants must complete this declaration and provide it to their landlord to protect themselves from eviction.  
<https://df7qosnywqs6g.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Tenant-Declaration-Forms-12.12.20.pdf>
- **The President has extended a ban on housing foreclosures (federally guaranteed mortgages) to June 30** to help homeowners struggling during the pandemic. Federal moratorium for evictions of rental tenants also remains through June 30.

## Businesses

- **The Health Department has a new webpage for employers for COVID-19 vaccine information.** Businesses interested in hosting vaccination events for their employees can find information on this page. [https://allvax.lakecohealth.org/s/employers?language=en\\_US](https://allvax.lakecohealth.org/s/employers?language=en_US)
- **By providing information about COVID-19 vaccination and establishing supportive policies and practices, employers can help increase vaccine uptake among essential workers.** Please share clear, complete, and accurate messages, promote confidence in the decision to get vaccinated, and engage your employees in plans to address potential barriers to vaccination. Strong confidence in the vaccines within your workplace leads to more people getting vaccinated, which leads to fewer COVID-19 illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths. Detailed information is available to employers on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/essentialworker/workplace-vaccination-program.html>
- **Environmental Health has seen an increase in mask complaints in the past couple of months.** In January and February 2021, we investigated 32 complaints, and from March to April 20th we investigated 37 complaints so far. We have been able to achieve compliance with the site visits conducted.
- **The State has issued updated guidance, indicating that fully vaccinated or recently tested people do not count toward capacity limits at venues.** The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity published additional guidance here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Documents/Essential%20Business%20FAQ.pdf>.
  - The guidance states that: “Individuals with proof of full vaccination plus 14 days or a negative COVID-19 test (PCR) 1 to 3 days prior to an event or outing do not count against capacity limits. Patrons and attendees must show proof of completed vaccination series or recent negative COVID-19 test prior to entry and are subject to additional state face covering rules and social distancing guidelines of at least 6 feet between individuals that are not in the same household or group even if they meet the criteria for demonstrated immunity.”
  - The guidance also states that: “Businesses are responsible for managing their capacity and admission procedures within the venue to establish a protocol and system to verify proof of a vaccination plus 14 days or a negative COVID-19 test.”
- **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.**
  - 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.
- **Additional business resources:**
  - **Lake County Health Department** <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4412/Community-Guidance-and-Resources>

- **Lake County Businesses email subscription list**  
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/signup/18495>
- **LCHD form for workplaces and facilities to use to report cases of COVID-19 and close contacts.** <https://redcap.dph.illinois.gov/surveys/?s=NHECLHEHFP>
- **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/>
- **Paycheck protection program** <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program#section-header-0>
- **ComEd Small Business Assistance Program:** <http://ComEd.com/SmallBizAssistance>
- **Report an unsafe work environment:** Workplace Rights Bureau of the Illinois Attorney General's Office, 844-740-5076 or [workplacerrights@atg.state.il.us](mailto:workplacerrights@atg.state.il.us).

## Municipalities

- **Municipal leaders who wish to volunteer at vaccination sites** during special municipal days should contact Mandi Florip. [mflorip@lakecountyleague.org](mailto:mflorip@lakecountyleague.org).
  - Please share about your volunteer experience, whether in your newsletter or on social media. As a trusted leader in your community, you can reinforce the importance of getting vaccinated and encouraging our community members to register in AllVax.
- **Last month the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) released their Revised Public Health Guidance for Schools**
  - The most prominent change is that students can now be at least 3 foot but, ideally—6 feet, apart and fully masked at all times while in school. Please note, close contacts are still defined by IDPH as individuals who are within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative of 15 minutes. Close contacts to infected persons will be recommended to quarantine 10–14 days.
  - **IDPH sports safety guidance was updated this past week.** Those participating in sports should be tested for COVID-19 prior to competition, and at minimum no less than twice per week if playing a high-risk sport, and 3-5 days after large sporting events. This applies to those ages 13 and older. Additionally, those participating in low-risk sports are permitted to remove their mask when outdoors *and* 6 feet away from others. [All Sports Policy - Updated 4 14.pdf \(illinois.gov\)](#)
  - More schools will be resuming in-person learning &/or full day learning models
  - <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/revised-public-health-guidance-for-schools.pdf>
  - \*New Exclusion Guidance: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-COVID19-Exclusion-Decison-Tree.pdf>



- **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!
- 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.

## Faith-Based Organizations

- **Multiple Faith Communities in Lake County are organizing vaccination events for their congregations.** This involves partnering with a local pharmacy or medical group for a pop-up event, promoting the event and helping fill up appointments, and providing the location and non-medical volunteers. If you are interested in hosting a vaccination event, please reach out to Buddy Hargett, [bhargett@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:bhargett@lakecountyil.gov).
  - **More information is available on our Employers page**  
[https://allvax.lakecohealth.org/s/employers?language=en\\_US](https://allvax.lakecohealth.org/s/employers?language=en_US)
- **Please reach out to seniors and others in your congregation about vaccines** - know that it is taking time to get appointments, and make sure that people are signed up for AllVax.  
<https://AllVax.lakecohealth.org>.
- **The State of Illinois updated vaccine eligibility for essential workers to include religious leaders as of March 29, 2021.** Per IDPH, anyone who works with the public at a place of worship is eligible under state guidelines for a COVID-19 vaccine as a religious leader.
- **Resources on religious/moral information on COVID-19 vaccines**
  - English Statement: [COVID-19Vaccines\\_Dec182020FINAL.pdf \(ilcatholic.org\)](#)
  - Spanish Statement: [COVID-19Vaccines\\_Dec182020FINAL\\_SPANISH.pdf \(ilcatholic.org\)](#)
  - [U.S. Bishop Chairmen for Doctrine and for Pro-Life Address the Use of the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 Vaccine | USCCB](#)
  - [COVID-19 Vaccine Fetal Cell Handout.pdf](#)
- **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.
- **Emily Gelber-Maturo is the Health Department's dedicated liaison for faith communities during COVID-19.** You can reach her by emailing [egelber@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:egelber@lakecountyil.gov).
- **Additional resources:**
  - **IDPH Funeral home guidance** for conducting funeral services of visitations.  
<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/funeral-homes>

- **IDPH: Outbreaks of COVID-19 by type of facility** Outbreaks are defined as 5 or more cases linked to a common location (and 2 or more cases in congregate settings like long-term care facilities and daycares). <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/outbreak-locations?regionID=0&rPeriod=1>
- **IDPH: Locations where exposures may have occurred** (not definitive exposure locations) <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/location-exposure?regionID=9>
- **LCHD 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>
- **Lake County Faith Leaders email subscription list:** <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/signup/18498>
- **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

- **FEMA is providing funeral reimbursement support to those that lost a loved one to COVID-19.** Funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020 are reimbursable. Applications began on April 12, 2021. To apply, call the hotline c (TTY: 800-462-7585)
  - Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
  - FEMA funeral reimbursement program and eligibility: <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance#eligible>
- 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/>.
- **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 for those who do not have a vehicle or who use public transportation. This site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Upcoming mobile testing:** Thursday, 4/22, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.; **Mundelein Metra Station**
  - Visit our testing web page for more information: <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/4435/COVID-19-Testing>.
- **Many more community resources are available for those in need.** Visit <https://www.lakecountyil.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.lakecountyil.gov/4413/How-You-Can-Help>