

Lake County Updates

- **Lake County has had over 61,822 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,012 deaths.** Over 1.1 million tests have been administered. Lake County's recovery rate is 98.3 percent.
 - Data hub: <https://covid19response-lakecountyil.hub.arcgis.com/>
- **Illinois entered Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois plan on June 11.** Beginning on June 11, Phase 5 of the reopening plan removes capacity restrictions and allows for businesses, events, and venues to operate at full capacity. The state can move to Phase 5 as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to decrease.
 - The state reaches this point as it records the lowest number of people in the hospital with COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, the lowest test positivity rate, and more than **63% of Illinois residents age 18 and over who have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.**
 - Consistent with CDC guidance, fully vaccinated and non-vaccinated persons are required to wear a face covering in certain situations including (1) on public transportation, planes, buses, trains, and in transportation hubs such as airports and train and bus stations; (2) in congregate facilities such as correctional facilities and homeless shelters; and (3) in health care settings. Individuals in schools and day cares must also continue to wear face coverings per guidance issued by the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and the Illinois Department of Public Health.
 - Individual businesses and local municipalities may choose to implement or keep prevention measures.
 - Illinois metrics: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/statewidemetrics>.
 - Phase 5 Guidelines: [Illinois Phase 5 Guidelines.pdf](#)
- **IDPH recently updated guidance for youth recreational sports in settings** including, but not limited to school-based sports, travel clubs, private leagues and clubs, recreational leagues and centers, park district sports programs.
 - **Under this new guidance, fully vaccinated individuals** can resume sport related activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing.
 - Individuals are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two weeks after receiving the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna or two weeks after the single dose of Johnson and Johnson.
 - **Guidance for individuals who are not fully vaccinated depends on whether they indoors or outdoors**
 - **Indoors:** those who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear a mask when participating in indoor sports-related activities. Masks should be replaced when they become wet with sweat or water.
 - **Outdoors:** individuals who are not vaccinated can participate in sports-related activities without wearing a mask when outdoors. Masks should still be worn by those not fully vaccinated when coming into contact with other unvaccinated individuals in certain scenarios such as on the sidelines, in the locker room, during team meetings, and especially when indoors.

- Schools and other sports organizations can require all individuals, including those fully vaccinated, to wear a mask and physically distance as they see appropriate. Masking and distancing standards must be followed when required by laws, rules, or regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.
 - More information can be found on the IDPH Sport Safety Guidance page, <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/sports-safety-guidance>
- **As of June 12, the Region 9 positivity rate is 1.2% (Lake 1%) (McHenry 1.8%).** Region 9 has had 10 days of increases in COVID hospital admissions in the past 10 days, and ICU bed availability is gradually increasing to 3%.
 - Region 9 data: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=9>
- **In total, over 675,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Lake County residents.** Over 321,000 of our residents, or 45.94% of our population, are fully vaccinated. Over **82%** of our 65 and older population and 60% of our population age 16-64 have received at least one dose.
 - Vaccination data: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccinedata?county=Lake>
- **On June 7, 2021, Pfizer-BioNTech announced they will begin COVID-19 vaccine trials with children ages 6 months to 11 years old in the coming weeks.** Trials will take place across multiple countries. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and immunity the COVID-19 vaccine will provide these age groups. The vaccine will be given in a two-dose series (21 days apart) with adjusted dosing to the following age groups:
 - Children ages 5 to 11 years
 - And 6 months to 5 years
 - They are hoping to submit the vaccine for Emergency Use Authorization (EAU) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) between September and October for children ages 5 to 11, and children ages 6 months to 5 years old soon after.
 - [Studies in Additional Populations | pfizerus.com](#)
- **A new type of COVID-19 vaccine could be available later this year.** Developed by Novavax, it is a 2-dose protein subunit vaccine that works differently than currently FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines.
 - It contains the spike protein itself (whereas others contain genetic instructions for the spike protein so that a body's cells can make it).
 - This type of technology using a protein subunit has been used in hepatitis B and pertussis vaccines.
 - The clinical trial enrolled 29,960 participants 18 years old and older at 119 locations in the United States and Mexico. Results indicate that the vaccine showed 90% overall vaccine efficacy (VE), 100% protection against moderate and severe illness, and 93% VE against variants of concern and of interest. The vaccine was well-tolerated with the common post-vaccine symptoms being injection-site pain, fatigue, headache, and muscle pain, all of which resolved within 2 days.
 - The company will likely apply for FDA review in the next few months.
 - [COVID Vaccines From Novavax And Medicago Could Debut Soon : Shots - Health News : NPR](#)

- **The Delta Variant is now the dominant COVID-19 variant in the U.K replacing B117.** It accounts for 60% of new cases in the UK and more than 6% of cases in the US. Cases of the Delta Variant were first reported in Lake County in May, 2021.
 - Studies show that Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines are effective against the strain.
 - [Get vaccinated to prevent the development of variant strains.](#)
- **A new CDC study finds the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) reduce the risk of infection by 91 percent for fully vaccinated people.)**
 - Importantly, this study also is among the first to show that mRNA vaccination benefits people who get COVID-19 despite being fully vaccinated (14 or more days after dose 2) or partially vaccinated (14 or more days after dose 1 to 13 days after dose 2).
 - [CDC COVID-19 Study Shows mRNA Vaccines Reduce Risk of Infection by 91 Percent for Fully Vaccinated People | CDC Online Newsroom | CDC](#)
- **The Lake County Fairgrounds mass vaccination site closed on June 14.** The fairgrounds site has vaccinated thousands of individuals since opening in January. We are so grateful for all those who have volunteered their time operating this site and vaccinating our community.
 - To find a vaccine location, visit <https://AllVax.lakecohealth.org>. The vaccine is free to all, regardless of insurance or immigration status.
 - We are continuing to provide vaccinations to the community at the Water Street location.
- **The Health Department is providing vaccinations at our Belvidere Medical Building, Grand Avenue Health Center, Zion Health Center, Midlakes Health Center, and North Shore Health Center.** Appointments are available on AllVax. Community members who wish to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should call (847) 377-8130 for an appointment.
 - We will have mobile vaccination pods in communities throughout Lake County, more information coming soon.
- **Lake County continues to see disparities in COVID prevalence and vaccination rates among our communities of color.** Of those who have been vaccinated, 3.63% are Black and 141.13% are Hispanic (Lake County's demographics are 6.5% Black and 14% Hispanic). There are several ways your organization can help address these disparities:
 - Host a registration event to help community members sign up for a vaccine. FEMA can help support these outreach and education events. Contact Amanda.Lindsey@fema.dhs.gov for more information.
 - Host a Mobile pop-up vaccination event. Register here: https://lchd.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6MDmO2ip6o0Qwlg
 - Help recruit Community Health Workers to support community-based outreach, education, and vaccination. Apply here: <https://www.LCHDcareers.com/jobs>
- **It is easier than ever to schedule your COVID-19 vaccine appointment, as we now have sufficient vaccine supply in Lake County.** All Illinoisans age 12 and older are eligible to get their vaccine.
- **Walk-ins are plentiful for COVID-19 vaccines.** Hours are updated regularly on the Health Department's social media and on the AllVax website. Appointments are also available on **the AllVax website**; <https://AllVax.lakecohealth.org>. Call (847) 377-8130 to schedule by phone, and homebound individuals may get on our list to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at home.

- **102 W. Water Street in Waukegan** offers both drive-through and walk-through appointments through AllVax, and also offers walk-ins. Hours at the site are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Sunday, May 30 for Memorial Day Weekend.
- **The Zion Community Vaccination Site** opened April 26 at Zion-Benton Township High School New Tech Campus (1634 23rd Street, Zion), and an additional location opened at the former K-Mart Plaza at 3363 Sheridan Road, Zion. Community members may walk in or schedule an appointment online: <https://sites.google.com/preventivehp.com/zion-community/home>.
- Many retail pharmacies are also now promoting walk-ins for COVID-19 vaccination.
- **Our Health Department encourages people to explore their options for COVID-19 vaccination.** The sooner we all get vaccinated, the sooner we can put an end to the pandemic. You can access the vaccine in four ways:
 - Use the State's Vaccine Locator website that lists pharmacies and other public sites; <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccination-location> or call 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.
 - Check with your 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.lakecountyl.gov/vaccine>.
 - **Another resource for locating a vaccine is the recently launched search on vaccines.gov** – you may select a vaccine brand and see which locations near your zip code have it in stock. <https://vaccines.gov>
- **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.lakecountyl.gov/4524/Community-Health-Ambassadors>
 - **Sign up:** https://lchd.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e3BOCd49aly8xFz
- As a reminder, these conference calls are held on the first Wednesday of every month. Our next conference calls are scheduled for July 2.
 - The key points, chat files, and audio recordings are posted to the Health Department's website. <https://www.lakecountyl.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 Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Young Children provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and an EBT card to purchase supplemental foods at no cost to eligible families.** The American Rescue Plan has led to increased the in Women, Infants & Children's (WIC) vegetable and fruit cash-value benefit

(CVB). The benefit has temporarily increased to \$35 per month for fruits and vegetables, per mother and child, through September. It will be added to EBT cards for the months of June, July, August, and September. If someone already receives these benefits the increase will be automatic.

- For more information about WIC or to find out if your family qualifies, visit the [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children \(WIC\)](#) on Lake County Health Department's website.
- **The federal government has [announced](#) a paid leave tax credit with funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to help cover time off costs related to the COVID-19 vaccine for employers with fewer than 500 employees.**
 - Tax credits in the ARP are designed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by giving tax credits to employers with fewer than 500 employees whose employees take time off due to one of the following: COVID-19 symptoms; COVID-19 testing; quarantine due to COVID-19 (or are caring for someone who is); or caring for a child whose school or childcare provider closed due to COVID-19.
 - The Administration has released fact sheets from the Department of Treasury and IRS to help employers learn how to claim paid sick leave credits on their quarterly tax filings.
 - <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Paid-Leave-Credit-Snapshot.pdf>
 - <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/employer-tax-credits-for-employee-paid-leave-due-to-covid-19>
- **President Biden has laid out a goal of administering at least one vaccine shot to 70% of U.S. adults by the 4th of July. As of 6/12, 52.8% of the US population has had at least one dose.**
- **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.
- The Illinois eviction moratorium remains in place through June 26th. Lake County is administering federal emergency rent assistance to qualified households. More information is available on the Lake County website or through calling 211 or texting your zip code to 898211. [Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program \(FERA\) | Lake County, IL \(lakecountyil.gov\)](#)

Businesses

- **The US Small Business Administration has created a Restaurant Revitalization Fund** providing emergency assistance for eligible restaurants, bars, and other qualifying businesses impacted by COVID-19.
 - Visit www.sba.gov and click on COVID Relief section to learn more about Restaurant Revitalization Fund, Paycheck Protection Program and more.
 - https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/restaurant-revitalization-fund?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- **The Health Department has a 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

- **The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has a detailed webpage with information on COVID-19-related legal questions**, such as what information employers can request when an employee calls in sick, if employers can require proof of vaccination, and mandatory vaccination policies and accommodations. <https://www.eeoc.gov/wysk/what-you-should-know-about-covid-19-and-ada-rehabilitation-act-and-other-eeo-laws>
- **By providing information about COVID-19 vaccination and establishing supportive policies and practices, employers can help increase vaccine uptake among your 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>
- **Under State guidance, fully vaccinated or recently tested people do not count toward capacity limits at venues:** <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Documents/Essential%20Business%20FAQ.pdf>.
- We recently updated our guidance for businesses on the LCHD website to align with Phase 5 guidelines.
 - http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/COVID19/Illinois%20Phase%205%20Guidelines.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0UMmn3UU0dJhniDfdsSGUG00tNhwjPuDvdw_FkyIKYfiMnrZX5VVvU1D0
- **Thank you, businesses, for all you are doing to keep your staff and customers safe during the pandemic.** 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.
- **Additional business resources:**
 - **Lake County Health Department** <https://www.lakecountylil.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.

Municipalities

- **Municipal leaders who wish to volunteer at vaccination sites** during special municipal days should contact Mandi Florip. 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.
- **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 to report cases of COVID-19 and close contacts**. <https://redcap.dph.illinois.gov/surveys/?s=NHECLHEHFP>

Faith-Based Organizations

- **LCHD requested IDPH clarification on guidance for faith communities now that we have entered Phase 5.**
 - Individuals who are not vaccinated should continue to wear a mask and social distance 6 feet from others. Vaccinated individuals do not need to continue to wear a mask. IDPH indicated that people who are fully vaccinated may again in enjoy singing in places of worship, unless in a setting that requires mask wearing, such as a chapel in a hospital.
- **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@lakecountyl.gov.
 - **More information is available on our Employers page** https://allvax.lakecohealth.org/s/employers?language=en_US
 - **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@lakecountyl.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** <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>
- **Form 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>
- **CDC webpage dedicated to communities of faith –**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

Community Resources

- **As of May 17, the Lake County Health Department is taking referrals for grocery delivery for individuals in quarantine or isolation who do not have access to other resources.** Please call 847-377-8130 and ask to speak with a case manager.
- **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 844-684-6333 (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. <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>