

Lake County Updates

- **Lake County has had over 62,007 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,023 deaths.** Over 1.2 million tests have been administered. Lake County's recovery rate is 98.3 percent.
 - Data hub: <https://covid19response-lakecountyil.hub.arcgis.com/>
- The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recently met to discuss the latest data on reports of mild cases of inflammation of the heart muscle and surrounding tissue called myocarditis and pericarditis following COVID-19 vaccination among younger people.
 - Myocarditis is inflammation of the heart and pericarditis is inflammation of the sac surrounding the heart. Both conditions may cause shortness of breath and chest pressure.
- **Since April 2021, there have been over a thousand reports of myocarditis and pericarditis to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).**
 - These reports are extremely rare when compared to over 177 million people having received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in the United States.
 - Most patients who received care responded well to treatment and rest and quickly felt better.
 - Confirmed cases have occurred:
 - Mostly in male adolescents and young adults aged 16 years or older
 - More often after getting the second dose than after the first dose of a mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna)
 - Typically, within several days after COVID-19 vaccination
 - The ACIP issued a statement following this meeting that emphasizes that this is an extremely rare side effect and that the risks of not getting vaccinated against COVID-19 are far greater.
 - Read the full ACIP statement: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/06/23/statement-following-cdc-acip-meeting-nations-leading-doctors-nurses-public-health-leaders-benefits-vaccination.html>
 - More information about myocarditis and pericarditis can be found on the CDC page Myocarditis and Pericarditis Following mRNA COVID-19 Vaccination: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/myocarditis.html>
 - The CDC has a page dedicated to explaining adverse events that have occurred from different vaccines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/adverse-events.html>
- **As of July 3, the Region 9 positivity rate is 1% (Lake 0.9%) (McHenry 1.2%).** Region 9 has had 3 days of increases in COVID hospital admissions in the past 10 days, and ICU bed availability is gradually decreasing to 28%.
 - Region 9 data: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=9>
- **In total, over 720,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Lake County residents.** Over 349,000 of our residents, or 49.86% of our population, are fully vaccinated. Over 83% of our 65 and older population and 63% of our population age 16-64 have received at least one dose.

- Vaccination data: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccinedata?county=Lake>
- **The Delta Variant (B.1.617.2)** was announced to be a variant of concern by the CDC in June 2021.
 - The Delta variant is projected to become the most dominant variant in the next few months.
 - In our last conference call, we mistakenly stated that there are no reported cases of COVID-19 delta variant in Lake County; but there have been some cases of Delta variant among Lake County residents since the end of April 2021.
 - The Delta variant has shown to be more contagious and spread more quickly than previous COVID-19 variants.
 - To stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect yourself and others against variants, all should get vaccinated as soon as they are able.
 - Unvaccinated individuals should continue to take precautions such as wearing masks and social distancing. Some vaccinated individuals, including those who have weakened immune systems, may consider wearing a mask when indoors amongst large crowds.
 - For information on the number of variant cases in Illinois, visit dph.illinois.gov/covid19/variants
- **A recent report by the CDC shows that vaccination coverage and intent to vaccinate among adults are lowest among those aged 18–39 years old.**
 - When asked to cite their reason for not intending to get vaccinated, those that were still unsure cited possible side effects as their primary reason.
 - It is important to remember that symptoms in the 1–3 days after vaccination are expected and a sign that your body is building protection. Symptoms may include fatigue, muscle aches, headache, tenderness at injection site, chills, nausea and fever. Typically, symptoms resolve after 3 days.
 - Read the full MMWR report at: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7025e2.htm?s_cid=mm7025e2_w#T2_down
- **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.
- **The Regional Vaccination Site at 102 W. Water Street in Waukegan will be operating 1 day a week on Sundays beginning July 18.**
 - This site will be transitioning to a walk-up site only
- Appointments are available on AllVax or by walking up to the site. **The Health Department is currently providing vaccinations at our Belvidere Medical Building, Grand Avenue Health Center, Zion Health Center, Midlakes Health Center, and North Shore Health Center.**
 - July 16 will be the last day for vaccination clinics at the Belvidere Medical Building 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.

- **Walk-ins are plentiful for COVID-19 vaccines.** Appointments and walk-in details are 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.
 - Many retail pharmacies are also now promoting walk-ins for COVID-19 vaccination.
- **Lake County continues to see disparities in COVID prevalence and vaccination rates among our different communities.** There are several ways your organization can help address these disparities:
 - If you would like to host a Mobile pop-up vaccination event or include vaccinations at your upcoming event (including fairs, farmers markets, back to school events), please register here: https://lchd.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6MDmO2ip6o0Qwlg
 - Contact Daniela Dawson ddawson2@lakecountyil.gov with any additional questions.
 - Help recruit Community Health Workers to support community-based outreach, education, and vaccination. Apply here: <https://www.LCHDcareers.com/jobs>
- **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.lakecountyil.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 (CHA).** 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.lakecountyil.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 August 4.
 - The key points, chat files, and audio recordings are posted to the Health Department's website. <https://www.lakecountyil.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 an increase in 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 \(WIC\)](https://www.lakecountyl.gov/2049/Women-Infants-Children-WIC) (<https://www.lakecountyl.gov/2049/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 laid out a goal of administering at least one vaccine shot to 70% of U.S. adults by the 4th of July. As of July 4, 67.1% of the U.S. population 18 years of age and older has had at least one dose.**
- **The President has extended a ban on housing foreclosures (federally guaranteed mortgages) for one final month to July 31** to help homeowners struggling during the pandemic. Federal moratorium for evictions of rental tenants also remains through July 31. This is also expected to be the final month of this moratorium. [FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Initiatives to Promote Housing Stability By Supporting Vulnerable Tenants and Preventing Foreclosures | The White House](#)

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>
- We recently updated our guidance for businesses on the LCHD website to align with Phase 5 guidelines.
- **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.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 workplacerights@atg.state.il.us.

Municipalities

- **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 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@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:bhargett@lakecountyil.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 3 Ws** 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.
- **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

- **The Lake County Health Department's Community Case Management program is actively taking referrals! Our case managers can help community members navigate food, housing, childcare, health, and employment resources, and community health workers are available for in-person support and education. Contact 847-377-8444 or HLcommunityhelp@lakecountyil.gov to get connected.**
 - https://www.lakecountyil.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40404/PHNP-Here-to-Help-Flyer_English_Spanish
- **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/>.
- **Rental Assistance:** Lake County's program for renters provides needed relief to those who need help making past-due or current rent and utility payments: lakecountyil.gov/renthelp
- **Food for Families in Need:** Northern Illinois Food Bank operates a traveling food pantry that delivers nutritious food directly to those in need and coordinates pop-up food markets across Lake County. Some upcoming locations include Waukegan, Highwood, Grayslake, Fox Lake and Ingleside: solvehungertoday.org/get-help/distributions
- **Help for Veterans:** The Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission can help veterans and their families with a variety of issues, including financial help, survivor spousal benefits, burial arrangements and more. Call them at 847-377-3344.
- **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>