

Lake County Updates

- Questions for municipalities:
 - Are you going to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for all municipal staff?
 - If yes, by when do they need to be fully vaccinated?
 - What Village or City do you represent?
- **As of August 30, Lake County has had over 66,500 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,042 deaths.** Over 1.2 million tests have been administered. Lake County's recovery rate is at 98.3 percent.
 - Data hub: <https://covid19response-lakecountyl.hub.arcgis.com/>
- **As of August 28, the Region 9 positivity rate is 5.3 % (Lake 4.9%) (McHenry 6.4%).** Region 9 has experienced 8 days of COVID-19 patient increases and ICU bed availability is at 17%.
 - Region 9 Data: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=9>
- **In total, over 793,100 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Lake County residents.** Over 390,100 of our residents, or 55.6% of our population are fully vaccinated. Over 86.1% of our 65 and older population and 67.7% of our population age 18-64 have received at least one dose.
 - Vaccination data: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccinatedata?county=Lake>
- **Governor Pritzker and the State of Illinois recently announced new strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19.** This follows a Delta variant surge in Illinois that has led to increasing COVID-19 cases and decreasing ICU bed availability statewide. New strategies will include:
 - All individuals ages 2 and older will be required to wear a mask in indoor public settings regardless of vaccination status.
 - Vaccination requirements start September 5 for healthcare workers including workers at public and private nursing homes, teachers and staff at pre-k-12 schools, and personnel and students at higher education institutions.
 - Individuals who opt out for medical reasons or religious exemptions must be tested once a week in schools and healthcare facilities.
 - Announcement: <https://www.illinois.gov/news/press-release.23808.html>
- **COVID-19 testing is available throughout Lake County.**
 - PCR testing is administered by the State on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 8:00 am-4:00 pm at 102 W. Water Street, Waukegan, and at 823 Wilke Rd., Arlington Heights.
 - Visit the [IDPH COVID-19 Testing Sites](#) page for other locations.
- **On Monday, August 23, the FDA approved the Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine.** This is the first vaccine to be approved by the FDA. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will be marketed as Comirnaty.
 - The full approval of the vaccine is for ages 16 years of age and older. Individuals 12-15 can still receive the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine under the Emergency Use Authorization.
 - Read the full FDA news release on the approval at <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine>
- **On August 12, the FDA authorized an additional COVID-19 vaccine dose for certain moderately or severely immunocompromised individuals.**
 - This includes people who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
 - Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
 - Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
 - Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
 - Advanced or untreated HIV infection
 - Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response
 - People should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition, and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them.
- **These moderately or severely immunocompromised individuals may need an additional COVID-19 vaccine dose** if the body did not have a strong initial response to the vaccine.
 - COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>
- **The Lake County Health Department will not be providing additional COVID-19 vaccine doses at its community vaccination clinics or mobile vaccination sites.**
- Health Department vaccination sites will continue providing first and second doses to individuals and encourage all to get vaccinated as soon as they are able.
 - We encourage those who believe they are eligible for an additional dose to speak with their healthcare provider. A person's healthcare provider is best able to assess the individual's immunocompromised state and the optimal timing of vaccination, with specific attention paid to current or planned immunosuppressive therapies.
 - If an additional dose is recommended to you, please reach out to your local pharmacy or healthcare provider to schedule an appointment.
- **On August 18, the US Department of Health and Human Services and CDC released a joint statement about the plan for COVID-19 boosters.**
 - Booster shots differ from additional doses and are not yet authorized for use.
 - **Booster shots** are meant for those that had a strong initial immune response to the two-dose series of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna). The vaccine may have waned over time and a booster can help an individual stay protected.
 - **Read the joint statement** <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0818-covid-19-booster-shots.html>
- **Vaccination remains the best path forward to end the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.
 - The Regional Vaccination Site at 102 W. Water Street in Waukegan is operating 1 day a week on Sunday from 9:30 am to 5 pm.
 - This site is a walk-up-only location.
 - Appointments are available on AllVax or by walking up to the site. The Health Department is currently providing vaccinations at our Grand Avenue Health Center, Zion Health Center, and Midlakes 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.
- **Our mobile vaccination clinic is in the community offering vaccinations and other health resources.** All of our mobile vaccination clinics are accompanied by Community Health Workers who can answer questions about the vaccine and offer health education and resources.
 - For the weekly mobile vaccination clinic schedule, make sure that you are following the Health Department on social media. We post updated mobile vaccination clinic schedules weekly.
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/healthdepartment/>
 - To sign up for an appointment at a mobile vaccination clinic, visit https://allvax.lakecohealth.org/s/?language=en_US
- **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_72vtQO7kKnvQaZE
 - If you would like to have Community Health Workers ONLY at your event to provide health education and outreach (NOT vaccinations), please contact Candace Browdy cbrowdy@lakecountyil.gov
 - Help recruit Community Health Workers to support community-based outreach, education, and vaccination. Apply here: <https://www.LCHDcareers.com/jobs>
- As a reminder, these conference calls are held on the first Wednesday of every month. Our next conference calls are scheduled for October 6.
- 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

- **Announced this past Friday, Governor Pritzker said he plans to extend Illinois' eviction moratorium to October 3rd after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Biden's eviction moratorium.** <https://patch.com/illinois/chicago/u-s-supreme-court-just-struck-down-bidens-eviction-moratorium-here-are-illinois>
- **A new rental assistance website was launched by the state, which shows program options to help people pay past due rent, www.illinoisrentalassistance.org. Information about Lake County's rental assistance program can be found at lakecountyil.gov/renthelp**

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.lakecountyl.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

- **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

- **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.
 - **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.
- **Pat Brady, Michael Atlas, and Leia Mueller are the Health Department's dedicated community liaisons during COVID-19.** You can reach them by emailing PBRADY2@lakecountyiil.gov, MATLAS@lakecountyiil.gov, LMueller@lakecountyiil.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. Case managers also provide transportation to and from medical, vaccination, and COVID-19 test appointments.

- Contact 847-377-8444 or email 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.
- **Help for Businesses:** The State of Illinois Back To Business Program is a grant program for small businesses in Illinois that provides up to \$150,000 to small businesses in industries and geographies hardest hit by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/SmallBizAssistance/Pages/B2B.aspx>
- **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>