

## Lake County Updates

- **Lake County has had over 62,991 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,030 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/>
- **As of July 31, the Region 9 positivity rate is 4.8% (Lake 4.2%) (McHenry 6.4%).** Region 9 has had 9 days of increases in COVID patients in the hospital in the past 10 days, and ICU bed availability is at 30%.
  - Region 9 data: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=9>
- **In total, over 750,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Lake County residents.** Over 365,000 of our residents, or 52.16% of our population, are fully vaccinated. Over 85% of our 65 and older population and 66% of our population age 16-64 have received at least one dose.
  - Vaccination data: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccinedata?county=Lake>
- **The CDC recently released guidance advising that individuals wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission regardless of vaccination status.**
  - Additionally, the CDC is recommending universal masking regardless of vaccination status for all individuals in K-12 schools.
  - The Lake County Health Department fully endorses CDC guidance and encourages all residents to take necessary precautions to stay protected against COVID-19 and its variants.
  - CDC Guidance: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html#anchor\\_1619526673330](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html#anchor_1619526673330)
- **As of Saturday, July 31, 2021, Lake County is experiencing substantial community transmission per the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).**
  - Areas of substantial transmission are considered by the CDC to be those with 50 to 99 cases per 100,000 people over a 7-day period and/or 8 to 9.99% of COVID-19 PCR tests that are positive during the past 7 days. Areas of high transmission are considered to be those with more than 100 cases per 100,000 people over a 7-day period and/or equal to or greater than 10% of COVID-19 PCR tests that are positive during the past 7 days.
  - Read the press release on substantial transmission: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/bulletins/2eadb64>
  - CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>
- **The Delta Variant (B.1.617.2) was announced to be a variant of concern by the CDC in June 2021. In July 2021, following multiple large public events in a Barnstable County, Massachusetts, town, 469 COVID-19 cases were identified among Massachusetts residents who had traveled to the town during July 3–17; 346 (74%) occurred in fully vaccinated persons. Testing identified the Delta variant in 90% of specimens from 133 patients.**
  - Early data, including results of the MMWR from Massachusetts, suggest that individuals who are vaccinated may still be able to spread the Delta variant.
  - Vaccinated individuals are less likely to experience severe COVID-19 symptoms if infected including hospitalization and death.
  - Read the MMWR: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7031e2.htm>

- 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.
  - All individuals in areas of substantial or high transmission should practice the 3 ws: wear a mask, watch their distance, and wash their hands.
  - Immunocompromised individuals or those who live with immunocompromised individuals may want to consider masking in indoor public settings regardless of the area's transmission rate or their vaccination status.
- **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.
  - 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>
- **The Regional Vaccination Site at 102 W. Water Street in Waukegan is operating 1 day a week.**
  - 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.
  - To sign up for an appointment at a mobile vaccination clinic, visit [https://allvax.lakecohealth.org/s/?language=en\\_US](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](https://lchd.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_72vtQO7kKnvQaZE)
    - Contact Daniela Dawson [ddawson2@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:ddawson2@lakecountyil.gov) with any additional questions.
  - 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](mailto: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 September 1.
  - 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

- **Governor Pritzker issued a new executive order on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, allowing for eviction filings to resume beginning August 1. Enforcement of eviction orders may not begin until August 31<sup>st</sup>.**
- However, CDC is issuing a new order temporarily halting evictions in counties with heightened levels (substantial or high) of community transmission in order to respond to recent, unexpected developments in the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the rise of the Delta variant. It is intended to target specific areas of the country where cases are rapidly increasing, which likely would be exacerbated by mass evictions. [Signed-CDC-Eviction-Order.pdf](#) [Lake County is currently in substantial community transmission so the CDC order would apply.](#)
- **A new rental assistance website was launched by the state, which shows program options to help people pay past due rent, [www.illinoisrentalassistance.org](http://www.illinoisrentalassistance.org). [Information about Lake County's rental assistance program can be found at](#) [lakecountyil.gov/renthelp](http://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](http://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](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](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 [workplacerrights@atg.state.il.us](mailto: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. If you are interested in hosting a vaccination event, please reach out to Daniela Dawson at [DDawson2@lakecountyiil.gov](mailto:DDawson2@lakecountyiil.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)
- **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.
- **Julia Padula and Adriano Yashar are the Health Department's dedicated community liaisons during COVID-19.** You can reach them by emailing [jpadula@lakecountyiil.gov](mailto:jpadula@lakecountyiil.gov) and [ayashar3@lakecountyiil.gov](mailto:ayashar3@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. Contact 847-377-8444 or email [HLcommunityhelp@lakecountyiil.gov](mailto:HLcommunityhelp@lakecountyiil.gov) to get connected.**
  - [https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40404/PHNP-Here-to-Help-Flyer\\_English\\_Spanish](https://www.lakecountyiil.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](http://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](http://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>