

## Lake County Updates

- **As of October 5, Lake County has had over 70,820 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,073 deaths.** Over 1.5 million tests have been administered. Lake County's recovery rate is at 98.3 percent.
  - Data hub: <https://covid19response-lakecountyil.hub.arcgis.com/>
- **As of October 5, the Region 9 positivity rate is 2.4% (Lake 2.1%) (McHenry 3%).** Region 9 has experienced 7 days of COVID-19 patient decreases and ICU bed availability is at 18%.
  - Region 9 Data: <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/data/region-metrics.html?regionID=9>
- **In total, over 834,400 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Lake County residents.** Over 406,300 of our residents, or 57% of our population are fully vaccinated. Over 88% of our 65 and older population and 70% of our population age 18-64 have received at least one dose.
  - Vaccination data: <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine/vaccine-data.html?county=Lake>
- **On Wednesday, September 22, the FDA authorized a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose for certain fully vaccinated individuals.** The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met on Thursday, September 23, and [released a statement aligning with the FDA recommendations](#).
- Read the statement here <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0924-booster-recommendations-.html?emci=2404b106-331d-ec11-981f-0050f271a1a2&emdi=f1b13c4f-421d-ec11-981f-0050f271a1a2&ceid=7279229>
- The CDC has recommended that the following groups should consider receiving a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine:
  - Individuals age 65 and older
  - Residents in long-term care settings
  - Individuals ages 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions
- The CDC recommends that the following groups may consider receiving a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine based on their individual benefits and risks:
  - Individuals ages 18–49 years with underlying medical conditions
  - Individuals ages 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional settings such as:
    - health-care workers, teachers, grocery store employees and other essential workers.
- Only those that received and completed the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine series have been authorized to receive a booster dose if they fall into one of the categories listed above. Those that received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine have not been authorized to receive a booster at this time
- A booster for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine can be given at least six months after the completion of the initial two-dose series. More information can be found on the CDC's [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot page](#), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

- Those who received both doses of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series or the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine are still highly protected from severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19.
  - If you feel you may qualify for a booster or are unsure, please talk with your healthcare provider.
- **On Monday, September 20, Pfizer and BioNTech announced results from the trial of their COVID-19 vaccine in children ages 5-11 years old.**
- They found that the vaccine was safe, well-tolerated, and effective.
  - The dose for children ages 5-11 years old is smaller than the dose for those 12 and older.
- Pfizer and BioNTech submitted the initial data to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for Emergency Use Authorization on September 28th.
  - Read the full press release <https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-submit-initial-data-us-fda-pivotal>
- **On Wednesday, September 29, the CDC issued an urgent health advisory urging vaccination in individuals who are pregnant, recently pregnant, trying to become pregnant, or may become pregnant in the future.**
- According to the CDC only 31 percent of pregnant people have been vaccinated against COVID-19. Pregnant individuals face increased risks from COVID-19, including severe illness, hospitalization, and death.
  - The CDC health advisory [strongly recommends COVID-19 vaccination](#) either before or during pregnancy because the benefits of vaccination for both pregnant persons and their fetus or infant outweigh known or potential risks.
  - Read the advisory <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0929-pregnancy-health-advisory.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 Water St. vaccination site in Waukegan will be closing October 10<sup>th</sup>.
    - This site will remain open for testing through IDPH.
  - 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 and Midlakes Health Center.
    - Appointments are available on AllVax, [allvax.lakecohealth.org](http://allvax.lakecohealth.org) . Community members who wish to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should call (847) 377-8130 for an appointment.
  - Five Community-Based Testing Sites in Illinois will now offer COVID-19 vaccinations
    - This includes the site at the Arlington Race Track which will offer vaccinations M, W, Fr, and Sat from 8 a to 4 pm
    - Read the full press release at <https://www2.illinois.gov/IISNews/23972-Five-Community-Based-Testing-Sites-Now-Offer-COVID-19-Vaccinations.pdf>
- **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 [vaccinefinder.org](http://vaccinefinder.org)
- **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:** <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccinationclinics>
  - 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 November 3.
- 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

- **Illinois' eviction moratorium ended on October 3.**
- **A 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.

- **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.
- **Pat Brady, Michael Atlas, and Leia Mueller are the Health Department's dedicated community liaisons during COVID-19.** You can reach them by emailing [PBADY2@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:PBADY2@lakecountyil.gov), [MATLAS@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:MATLAS@lakecountyil.gov), [LMueller@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:LMueller@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** <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/data/contact-tracing/outbreak-locations.html?regionID=9>
  - **IDPH: Locations where exposures may have occurred** (not definitive exposure locations) <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/data/contact-tracing/potential-exposure-location.html?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](mailto:HLcommunityhelp@lakecountyil.gov) to get connected.**
  - [https://www.lakecountyil.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40404/PHNP-Here-to-Help-Flyer\\_English\\_Spanish](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](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.
- **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>