

Lake County Updates

- **As of November 2, Lake County has had over 73,200 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,096 deaths.** Over 1.6 million tests have been administered. Lake County's recovery rate is at 98.4 percent.
 - Data hub: <https://covid19response-lakecountyl.hub.arcgis.com/>
- **As of October 30, the Region 9 positivity rate is 2.4% (Lake 2.2%) (McHenry 2.9%).** Region 9 has had 10 days of a stable amount or a decrease in COVID-19 patients and ICU bed availability is at 23%.
 - Region 9 Data: <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/data/region-metrics.html?regionID=9>
- **In total, over 898,500 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Lake County residents.** Over 417,900 of our residents, or 59% of our population are fully vaccinated. Over 92% of our 65 and older population and 72% 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 October 20, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended and expanded the Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) for all available COVID-19 vaccines.** The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met on Thursday, October 21, and released a [statement aligning with the FDA recommendations](#).
 - Read the statement here <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p1021-covid-booster.html>
- The CDC has announced that for individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:
 - 65 years and older
 - Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
 - Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
 - Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings
- Those that received Johnson & Johnson as their primary vaccine are eligible for a booster if they are:
 - 18+ years old, and
 - at least two months out from their primary dose
- As a reminder those who have received the entire primary series of the COVID-19 vaccine continue to be protected against severe illness, hospitalization, and death.
- **The FDA also authorized the use of a mix and match booster dose.** Eligible individuals can receive a different booster shot than the one they received in their primary series.
 - More information about COVID-19 boosters, in general, can be found on the CDC's COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>
- **On Tuesday, November 2, the CDC endorsed the FDA's authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for emergency use in children ages 5-11 years old.**
- **The CDC and IDPH recommend that children and adolescents age 5 and older get a COVID-19 vaccine.**

- The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for children and adolescents age 5 and up, as a 2-dose series taken 3 weeks apart. The dose for children age 5-11 is one-third of the dosage of the vaccine for older adolescents and adults.
 - o The vaccine was found to be 90.7% effective in preventing COVID-19 in children 5 through 11.
 - o The vaccine's safety was studied in approximately 3,100 children age 5 through 11 who received the vaccine and no serious side effects have been detected in the ongoing study.
 - Visit the CDC page on 5-11 year old COVID-19 vaccines for more information <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/children.html> and read the CDC statement <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1102-PediatricCOVID-19Vaccine.html#:~:text=CDC%20Recommends%20Pediatric%20COVID%2D19%20Vaccine%20for%20Children%205%20to%2011%20Years,-Media%20Statement&text=Today%2C%20CDC%20Director%20Rochelle%20P,th e%20Pfizer%2DBioNTech%20pediatric%20vaccine.>
 - Read the press release for more information: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-authorizes-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-emergency-use-children-5-through-11-years-age>
- **The Health Department's community clinics at the Midlakes Health Center in Round Lake and 3010 Grand Avenue in Waukegan will begin offering vaccinations to our 5-11 year old community starting on Monday, November 8th.**
 - o We ask for our community's patience as the pediatric vaccine rollout begins.
 - o It may take some locations additional time to begin offering vaccines to 5-11 year old's and for sufficient quantities of pediatric vaccine to arrive.
 - o Please register in AllVax to be notified when you are eligible to schedule at one of the Health department's community clinics.
- **On October 11, Merck submitted an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the use of its oral antiviral medicine, molnupiravir.** The medicine is for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults who are at risk of developing a severe case of COVID-19.
 - o Results show that it reduced the risk of hospitalization or death by approximately 50 percent.
 - The FDA announced on October 14, that their Antimicrobial Drugs Advisory Committee (AMDAC) will discuss Merck's request for a EUA on November 30. **Read each press release from the FDA for more information** <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-hold-advisory-committee-meeting-discuss-merck-and-ridgebacks-eua-application-covid-19-oral>
- Flu cases were at an all-time low during the 2020-2021 flu season due to mitigations and stay at home orders nationwide. **COVID-19 and influenza are caused by different viruses and it is possible to get sick with both at the same time.**
 - o It is important to get both your COVID-19 vaccine and flu shot this year to protect against severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

- o You do not have to wait between your COVID-19 vaccine and flu shot, you can even get them at the same visit.
- o To find a COVID-19 vaccine and a flu vaccine near you, you can visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/>
- On October 15, 2021 the CDC updated guidelines for the upcoming holiday season. **These guidelines emphasize vaccination as the best way to be protected when gathering with loved ones.**
 - o Other suggestions to stay protected during holiday celebrations include:
 - Wear well-fitting masks over your nose and mouth if you are in public indoor settings if you are not fully vaccinated.
 - Even those who are fully vaccinated should wear a mask in public indoor settings in communities with substantial to high transmission.
 - Avoid crowded, poorly ventilated spaces—outdoors is safer than indoors.
 - If you are sick or have symptoms, do not gather with others.
 - Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have a close contact with someone who has COVID-19.
 - o Individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness or those who live with individuals at higher risk for severe illness may want to take additional precautions.
 - o Individuals who are considering travelling for the holidays, should visit the CDC’s travel page to decide what is best for their family. The CDC still recommends delaying travel until you are fully vaccinated.
 - Read the full guidelines on the CDC’s Safer Ways to Celebrate page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/celebrations.html>
 - Visit the CDC travel guidance page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.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.
- As a reminder appointments are available on AllVax or by walking up to the site. The Health Department is currently providing first and second doses at our Grand Avenue Health Center and Midlakes Health Center.
 - o Appointments are available on AllVax, allvax.lakecohealth.org. Community members who wish to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should call (847) 377-8130 for an appointment.
 - o Five Community-Based Testing Sites in Illinois will 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>
 - o We encourage residents to explore their options for vaccination at pharmacies, healthcare providers, and mobile clinics throughout Lake County. Visit <https://www.vaccinefinder.org> for a location near you.

- **You can also get vaccinated at any of our mobile vaccination clinics!** Community Health Workers are also on site to answer questions about the vaccine and offer health education and resources. Mobile sites will begin offering vaccines to 5-11 year olds in the coming weeks
 - o 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 on our social media pages and on the mobile clinics page.
 - o Mobile clinics page: <https://allvax.lakecohealth.org/s/mobile-vaccination-clinics>
 - o Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/healthdepartment/>
 - o To sign up for an appointment at a mobile vaccination clinic, visit <https://www.vaccinefinder.org>. All sites are walk-in friendly.
 - o **If your organization 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>
 - o 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 December 1.
 - o The key points, chat files, and audio recordings are posted to the Health Department's website. <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/4428/Conference-Calls>
 - o **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. 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.
 - o 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>
- **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.lakecountyyil.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 PBADY2@lakecountyl.gov, MATLAS@lakecountyl.gov, LMueller@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** <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 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>