

## Lake County Updates

- **As of November 30, Lake County has had over 77,700 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,113 deaths.** Over 1.6 million tests have been administered. Lake County's recovery rate is at 98.4 percent.
  - o Data hub: <https://covid19response-lakecountyil.hub.arcgis.com/>
- **As of November 27, the Region 9 positivity rate is 6.6% (Lake 5.6%) (McHenry 8.9%).** Region 9 has had 9 days increases in COVID-19 patients and ICU bed availability is at 21%.
  - o Region 9 Data: <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/data/region-metrics.html?regionID=9>
- **In total, over 1,000,100 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Lake County residents.** Over 424,900 of our residents, or 60% of our population are fully vaccinated. Over 95% of our 65 and older population and 74% of our population age 18-64 have received at least one dose.
  - o Vaccination data: <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine/vaccine-data.html?county=Lake>
- **On November 26, the World Health Organization classified a new variant, B.1.1.529 or the Omicron Variant, as a variant of concern.**
  - o On December 1, Dr. Fauci announced that the first reported case of the Omicron variant has been found in the United States in California.
  - o The individual was a traveler who returned from South Africa on November 22 and tested positive on November 29.
  - o The CDC will continue to monitor the situation and has advised travelers to the United States to take necessary precautions.
  - o Read the CDC statement here: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1126-B11-529-omicron.html>
- Following the new Omicron Variant, President Joe Biden issued travel restrictions with specific exceptions for noncitizens from 8 countries in Africa
  - o Read more information on the presidential proclamation suspending entry into the United States here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/from-other-countries.html>
- **On November 19, the CDC endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' expanded recommendations for booster shots to include all adults ages 18 years and older. The CDC went on to strengthen that recommendation, stating that all individuals ages 18 and older should receive a booster shot.**
  - o Those who received a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine should get a booster vaccine at least 6 months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series. Those who received Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine should get a booster vaccine at least 2 months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination.
  - o Read the statement here: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1119-booster-shots.html>
  - o Learn more about booster shot recommendations and timing here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>
- **On Tuesday, November 16, Pfizer announced they are seeking Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA for the use of their oral antiviral COVID-19 pill.**

- Pfizer's antiviral pill, called Paxlovid, was found to reduce the risk of hospitalization and death by 89% in people with mild to moderate COVID-19 infections. This treatment would be prescribed as an at-home treatment at the first sign of infection to high-risk patients. The pill would be taken twice daily, for five days.
  - o Read Pfizer's press release for more information: <https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizers-novel-covid-19-oral-antiviral-treatment-candidate>
- Pfizer's is the second antiviral drug that has been submitted for Emergency Use. Merck asked the FDA in October to for EUA of its drug, Molnupiravir.
  - o Advisers to the FDA voted 13-10 on Tuesday, November 30 to recommend Molnupiravir for Emergency Use.
  - o While initial data indicated the drug was 50% effective, later analysis showed it was 30% effective.
  - o It's designed to treat adults with mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19 who are at high risk of severe disease. The 800-milligram pill is taken every 12 hours for five days after symptom onset.
  - o The drug still needs final authorization from the FDA and CDC.
- **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](http://allvax.lakecohealth.org). Community members with additional questions should call (847) 377-8130.
  - 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/HISNews/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 have begun 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 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](mailto:cbrowdy@lakecountyil.gov)
  - Help recruit Community Health Workers to support community-based outreach, education, and vaccination. Apply here: <https://www.LCHDcareers.com/jobs>
- 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](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.
  - o [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.
  - o 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.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 [PBRADY2@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:PBRADY2@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.**
  - **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](https://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](https://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>