

## Lake County Updates

- **As of January 4, 2022, Lake County has had over 91,490 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,158 deaths.** Over 2.1 million tests have been administered. Lake County's recovery rate is at 98.5 percent.
  - Data hub: <https://covid19response-lakecountyil.hub.arcgis.com/>
- **As January 1, 2022, the Region 9 positivity rate is 16.6% (Lake 15.9%) (McHenry 19.2%).** Region 9 has had 8 days of increases in COVID-19 patients and ICU bed availability is at 15%.
  - Region 9 Data: <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/data/region-metrics.html?regionID=9>
- **In total, over 1,132,200 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Lake County residents.** Over 453,100 of our residents, or 64% of our population are fully vaccinated. Over 97% of our 65 and older population and 78% 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 December 27, 2021 the CDC updated guidance around quarantine and isolation for those who have tested positive or been exposed to COVID-19. IDPH adopted the updated guidance for the general public. This guidance does not apply for healthcare workers, school and daycare staff and students, and those who work or live in congregate settings.** Further guidance for these special groups will be updated by CDC and IDPH over the next several weeks.
  - People who test positive for COVID-19 should:
    - Stay home and isolate alone and away from others for at least five days after testing positive. This is reduced from a 10-day isolation.
    - If you do not have symptoms five days after your positive test, you can leave isolation, but should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others for an additional five days.
    - If you still have symptoms after isolating for five days, you should stay home until symptoms resolve.
  - People who are exposed to COVID-19
    - Who are unvaccinated or eligible to receive a booster and have not yet done so should:
      - Quarantine alone and away from others for five days.
      - After a five-day quarantine period, you should wear a mask around others for five additional days, w and get tested for COVID-19.
    - Who have been boosted, or have been fully vaccinated and are not yet eligible to be boosted should:
      - Wear a mask around others for 10 days, but you need not quarantine unless you develop symptoms.
  - Read the media statement on updated quarantine: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>
- **On January 3, 2022 the FDA amended the emergency use authorization (EUA), now authorizing individuals ages 12 and older to receive a booster of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.**
  - The amended EUA also shortens the time between completion of the primary vaccination series and a booster to 5 months. Additionally, the EUA now allows for a

third primary series dose for certain immunocompromised children 5 through 11 years of age. On January 4, 2022 the CDC adopted both of these changes.

- Read the CDC statement here  
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0104-Pfizer-Booster.html?fbclid=IwAR2kb7W2Z3JwpUXqomQYRQXSdqXNrMFCTp7-CdS-ShWwM3LU4Ek1p-N74f0>
- The CDC has not yet adopted the portion of this change that pertains to 12-15 year old boosters but it is anticipated to do so shortly. Once adopted, the COVID-19 Pfizer booster will be accessible to these new groups.
- Read the statement here: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-takes-multiple-actions-expand-use-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine>
- Learn more about booster shot recommendations and timing here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>
- **Lake County was recently featured in a CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on the evaluation of the Test to Stay Strategy.**
  - Implementation of the Test to Stay (TTS) strategy allowed students, and staff who were not fully vaccinated to remain in school after being exposed to COVID-19 if they remained asymptomatic, practiced consistent mask wearing, maintained physical distancing, obtained parental consent, and underwent SARS-CoV-2 testing at school or off campus on days 1, 3, 5, and 7 after exposure
  - During the 12-week evaluation period, the secondary attack risk among TTS participants was 1.5% and TTS saved up to 8,152 in-person learning days. Although 1,035 close contacts remained in-person at school after a COVID-19 exposure, there was no further spread in the schools. This report demonstrates the importance of layered mitigation in reducing the spread of COVID-19.
  - We are grateful to all the school nurses and administration, students, and parents that have helped us successfully implement the Test to Stay program.
  - The MMWR featuring the Lake County Health Department and Lake County Schools can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm705152e2.htm>.
  - Read the press release on Test to Stay at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/bulletins/3018041>
- **It was recently announced that all Illinois Community-Based State Run testing sites will be open for testing and adult COVID-19 vaccinations 6 days a week.**
  - This includes both the site in Waukegan on Water St. and in Arlington Heights at the Arlington Racetrack.
  - Sites will be open from Monday through Saturday from 8 am through 4 pm.
  - Visit the IDPH webpage for more information at <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/testing.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 as well as a limited number of booster appointments at the following locations:
  - Grand Avenue Health Center (3010 Grand Avenue in Waukegan), Belvidere Medical Building (2400 Belvidere Road in Waukegan), Midlakes Health Clinic (224 W. Clarendon Drive in Round Lake Beach ), North Shore Health Center (1840 Green Bay Road in Highland Park), and Zion Health Center (1191 27<sup>th</sup> Street in Zion)
  - Appointments are available on AllVax, [allvax.lakecohealth.org](http://allvax.lakecohealth.org). Community members with additional questions should call (847) 377-8130.
  - 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.
- **We have seen a leveling of the uptake of 5–11-year-old vaccinations in recent weeks** and only 40.15% have received their first dose and only 30.48% are fully vaccinated. We are advocating for more parents to get their children vaccinated so they remain in school.
  - 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.
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/healthdepartment/>
  - To sign up for an appointment at a mobile vaccination clinic, visit <https://www.vaccinefinder.org>. All sites are walk-in friendly.
  - **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>
  - 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>
  - 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

- The Cities of Chicago, Evanston and Highland Park, the Village's of Oak Park and Skokie, and Cook County have issued proof of vaccination mandates that require individuals to be vaccinated in certain settings. As a reminder, Lake County is a non-home rule county and cannot issue these types of mandates. We will continue to follow the direction of the State and IDPH.
- 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 [lakecountyiil.gov/renthelp](http://lakecountyiil.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:**
  - o **Lake County Health Department** <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4412/Community-Guidance-and-Resources>
  - o **Lake County Businesses email subscription list** <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/signup/18495>
  - o **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>
  - o **Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity** <https://dceocovid19resources.com/for-businesses/>
  - o **Lake County Partners** <https://www.lakecountypartners.com/>

- o **Small Business Administration** <https://www.sba.gov/>
- o **Paycheck protection program** <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program#section-header-0>
- o **ComEd Small Business Assistance Program:** <http://ComEd.com/SmallBizAssistance>
- o **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.
  - o **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)
  - o **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:**
  - o **IDPH Funeral home guidance** for conducting funeral services of visitations. <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/funeral-homes>
  - o **IDPH: Outbreaks of COVID-19 by type of facility** <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/data/contact-tracing/outbreak-locations.html?regionID=9>

- o **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>
- o **Form to report cases of COVID-19 and close contacts:** <https://redcap.dph.illinois.gov/surveys/?s=NHECLHEHFP>
- o **Lake County Faith Leaders email subscription list:** <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/signup/18498>
- o **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.**
  - o **Contact 847-377-8444 or email [HLcommunityhelp@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:HLcommunityhelp@lakecountyil.gov) to get connected.**
  - o [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)
  - o Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
  - o 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 through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m and also offers adult COVID-19 vaccinations. <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>