

## Lake County Updates

- **As of January 29, 2022, Lake County has had over 115,987 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,236 deaths.** Over 2.4 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 29, 2022, the Region 9 positivity rate is 10% (Lake 9%) (McHenry 13.4%).** Region 9 has had 15 days of decreases in COVID-19 patients and ICU bed availability is at 18%.
  - Region 9 Data: <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/data/region-metrics.html?regionID=9>
- **In total, over 1,209,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Lake County residents.** Over 465,700 of our residents, or 66% of our population are fully vaccinated. Over 98% of our 65 and older population, over 81% of our population age 18-64, over 79% of our population age 12-17, and over 46% of our population age 5-11 have received at least one dose.
  - Vaccination data: <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine/vaccine-data.html?county=Lake>
- **On January 31, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued full approval of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which will now be marketed as Spikevax.**
  - Moderna is the second COVID-19 vaccine to receive full approval from the FDA. Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine, Comirnaty, was approved in August 2021 for use in people ages 16 and older.
  - Moderna's COVID-19 Vaccine has been [available under](#) emergency use authorization (EUA) for individuals 18 years of age and older since Dec. 18, 2020.
  - For more information on the FDA's approval of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine read the FDA's press release at <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-takes-key-action-approving-second-covid-19-vaccine>
- **The CDC recently updated guidance around mask wearing to help people make decisions about which mask provides the best protection.**
  - All masks provide some level of protection, but properly fitted high filtration masks such as N95s, KN95s and KN94s provide the most protection.
  - Masks are less effective if they are worn improperly or taken off frequently, so choosing a mask that fits well and that you will wear consistently will help you get the best protection.
- You can improve the protection of your mask by making sure it fits snugly over your nose and mouth with no gaps, and by wearing two masks (a cloth mask over a disposable mask) if you don't have access to a high filtration mask.
- View the CDC Guidance for more information at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html>
- **The Federal Government has been working to distribute 400 million high filtration masks to pharmacies throughout the United States.** These masks are available for free to community members at participating pharmacies while supplies last. Additional high-quality masks for children are expected to be distributed in the future.
  - Community members can pick up free KN95s from the following LCHD locations during regular hours:

- Belvidere Medical Building - 2400 Belvidere Road, Waukegan
  - Grand Avenue Health Center – 3010 Grand Avenue, Waukegan
  - Midlakes Health Center – 224 W. Clarendon Drive, Round Lake Beach
  - Zion Health Center – 1911 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Zion
  - North Shore Health Center – 1840 Green Bay Rd, Highland Park (distribution starting on Monday, 2/7/22)
  - Other grocery stores and pharmacies may have free masks available as well.
- In Mid-February the LCHD PHN Team will be distributing KN95 masks to community partners for further distribution into the community.
- Masks are individually wrapped and only adult-sized. If your organization would like to help with this effort please contact Candace Browdy at [cbrowdy@lakecountyiil.gov](mailto:cbrowdy@lakecountyiil.gov) and include the number of masks requested.
- **Every home in the United States is now eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests.** Each household is eligible for one set of four tests which will be delivered by the United States Postal Service.
  - To learn more and order your household’s set of 4 tests visit <https://www.covidtests.gov/>
  - Residents of 60085 and 60064 are eligible to apply for 5 additional tests <https://www.accesscovidtests.org/>
- **Starting January 15, most people with a health plan can go online, or to a pharmacy or store to purchase an at-home over-the-counter COVID-19 diagnostic test authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at no cost, either through reimbursement or free of charge through their insurance.**
  - The test will either be free directly at the point of sale, if your health plan provides for direct coverage, or by reimbursement if you are charged for your test.
  - Be sure to keep your receipt if you need to submit a claim to your insurance company for reimbursement. If your plan has set up a network of preferred providers at which you can obtain a test with no out-of-pocket expense, you can still obtain tests from other retailers outside that network. Insurance companies are required to reimburse you at a rate of up to \$12 per individual test (or the cost of the test, if less than \$12).
  - For more information on COVID-19 testing reimbursement, visit <https://www.cms.gov/how-to-get-your-at-home-OTC-COVID-19-test-for-free>
- **COVID-19 vaccination remains our best path forward to ending the COVID-19 pandemic.** We encourage residents to explore their options for COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.
- 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.
- 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>
- **For the most up to date information on the COVID-19 pandemic, make sure that you follow the Health Department on social media and subscribe to our COVID-19 newsletter.**
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/healthdepartment/>
  - Newsletter: (English: <http://bit.ly/lccovid-19>, Spanish: <https://bit.ly/lccovid-19-es>).
  - The key points, chat files, and audio recordings are posted to the Health Department's website. <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4428/Conference-Calls>
- **We have not yet scheduled our next conference call. When we have additional updates to share, we will schedule a call and notify the community.**

## 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.
  - 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.lakecountyil.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

- **Throughout the pandemic, 211 has been a lifeline for so many people who found themselves in crisis.** Whether you lost your job or you’re experiencing a financial or emotional hardship, you don’t have to go through it alone. The 211 team is here to help.
  - 211 is multilingual with English and Spanish speaking staff and supports more than 150 languages. 211 is always open, always confidential, and always free. If you’re going through a rough time and don’t know where to turn, there’s help.
  - February 11<sup>th</sup> is “211 Day” and a great opportunity to raise awareness of this vital community resource.

- o Call 211, text your zip code to 898211 or visit [211LakeCounty.org](http://211LakeCounty.org) to get connected.
- **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>**

*During our municipal call we answered a question about the difference between a pandemic and endemic citing this article. To learn more, please visit*  
<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/features/what-will-it-be-like-when-covid-19-becomes-endemic/>