

Current Understanding / Basis for Decisions

Last updated: May 17

GOALS

- keep staff and patrons safe
- continue providing library services as is reasonable
- support community health efforts

FACTORS WE CONSIDER

- Latest information about local cases
- Recommendations from our public health officials
- Latest understanding about vulnerable populations, risk factors and mitigation strategies
- How to use available resources to their best effect

Movement toward reopening will likely align with the [Restore Illinois plan](#). Per that plan, our region is currently in **Phase 2: Flattening**. Key metrics to move to the next phase include:

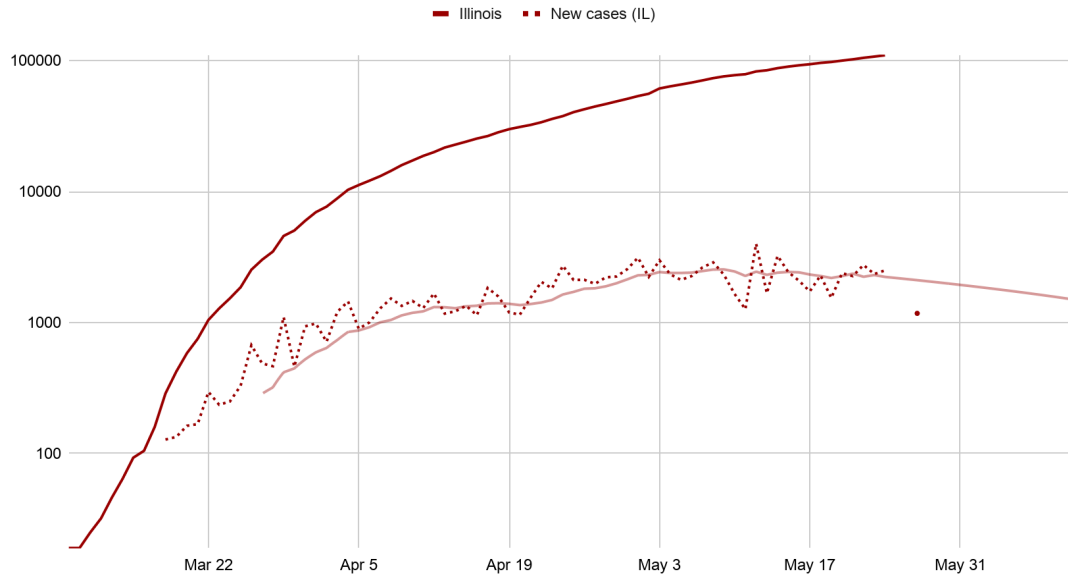
- COVID-19 positivity rate at or under 20% and increasing no more than 10 percentage points over a 14-day period, AND
- No overall increase (i.e. stability or decrease) in hospital admissions for COVID-19-like illness for 28 days, AND
- Available surge capacity of at least 14 percent of ICU beds, medical and surgical beds, and ventilators
- Testing: Testing available for all patients, health care workers, first responders, people with underlying conditions, and residents and staff in congregate living facilities
- Tracing: Begin contact tracing and monitoring within 24 hours of diagnosis

CURRENT OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Shelter in Place order for all of Illinois through May 29

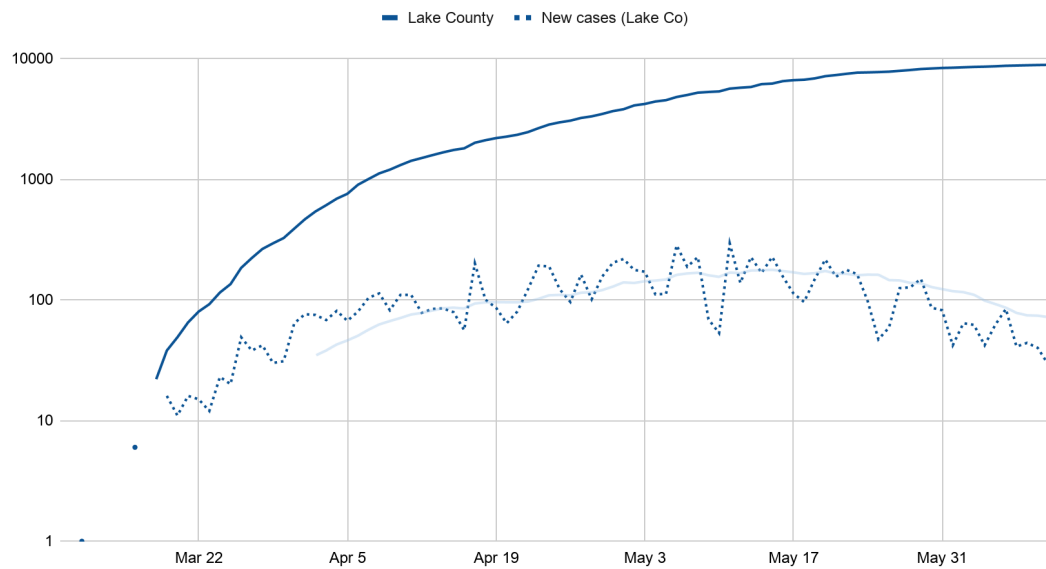
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Illinois (log scale)

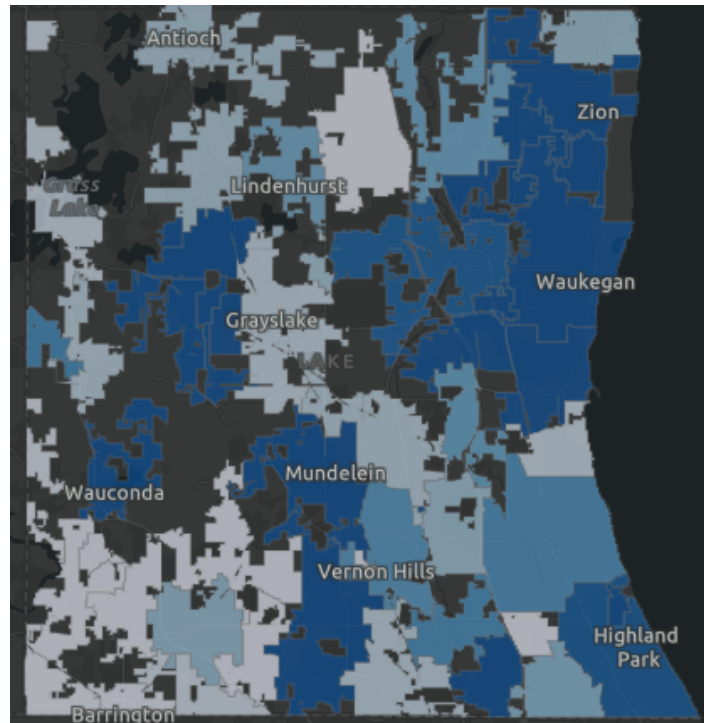


(USES LOG SCALE TO COMPARE TO OTHER INFO YOU SEE ONLINE)

Lake County (log scale)



LAKE COUNTY CASE CONCENTRATION



- May 18: Illinois contact tracing app announced
- April 30: Illinois stay-at-home order extended through May 30; [new executive order](#) adds mandatory face masks, expands definition of minimum basic operations and essential businesses to allow for some economic activity in hopes of staving off the worst of the economic cost of this virus
- April 24: World Health Organization warns that there is currently no evidence that people who have recovered from COVID-19 and have antibodies are protected from a second infection
- March 31: Illinois stay-at-home order extended through April 30
- March 27: Mayor Lightfoot closes Chicago lakefront; BG announces 7-12 local cases
- March 20: governor announces shelter-in-place order through April 7
- March 18: Chicago Public Library closes most locations, Oak Park order to shelter in place
- March 17: ALA announces formal recommendation for libraries to close; Library cancels programs and community use through May 11
- March 16: Library Board affirms at monthly meeting their commitment to work-from-home and continued pay for staff; Illinois restaurants closed for in-person dining
- March 14: Library closed to public until further notice
- March 13: Illinois K-12 schools closed through March 30
- March 11: WHO declares pandemic; Library moves to Level II, cancels programs and community use through March 31
- March 9: State of Illinois announces disaster proclamation
- March 5: Library suspends refreshments at programs

- February 28: Library shares updated Pandemic Response Procedures and that we are operating at Level I: Precautionary Health Measures

BACKGROUND

How does COVID-19 spread?

- Via small droplets from an infected person's respiratory system: coughing, sneezing, speaking¹
- You can catch COVID-19 if you breathe in droplets from an infected person who coughs out or exhales droplets
 - Most transmission happens as a result of close contact, defined as within 6' of an infected person for more than 10 minutes ²
 - The risk of catching COVID-19 from someone with no symptoms at all is very low. However, many people experience only mild symptoms, especially at the early stages of the disease. It is therefore possible to catch COVID-19 from someone who has, for example, just a mild cough and does not feel ill. ³
- Droplets can land on a surface and then be picked up by someone's hands and transmitted when that person touches their face, eyes, nose, or mouth.
 - A study found that the virus may survive up to 24 hours on cardboard, and up to 2-3 days on plastic or stainless steel.⁴
- Can it spread through food? Unclear. If yes, it would be more an exception than the rule.
 - We currently cannot rule out the possibility of the infection being transmitted through food by an infected person who has not thoroughly washed their hands. In the case of hot food, the virus would likely be killed by cooking. This may not be the case with uncooked foods like salads or sandwiches.⁵

Which groups are more vulnerable?

For most people in most locations the risk of catching COVID-19 is still low ⁶ Older adults and those with some pre-existing health conditions appear to be more susceptible to a more severe form of the disease:

- older adults (>age 60 ⁷)
- people with pre-existing medical conditions that include
 - high blood pressure
 - heart disease
 - lung disease
 - cancer
 - diabetes⁸

¹ [World Health Organization, cited Mar 10](#)

² [IPDH press conference, Mar 9](#)

³ [World Health organization, cited March 19](#)

⁴ [Harvard Health, cited March 19](#)

⁵ [Harvard Health, cited March 19](#)

⁶ [WHO website, cited Mar 6](#)

⁷ [WHO Situation Report Mar 1](#)

⁸ [WHO website Q&A, Mar 7](#)

- kidney disease⁹
- Immunocompromising conditions¹⁰

Children appear to be at less risk than adults. Initial data indicates that children are less affected than adults and that clinical attack rates in the 0-19 age group are low¹¹

⁹ [CDC website: People At Higher Risk, Mar 7](#)

¹⁰ [CDC Healthcare Professionals Q&A, Mar 7](#)

¹¹ [WHO Situation Report Mar 6](#)