



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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CHICAGO TO SAFELY RING IN 2022 WITH EXPANDED NEW YEAR’S EVE FIREWORKS AND ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES FOR A SAFE CELEBRATION

The outdoor fireworks will take place with additional health and safety measures and the show can be viewed live on WGN-TV

CHICAGO – Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, Arena Partners, Choose Chicago, and Navy Pier today announced plans to welcome in the New Year with a 1.5-mile-long midnight fireworks display along the lakefront and Chicago River.

These will be the largest fireworks display the City’s ever had and will be accompanied by a live simulcast from WGN. This year, with the COVID-19 pandemic still threatening the health and safety of Chicago residents, the City has introduced health guidelines that will encourage visitors and residents alike to celebrate safely.

“I’m thrilled that we are able to welcome back our New Year’s Eve fireworks and hope to continue this tradition into the future,” said Mayor Lightfoot. “Importantly, the display can be viewed outdoors where the spread of COVID-19 is less likely, so our residents and visitors should feel comfortable while masking up and social distancing or even watching safely from home. I look forward to welcoming a happy new year.”



New Year’s Eve Fireworks Launch Points and Hospitality Industry Locations (courtesy of Arena Partners)



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Promptly at midnight, a fireworks display choreographed to a special music soundtrack will light up the sky synchronized across eight separate launch sites along the Chicago River and in Lake Michigan near Navy Pier. The display will be free to view, courtesy of the City, Choose Chicago, and participating partners from across the hospitality community. A [website](#) has been created to provide details about the event including locations where people can view the fireworks. WGN-TV will be broadcasting live starting at 11:00 pm and showcase the Midnight Fireworks and accompanying music soundtrack. Viewers are encouraged to watch the show from the safety of their homes.

The Chicago Department of Public Health encourages everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccines are by far the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from the virus. Even if you are vaccinated, consider a COVID-19 test (either through a healthcare provider or at home) before gathering, and encourage guests to do the same before indoor holiday gatherings. Tests can help protect unvaccinated children, older individuals, those who are immunocompromised, or individuals at risk of severe disease. As a reminder, the mask mandate for Chicago and Illinois remains in effect and a mask is required at all public indoor settings across the city. Many venues will also require proof of vaccinations or a negative COVID-19 test for entry. Effective Monday, January 3, 2022, any individual 5 years of age or older will be required to show proof that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to dine indoors, visit gyms, or enjoy entertainment venues where food or drink are being served. If you have been exposed to COVID-19, are sick, or experiencing any COVID- or flu-like symptoms; you should not attend any gatherings for New Year's Eve, even if you are vaccinated. For more information on how to stay safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19, visit chicago.gov/covid.

"This will be the largest fireworks display in the City's history and one of the largest anywhere in the world," said Arena Partners CEO, John Murray, who is producing the event again this year after a 2-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic. "It is so great that the City is open again and welcoming people back to our fantastic hotels, restaurants, and cultural institutions."

Event partners are located in close proximity to the display launch points, offering guests beautiful views and plenty of entertainment options. Visitors and locals alike are encouraged to eat, drink and be merry at a variety of partner venues and events. The fireworks will also be broadcast live on WGN-TV.

"Navy Pier is incredibly excited to host the return of its iconic New Year's Eve fireworks show to ring in a new year with the city of Chicago," said Marilyn Gardner, President and CEO of Navy Pier. "We look forward to welcoming guests to celebrate safely at Navy Pier, one of Chicago's most treasured and important civic institutions."



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“As any Chicagoan knows, this is a city of big thinking and big plans and New Year’s Eve 2021 will be big,” said Glenn Eden, Chair of the Choose Chicago Board of Directors. “We are thrilled to be working with this outstanding team to welcome 2022 and ring in the new year with our residents and visitors.”

The event is made possible by support from the City of Chicago and partners from the hospitality industry, which employs more than 90,000 workers.

OFFICIAL PARTNERS



To learn more about the Chicago New Year’s Eve River Fireworks Celebration and view a full list of all official partners and event options, please visit www.NYEBlast.com.

Details on safety and street closures will be released Wednesday.

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About Choose Chicago

Choose Chicago is the official destination marketing organization for Chicago, Illinois. Our mission is to bring regional, national and international business and leisure visitors to Chicago for the economic benefit of the City, the community and our membership. Please visit us at www.ChooseChicago.com, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ChooseChicago>, and on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/ChooseChicago/>

About WGN-TV

WGN-TV is Chicago’s Very Own source for news and entertainment. WGN News programs more local news than any other Chicago TV station and can be seen on WGN-TV, CLTV, WGNTV.com and the WGN-TV News app. In-depth local weather is available on all



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newscasts and the WGN-TV Weather app. WGN-TV is a Nexstar Media Group station. For more information on Chicago's Very Own WGN-TV, go to WGNTV.com

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