As of **May 11, 2023**, the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency will end.

Stay up to date on what this means for you: [CHICAGO.GOV/COVID](http://CHICAGO.GOV/COVID)
The end of the declared Public Health Emergency doesn’t mean that COVID-19 is over. CDPH continues to recommend that everyone stay up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccinations, take a test if you have symptoms or have been exposed, and wear a high-quality mask when COVID-19 levels are high.
Last week, 0.5% of U.S. Counties reported High COVID Community Level and 1% reported Medium Level.

Source: CDC
Our local risk based on CDC COVID-19 Community Levels is: **Low**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New cases per 100,000 population (last 7 days)</th>
<th>New admissions per 100,000 population (last 7 days)</th>
<th>Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (last 7 days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>City of Chicago</strong></td>
<td>34</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cook County</strong> (including City of Chicago)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Chicago metrics are calculated based on Chicago-level data.*  
*Cook County metrics are calculated by the CDC and posted on the [CDC Community Levels website](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19/community-levels.html).*  
*Data current as of 5/3/2023.*
Variant Surveillance, Midwest Region
Weighted and Nowcast Estimates for Weeks of 1/29/22 – 5/6/23

It’s ALL Still OMICRON

COVID-19 in Chicago: Response driven by local data and consistent risk-based metrics

- March 2020: Stay at Home order begins
- June 2020: Stay at Home order is lifted
- Dec 2020: Vaccine distribution begins
- June 2021: Chicago fully reopens
- May 2021: Statewide mask mandate lifted for vaccinated individuals
- March 2022: United Center Mass Vaccination site opens
- June 2021: Chicago requires proof of vax for certain public spaces
- March 2022-May 2023: COVID-19 Community Levels (nationally); ongoing vaccine/booster campaigns; widely available effective early treatments; increased variant and wastewater monitoring; ongoing focus on highest-risk settings in Chicago
- February 2022: Indoor mask mandate and proof of vax requirement lifted
- August 2021: City implements indoor mask mandate
- Delta Surge
- Alpha Surge
- Omicron Surge
- Daily new COVID-19 hospitalizations, Chicago
NEIGHBORS
FOR LIFE

VECINOS POR VIDA
Since April 15, 12 new probable Mpx cases have been reported in Chicago. The dashboard will update as cases are confirmed.

You can see from our Mpx dashboard - at chicago.gov/mpox - there had been many weeks with no or few cases.
• People who may be exposed to Mpox should receive 2 vaccine doses.

• You’re not fully vaccinated unless you’ve gotten 2 doses of the vaccine.

• You can get vaccinated at CDPH’s STI Specialty Clinics, as well as many healthcare providers across Chicago.

• Go to Chicago.gov/Mpox for more information.
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Stay up to date on what this means for you: CHICAGO.GOV/COVID
During the COVID-19 pandemic the U.S. government and the State of Illinois established temporary rules regarding payment for certain health care services to ensure everyone had access to the tools needed to protect themselves. **Beginning May 11, some of these rules will begin to be phased out as the Public Health Emergency (PHE) ends.** Learn more about what this means for you.
What does this mean for...

- Vaccine
- Treatment
- Testing
- Data Reporting and Monitoring
Vaccines will continue to be free of charge and available for Chicagoans.

Will Vaccines Still Be Available?
- Yes. Chicagoans ages 6 months and up can continue to receive COVID-19 vaccines after the public health emergency ends.

Where?
- COVID-19 vaccines will still be widely available throughout the city, including at doctor’s offices, hospitals, pharmacies, community health centers, City-operated clinics and the Mobile CareVan.
- Go to “Vaccines.gov” to locate vaccine providers near you.

Will Guidance Change?
- No. The end of public health emergency will have no impact on who is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. In April, federal health officials updated guidance that simplifies the vaccination schedule for most individuals.

Will They Still Be Free?
- Yes, federally purchased vaccines will continue to be offered free of charge where available.
Treatment for COVID-19 will continue to be available but cost will depend on your insurance status.

Will COVID-19 treatments still be available?
- Yes, therapeutics to treat and limit the severity of COVID-19 will continue to be available after May 11.

Where?
- Treatments will continue to be available from physicians, hospitals and pharmacies.

Will guidance change?
- No, there will be no changes in who is eligible to receive treatments.

Will treatment still be free?
It depends on the type of insurance you have.
- **Private insurance**: Coverage for treatments and out of pocket costs will vary. Contact your insurer to learn more.
- **Medicare**: Will continue to cover all costs for treatment through December 31, 2024.
- **Medicaid**: Will continue to cover all costs for treatment until September 30, 2024.
- **No insurance**: Select pharmacies will continue to provide COVID-19 treatments with no out-of-pocket costs to uninsured individuals.
Testing (At-Home and Lab-Based) for COVID-19 will continue to be available but cost will depend on your insurance status.

Will Covid-19 Tests Still Be Available?
• Yes, at-home rapid antigen tests and lab-based PCR tests will continue to be available in Chicago.

Where?
• **At-Home** tests will continue to be available:
  • In pharmacies
  • Through the U.S. Government while supplies last:
    • Order at [www.covid.gov/tests](http://www.covid.gov/tests)

• **Lab-based** tests will continue to be available:
  • At select pharmacies – call for information
  • At select hospitals and health clinics – call for information
  • Visit [www.testinglocator.cdc.gov/](http://www.testinglocator.cdc.gov/) to find no-cost testing

Will Guidance Change?
• No, guidance about how and when to use COVID-19 testing will not change on May 11.

Will They Still Be Free?
• It depends on the type of test and your insurance coverage.
• Visit [www.testinglocator.cdc.gov/](http://www.testinglocator.cdc.gov/) to find no-cost testing
Locally: The COVID-19 dashboard (chi.gov/coviddash) will continue to update weekly.
**Locally: CDPH Variant Surveillance will continue**

- Through the Regional Innovative Public Health Laboratory (RIPHL), CDPH will continue to sequence COVID specimens from across Chicago hospitals to identify circulating variants.
- Reports are posted to the CDPH website monthly.
- CDC will continue to post national data bi-monthly on the COVID Data Tracker.

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions
Locally: CDPH Wastewater Monitoring will continue at Sewersheds, Pumping Stations, and Treatment Plants

- CDPH will continue to monitor wastewater for COVID concentrations and sequence samples to identify circulating COVID variants.
- The CDPH Wastewater Dashboard is updated each Wednesday evening.
- CDC will continue to post national data bi-monthly on the COVID Data Tracker.

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#wastewater-surveillance
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AT-HOME TESTS</th>
<th>PRIVATE INSURANCE</th>
<th>PUBLIC INSURANCE (MEDICARE, MEDICAID)</th>
<th>NO INSURANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|                                                   | Insurance companies will no longer be required to pay for at-home tests, but some may choose to continue to cover these tests. Contact your insurance provider for more information. | **MEDICARE**  
After May 11, Medicare will no longer have access to free at-home tests  
**MEDICAID**  
Tests will be covered through September 2024 | CDPH will maintain a stock of tests and system for distribution in the case of a surge. |
| LAB TESTS                                         | Insurance companies may decide to require co-pays for lab tests. Contact your insurance provider for more information. | **MEDICARE**  
Tests will be covered when ordered by a provider  
**MEDICAID**  
Tests will be covered through September 2024 | Select pharmacies and health clinics will continue to offer free tests through funding from CDC. Visit www.testinglocator.cdc.gov/ for more information. |
Starting May 2023, all Illinois residents must reconfirm eligibility. Don’t risk losing your health insurance. To keep your insurance, Illinois Medicaid needs to be able to send you paperwork. Give them an address where mail can always reach you.
3 WAYS TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

• Call the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) to report address changes:
  1-877-805-5312 (select Option 8),
  TTY 1- 877-204-1012
  Monday–Friday | Hours 7:45–4:30

• Use the HFS online change of address form to report new address, phone, email:
  www2.illinois.gov/hfs/address

• Click Manage My Case at abe.illinois.gov to verify your address and find your due date.
NEVER HAD A COVID-19 VACCINE?
Now, One Shot Gets You The Best Protection!

The updated bivalent vaccine is now available to anyone 6 months and older, including those who were not previously vaccinated.

FIND YOUR VACCINE AT:
CHI.GOV/COVIDVAX
GET YOUR BIVALENT COVID-19 VACCINE TODAY AND BREATHE EASIER KNOWING YOU HAVE THE STRONGEST PROTECTION!

YOU MAY BENEFIT BY GETTING AN ADDITIONAL BIVALENT BOOSTER NOW!

- If you’re 65+ years old, and it’s been 4 months or more since your last COVID-19 vaccine.
- If you’re immunocompromised, and it’s been 2 months since your last COVID-19 vaccine.

FIND YOUR VACCINE AT: CHI.GOV/COVIDVAX
TAKE ACTION IF YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

DAY 1-5
Stay home:
- Everyone - regardless of vaccination status - should stay home and away from others (isolate).

People at high risk for severe illness:
Talk to your doctor about treatment

DAY 6-10
Wear a mask:
- If you take 2 antigen tests 48 hours apart and both are negative, you may remove your mask sooner
- Avoid people at high risk of getting very sick

DAY 6 OR LATER
End isolation:
- If you never had symptoms OR symptoms are improving and are fever-free for 24 hours.

Find testing resources and the latest guidance at chicago.gov/covidtest
VAX & PAX lovid

If you’re at high risk for severe illness, vaccines are your best protection against COVID-19. But if you do test positive, TREATMENTS ARE AVAILABLE.

PAXLOVID, for example, is an oral antiviral therapy for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19.

Individuals ages 12 and up who are at high risk of developing severe illness, are eligible.

Ask a healthcare provider if medications to treat COVID-19 are right for you.

More info at: Chi.gov/therapeutics
GET YOUR UPDATED
COVID BOOSTER &
FLU SHOT AT HOME

In-home vaccination is available to all Chicago households at no cost. Up to 10 people can be vaccinated, so invite your family, friends, or neighbors to get vaccinated together.

TO REGISTER FOR AN APPOINTMENT
CALL 312.746.4835 OR VISIT OR CHICAGO.GOV/ATHOME

Continues to operate
Saturday and Sunday
8am-6:30pm
Need help and don’t know where to turn?

211MetroChicago.org
Need a vaccine or a booster? Have questions?

visit

CHI.GOV/COVIDVAX

or call

312-746-4835