#AskDrArwady

July 18, 2023
On days with poor air quality, Chicagoans are advised to keep windows and doors closed and turn on their air conditioners if they have one. Seek shelter elsewhere if you do not have an air conditioner and your home is too warm.

For Chicagoans without access to properly ventilated and safe indoor conditions, please utilize public libraries, senior centers, Park District facilities, and the Cultural Center, or one of six community service centers.

Visit Chicago.gov/envcommunityinfo
HARM REDUCTION 101

STAY SAFER AT
FESTIVALS AND
EVENTS THIS
SUMMER

STAY HYDRATED
WEAR EARPLUGS

PRACTICE CROWD SAFETY
KNOW WHERE THE EXITS ARE
WATCH OUT FOR CROWD SURGE

PREVENT HEATSTROKE
HANG OUT IN SHAD
AREAS WHEN POSSIBLE
WEAR SUNSCREEN,
SUNGLASSES, AND HAT

TEST YOUR DRUGS
CALL CHICAGO
RECOVERY ALLIANCE AT
773-708-2206 FOR DRUG
CHECKING SERVICES

CARRY NARCAN
AVAILABLE FOR FREE AT EVERY
CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY (SCAN
THE QR CODE TO FIND NARCAN
NEAR YOU)

EMAIL OSU.CDPH@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG
TO ACCESS FENTANYL TEST KITS
CHICAGO

IT'S ALL HAPPENING THIS AUGUST 12TH AT NORTHALSTED MARKET DAYS

Make sure you get your 2nd mpox vaccine dose NOW!
At least 53 cases reported locally since mid-March, 2023
Mpox Vaccine 101

- The JYNNEOS™ vaccine can help protect people against mpox (monkeypox) when given before exposure to the virus. CDPH strongly encourages those eligible to get the vaccine to protect themselves and others.

- The vaccine is a two-dose vaccine given under the skin 28 days apart. Optimal protection is not achieved until two weeks following the second dose.

Eligibility

Have had close contact with someone diagnosed with mpox, regardless of sex, gender or sexual orientation

OR

Are a gay, bisexual, or other man who has sex with men and/or transgender person who is sexually active.

- Find your vaccine: CDPH Mpox Vaccine Finder
Where can I go to learn more about mpox?

• Mpox (Monkeypox) Website and Data Dashboard: www.chicago.gov/mpox
• HIV/STI Resource Hub (LGBTQ+ call center): 844-482-4040
• CDPH Call Center: 312-746-4835
Weekly COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 population

Reported COVID-19 New Hospital Admissions Rate per 100,000 Population in the Past Week, by County - United States

National currently:
1.88 diagnosed weekly admissions per 100,000 people

Illinois currently:
1.57 diagnosed weekly admissions per 100,000 people

Chicago currently:
1.40 diagnosed weekly admissions per 100,000 people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Past Week</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital Admissions</td>
<td>6,228 (-.9%)</td>
<td>6,209,122</td>
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</table>
Our region's current COVID-19 hospital admission level:

Low

116
Count of admissions
(7/2/2023 - 7/8/2023)

1.6 ▲
Admissions per 100,000
(7/2/2023 - 7/8/2023)

+19.6%
Percent change
(from the previous week)

New hospital admissions per 100,000

Low (<10.0)  Medium (10.0 to 19.9)  High (≥20.0)
It’s ALL Still OMICRON

Source: CDC (updates every other week)
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](http://chicago.gov/covidtest)
**VAX & PAX**

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](http://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 CHICAGO.GOV/ATHOME

Continues to operate Saturday and Sunday 8am-6:30pm
Preparing for the Fall:

The New York Times

Federal Officials Hatch a Three-Pronged Defense Against Another ‘Tripledemic’

This fall, Americans will be urged to get shots against the flu, Covid and, if they’re older, R.S.V.

• https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/05/health/vaccines-rsv-covid-flu.html

Visit chi.gov/coviddash to find CDPH’s weekly respiratory virus surveillance report:
This fall, what vaccines should I get?

- **Definite recommendation for flu vaccine:**
  - **ALL Chicagoans, age 6 months and up:** Get your annual flu (influenza) vaccine, ahead of the 2023-24 winter season
  - Virus that causes influenza continues to mutate; every year, scientists make a new version of the vaccine to best protect against the strains of flu expected to be circulating that winter
  - We expect flu vaccines will start to be available locally as early as August; recommendation is to get before winter

- **Expected recommendation for COVID vaccine:**
  - **( Likely) ALL Chicagoans, age 6 months and up:** Get your (likely annual) COVID vaccine, ahead of the 2023-24 winter season
    - An updated COVID vaccine will definitely be available this fall: Pfizer, Moderna, and Novavax will all be in market
    - Dosing still being finalized for pediatric vaccines; hoping to simplify for patients and providers
    - ACIP/CDC will make final official recommendation later this summer
  - Virus that causes COVID continues to mutate; every year, scientists will likely make a new version of the vaccine to best protect against the strains/variants of COVID virus expected to be circulating that winter.
  - We expect COVID vaccines will likely be available locally later in the fall (possibly late September or early October)

- **New recommendation for RSV vaccine/antibody shot**
  - **Youngest Chicagoans** (infants under age 1 year, vulnerable children under age 2 years) will newly have an RSV antibody shot available to help prevent RSV; talk to your pediatrician or provider
  - **Older Chicagoans** (over 60 years) will newly have an RSV vaccine available; talk to your doctor/provider
  - We expect both the shot for young children and the shot for older adults to be available later in the fall (possibly September or early October)
RSV Disease Burden

**INFANTS**

- Most (68%) are infected in the 1st year of life and nearly all (97%) by age 2.\(^1\)
- Premature infants born <30 wk gestation had hospitalization rates ~3x higher than term infants.\(^2\)
- 79% of children hospitalized with RSV aged <2yo had no underlying medical conditions.\(^2\)
- ~3% of all infants will be hospitalized for RSV.\(^4\)

**ADULTS**

- Frequent, often unrecognized, cause of severe respiratory illness.
- Likely under-detected, with RSV testing often not performed.
- Burden of severe disease may be comparable to influenza, with variability across seasons.
  - RSV may cause as many as 60,000 to 160,000 hospitalizations in those 65 and older each year.
  - Adults with co-morbidities, immunocompromised adults, and long-term care facility residents may be particularly at risk for severe illness.
- High proportion of those hospitalized with RSV have severe outcomes, including ICU admission and death.
- Long-term health consequences.

May 2023: First ever RSV vaccines by GSK and Pfizer were approved by the FDA in for adults 60 years and older.
  • Both vaccines were shown to be highly effective at preventing severe illness in older adults.

June 2023: ACIP recommended the RSV vaccine for those 60 and older under shared clinical decision making.
  • Shared clinical decision making means you and your healthcare provider decide, based on your situation, if you should receive the vaccine.
  • Currently only a single dose is recommended; booster doses may be needed in the future.
Adults who may be at higher risk of RSV disease include persons with:

- Chronic lung diseases such as COPD and asthma
- Chronic cardiovascular diseases such as congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease
- Immune compromise
- Hematologic disorders
- Neurologic disorders
- Endocrine disorders such as diabetes
- Kidney and liver disorders
- Other underlying conditions or factors that the provider determines might increase the risk of severe respiratory illness

If you are age 60y+, talk to your healthcare provider to see if you should receive an RSV vaccine this fall.
New shot available later this fall to help protect infants and vulnerable toddlers against RSV

- About **80,000 children** age 5 and younger are hospitalized with RSV every year in the U.S.
  - PLUS about 60,000 hospitalizations and up to 10,000 deaths each year in adults age 65+ (CDC)
- Monoclonal antibody shot (niservimab); expect availability later this fall
- Beyfortus (Sanofi and AstraZeneca)

**Safety and Efficacy**

- More than 3,200 infants got the shot in the studies submitted to FDA
- One 6-month study found efficacy against very severe RSV that required medical attention was 79%
- Unanimous vote by FDA advisers to approve the treatment for infants
In Pipeline: Maternal RSV Vaccine for Pregnant People (not yet approved)

New vaccine under study to prevent severe RSV disease in infants

1. Maternal RSV vaccine given between 24 and 36 weeks gestation, so protective antibodies against RSV could be passed on to the developing baby, to protect the baby during their first few months of life.

   (FDA still considering data, not yet approved)

A drug (palivizumab) is currently available to protect very premature infants and young children with certain heart and lung conditions and is given as a series of monthly shots during RSV season.
U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) announces program to maintain broad access to COVID-19 vaccines for millions of uninsured Americans.

**Program Overview**

**Bridge Access Program for COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments**

Under the management and oversight of the CDC, the Bridge Access Program ensures cost-free access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments after commercialization of these products in Fall 2023 through December 2024.

Source: HHS.gov
**Who’s eligible?**
The 25-30 million adults without insurance, in addition to those whose insurance does not provide cost-free coverage for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.

**Is this program permanent?**
This program serves as a temporary bridge to the permanent and comprehensive Vaccines for Adults Program proposed in the FY23 and FY24 President’s Budgets.

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**Where can someone get a vaccine?**

**At a local health provider**
This program will leverage existing partnerships with state and local health departments (LHDs) to quickly distribute COVID-19 vaccines through providers in their networks.

**At a local health center**
Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) will partner with LHDs and state immunization programs to ensure access to vaccines for the many uninsured adults who live in their community.

**At a nearby pharmacy location**
This program partners with pharmacies to ensure uninsured adults can continue to access free COVID-19 vaccinations and treatments at thousands of locations nationwide.

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**CDC** will manage the purchase and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines for state and LHDs, along with providing oversight and technical assistance.

**HRSA** will provide funding to its network of FQHCs to support services that will help ensure equitable access to vaccines and treatment.

Pharmacy chains will use their extensive footprints and community partnerships to reach adults who are uninsured and underserved.

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*Source: HHS.gov*
Have Medicaid coverage?

Your renewal letter is coming.

Check that your state Medicaid office has your current mailing address.
What are Medicaid redeterminations?
The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) estimates that approximately 700,000 people in Illinois could lose Medicaid coverage.
If federal disenrollment projections (about 17% disenrollment) hold for Chicago, over 180,000 Chicagoans could lose Medicaid coverage during the full unwinding period.

Which Chicago areas are most impacted?
Applying National Disenrollment Projections to the Top 5 Chicago Zip Codes with Highest Medicaid Enrollment

1. 60629
   West Lawn
   Chicago Lawn
   West Elsdon*
   Gage Park*

2. 60623
   South Lawndale
   North Lawndale

3. 60639
   Belmont Cragin
   Hermosa
   Austin

4. 60632*
   Archer Heights
   Brighton Park

5. 60617
   South Deering
   South Chicago
   East Side
   Calumet Heights

Note: CDPH’s initial projections utilize public HFS data and disenrollment projections and require further analysis as redeterminations continue.
Overview of CDPH’s Current Strategy

The Bureau of Community Health and Office of the Chief Medical Officer are coordinating CDPH’s response with the healthcare system and non-healthcare CBO partners during the Medicaid Redeterminations process.

Convene key stakeholders at the City, County, and State levels

Amplify ongoing communication and enrollment tactics

Mitigate impacts of potential disenrollment

Pivot towards a long-term strategy to ensure all Chicagoans are enrolled in health coverage
Communication and Outreach

Do You Get Health Insurance Through Medicaid? Get Ready To Renew!

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.

Check your mail. Complete your Medicaid renewal right away!

How do you renew your Medicaid?

1. Check your mail for a renewal notice.
2. If you don’t receive a renewal notice, you can renew by calling 1-800-843-6154.
3. Visit cps.edu/medicaid for more information.

Beware of Scams!

Illinois will NEVER ask you for money to renew or apply for Medicaid.

Sources: CDPH, Chicago Public Schools Office of Student Health and Wellness, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Medical Benefits: Time to Renew Notice

Dear JOE MONTANA,

It is time to renew your Medical benefits.

You must complete your redetermination to continue your Medical benefits after April 2023.

To learn how to renew your Medical benefits, read the first page of the Medical Benefits Renewal Form which is included in this envelope.

Call us at the phone number listed at the top of this form if you cannot send everything on time or if you have questions. We may be able to help you get the proofs you need.

Electronic Review of Eligibility for Medical Benefits

We checked our records for information about your household and put it on your Medical Benefits Renewal Form that is included with this notice. We need more information to decide if you are still eligible.

Please review the information on the Medical Benefits Renewal Form carefully. Correct any information that is wrong and add any information that is missing.

FS 2381 (R-09-15) Medical Benefits: Time to Renew Notice

Page 1 of 1
People enrolled in Medicaid
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
Cumulative Impact Assessment
Overview & Engagement

Megan Cunningham, Managing Deputy Commissioner
CHICAGO’S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT
CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT GOAL

• **Provide data** on how environmental, health and social stressors vary across Chicago.

• **Inform decision-making** in policy areas, such as land use/zoning, transportation, permitting, enforcement, and more.

• **Co-design/lead project with community partners** that leverages expertise across diverse sectors and groups, particularly people who live in communities most impacted.
What is the Cumulative Impact Initiative?

We are currently in the Cumulative Impact Assessment phase
PROJECT STRUCTURE

Accountability
- Environmental Equity Working Group

Project Management
- Members:
  - Office of Climate and Environmental Equity
  - Chicago Department of Public Health
  - Working Group Community Co-Chairs
- Support Organizations:
  - Illinois Public Health Institute
  - Tetra Tech
  - Jasculca Terman Strategic Communications

Working Groups
- Data & Methods
- Communications & Engagement
- Policy

Interdepartmental
- Environmental Justice Group
ASSESSMENT TIMELINE

Scope
May to Dec 2022
- EEWG, community co-chair engagement
- Review and analysis of existing community input
- Research

Assess
Jan to Aug 2023
- Working groups kick off to co-design methods
- Conduct assessment

Report
Sept 2023
- Publish baseline report and policy recommendations
PROGRESS REPORT: Data & Methods

DELIVERABLES:
- EJ Index, EJ Neighborhood map
- Public-facing data tool(s)

Pollution Burden
- Environmental Exposures
- Environmental Conditions

Population Characteristics
- Sensitive Populations
- Socioeconomic Factors

Average of Exposures and Conditions
Average of Sensitive Populations and Socioeconomic Factors
Chicago EJ Index Score
• **Environmental Justice Fundamentals:** Governance systems and structures ensure that City policies and processes promote EJ

• **Cumulative Impact Elements:** The City is required to consider environmental, health, and social stressors in decision-making

• **Community Benefits:** People who live in EJ Neighborhoods directly benefit from local development

**DELIVERABLES:**
- Preliminary Policy Recommendations
- Draft ordinance

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**Policy Working Group Ideas**

- Put forward to Interdepartmental Working Group for inclusion in EJ Action Plans
- Considered for inclusion in new ordinance
- Kept for strategic discussion with relevant department(s)
PROGRESS REPORT:
Interdepartmental EJ Work Group

DELIVERABLE:
• EJ Action Plan

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Department Name: Insert department name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Department Scope and Authority(ies):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Based on your internal power audit, what specific authorities does your department have that can help to improve and protect the environment, health, and quality of life in EJ communities?</td>
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Environmental Justice Strategy:
Departments are encouraged to consider strategies that will improve existing conditions for EJ communities and/or prevent future impacts. Describe your strategy with attention to:
- What specific change do you propose to a department policy, practice, process, and/or budget?
- How does this strategy address (See Community Impact Assessment: Key Findings)?
- How will this strategy minimize burdens and/or maximize benefits for EJ communities?

Supporting Department(s):
List any departments you need to collaborate with to execute this strategy.

Impact Measures:
Insert indicators or information sources (quantitative and/or qualitative) that will evidence success. Consider both:
- Performance data: How will you measure whether you successfully executed the strategy?
- Community-level data: How will this affect the condition of EJ communities?

Related Department Investments & Prior Commitments:
Briefly describe current/planned initiatives related to this strategy – for example, through the Chicago Recovery Plan, Climate Action Plan, or We Will Chicago.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Action Steps</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>Describe 2 or more specific actions that you will take to advance this strategy. At least one action step should discuss steps you will take to engage people who live in EJ communities to help you plan, implement, and evaluate the success of this strategy.</td>
<td>Note when this step is targeted to be completed</td>
<td>Note any progress to date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEXT STEPS & ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES
NEXT STEPS & ADDITIONAL ENGAGEMENT

• Visit Chicago.gov/cumulativeimpact to learn more

• Attend an in-person event this summer

• Provide input online by **July 31**:  
  - Take the Assessment survey  
  - Submit comments on EJ Action Plan to envcomments@cityofchicago.org

• Assessment will be complete by **September 1** and presented to the Mayor and the Chair of the City Council Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy by **October 31**
Thank you!