Average daily COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population

504 Million Cases
6.2 Million Deaths
11.4 Billion Vaccine Doses Administered
5.12 Billion People Vaccinated (66.7% of population)

Presented by the New York Times 4/18/2022; Sources: Local governments; The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University; National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China; World Health Organization.
Seeing slight case increases in other areas of the U.S., but nothing causing alarm at this point.
Cases are rising quickly in New York City, though not at rate of initial Omicron surge

March 17, 2022
Daily Average: 905

April 17, 2022
Daily Average: 2,185
Average daily COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population

80.1 Million Cumulative Cases
987,228 Cumulative Deaths

Presented by the New York Times 4/18/2022; Sources: Local governments; The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University

National currently:
11 diagnosed daily cases per 100,000 people

Illinois currently:
16 diagnosed daily cases per 100,000 people

Chicago currently:
17 diagnosed daily cases per 100,000 people
Chicago’s Current CDC COVID-19 Community Level is: LOW
WHAT’S A COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL?

• It’s a new tool to help communities decide what prevention measures to take based on the latest data
• Every community in the United States is classified as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Limited impact on healthcare system, low levels of severe illness</td>
<td>Some impact on healthcare system, more people with severe illness</td>
<td>High potential for healthcare system strain; high level of severe illness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[cdc.gov/coronavirus]
U.S. COVID-19 Community Levels by County Map

5.9% (189) of 3,220 counties are in medium or high risk – down 4% from previous week

### Chicago’s COVID-19 Risk Level is **LOW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metrics</th>
<th>New Cases (Per 100,000 people in last 7 days) [LOW is &lt;200]</th>
<th>New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total) [LOW is &lt;10]</th>
<th>Proportion of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average) [LOW is &lt;10%]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Chicago | 118                                             | 1.4                                                             | ICU: 2.1%  
Non-ICU: 2.3%                                                 |
| Cook County | 119.8                                        | 4.4                                                             | 1.6%                                                           |

Chicago metrics are calculated based on Chicago-level data (data as of 4/18/2022).
Cook County metrics are calculated by the CDC and posted on the CDC Community Levels website (data as of 4/14/2022).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New COVID-19 Cases</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days</td>
<td>New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)</td>
<td>&lt;10.0</td>
<td>10.0-19.9</td>
<td>≥20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer than 200</td>
<td>Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)</td>
<td>&lt;10.0%</td>
<td>10.0-14.9%</td>
<td>≥15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 or more</td>
<td>New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>&lt;10.0</td>
<td>≥10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>&lt;10.0%</td>
<td>≥10.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chicago: COVID-19 Cases

Many first-time and mild (even asymptomatic) COVID infections right now; almost no hospitalizations or deaths.

Current Daily Average: 456
Prior Week: 420
What’s going on with positivity? It reflects changes in testing patterns. With CPS and other schools on spring break, reported tests dropped more than 50% over the last week. Test positivity (positive tests divided by all tests) therefore more than doubled. As school testing returns this week, we expect to see testing numbers increase and positivity decrease again by next week.

In general, test positivity has a reduced utility due to the widespread use of point-of-care and at-home tests. That is why the CDC’s COVID-19 Community Levels do not rely on percent positivity to measure the impact of COVID-19 illness on communities.
Great news: Fewer Chicagoans are now being hospitalized with COVID-19 than at any point in the pandemic.

Peak was January 4, 2022: 301 Chicagoans newly hospitalized with COVID in one day

As of today, a total of just 21 people across all of Chicago hospitals’ intensive care units (ICUs) have diagnosed or suspected COVID; just 7 are on ventilators.

Current average: Fewer than 5 Chicagoans newly hospitalized with COVID each day

Chi.gov/coviddash
Great news: Fewer Chicagoans are now dying with COVID-19 than at any point in the pandemic. Today, we are averaging fewer than 1 Chicagoan dying from COVID-19 per week.

Chi.gov/coviddash
% of Chicagoans 5+ with at least one dose of a COVID-19 Vaccine by Community Area

Data reported to the Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange (I-CARE) through 4/13/2022
Chicago Vaccination Rate by Race/Ethnicity

At least one dose (% vaccinated as of 4/17/2022)

- Asian Non-Latinx: 85.1%
- Black Non-Latinx: 61.9%
- Latinx: 75.8%
- White Non-Latinx: 75.8%

Completed vaccine series (% vaccinated as of 4/17/2022)

- Asian Non-Latinx: 76.2%
- Black Non-Latinx: 55.0%
- Latinx: 67.2%
- White Non-Latinx: 69.5%
What’s going on with masks on transit?

- **In Illinois, the Governor’s Executive Order 2022-06 remains in place.** This order explicitly includes a requirement for universal masking on public transit and in public transit hubs.

- **CDC** continues to recommend that people wear masks in indoor public transportation settings at this time.

- **CTA:** Masks are still required on CTA trains and buses. If that requirement changes, CTA will notify customers.

- **Metra:** Riders on Metra must also still wear masks. The rail service isn’t changing the requirement while they assess the situation.
If you see someone choosing to wear a mask, please remember:

- People may have an autoimmune condition
- People may have high-risk loved ones
- People may have unvaccinated children
- People may be unvaccinated
- People may prefer to wear a mask

Please be kind and respectful of everyone’s choice
SARS-CoV-2 Variant Surveillance, Midwest Region.
Omicron BA.2 doubling about every 7 days; now dominant strain in Midwest Region and entire U.S.

Collection date, week ending

% Viral lineage among infections

Omicron B.1.1 (16.3%)
Omicron BA.2 (83.7%)
Delta (0.0%)
Other (0.0%)

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#circulatingVariants
SARS-CoV-2 Variant Surveillance, United States

Omicron BA.2 (85.9%)

Omicron B.1.1 (14.1%)

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#circulatingVariants
SARS-CoV-2 Recombinant Variants (XE, XD, XF)

- No new variants of concern identified; we continue to monitor the way the virus changes and evolves every day.

- XD and XF are a combination of Delta and Omicron BA.1.

- XE is a BA.1/BA.2 recombinant, with the majority of the genome (including the S gene) belonging to BA.2.
  - Early growth rates for XE were not significantly different from BA.2.
  - mRNA vaccines shouldn’t be any less effective against this variant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total Variant Sequences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>1246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US State</th>
<th>Number Samples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Genetic relationships of globally sampled SARS-CoV-2 to present
Rapid displacement of existing diversity by emerging variants
S1 is part of the **Spike** protein, on the outside of SARS-CoV2 virus (it is unique to the virus and does not look like other proteins your body makes; vaccines focus on it)
S1 evolved at a rate of 12 amino acid changes per year in 2021

12.0 substitutions per year in spike S1

- other viruses
- VOC viruses
- linear fit
- LOESS fit

https://www.fda.gov/media/157471/download
This is remarkably fast relative to seasonal influenza.
Multistate Outbreak of Infection with SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Variant after Event in Chicago, Illinois, USA, 2021

Hillary Spencer, Richard A. Teran, Hannah J. Barbian, Sarah Love, Rachel Berg, Stephanie R. Black, Isaac Ghinai, and Janna L. Kerins

Author affiliations: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA (H. Spencer, R.A. Teran); Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago, Illinois, USA (H. Spencer, R.A. Teran, S. Love, R. Berg, S.R. Black, I. Ghinai, J.L. Kerins); Rush University, Chicago (H.J. Barbian)
“Dr. Taylor’s Table” on Instagram Live
THIS THURSDAY
April 21 at 6pm

Dr. Erica Taylor

Every Other Thursday
Instagram Live ➤ 6:00 pm

@chiPublichealth
Need a vaccine or a booster? Have questions?

visit [CHI.GOV/COVIDVAX](http://www.CHI.GOV/COVIDVAX)
or call 312-746-4835