2023–2024 COVID-19 and Respiratory Virus Season Update

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Bottom line:

• Updated COVID-19 vaccines have been approved.
• COVID-19 and other respiratory virus activity are expected to increase in the coming weeks.
• Everyone 6 months and older is recommended to get an updated COVID-19 vaccine and a Flu shot this fall.
COVID-19 in Cook County remains **LOW**, but with some increased activity.

National currently:
- **5.68** diagnosed weekly admissions per 100,000 people

Illinois currently:
- **4.71** diagnosed weekly admissions per 100,000 people

Cook County currently:
- **4.50** diagnosed weekly admissions per 100,000 people

22 US counties at **HIGH** hospital admissions level this past week; Florida and Washington DC at **MEDIUM**.
COVID-19 activity in Chicago has increased modestly since July.

* Rate values based on a 7 day rolling average

chi.gov/coronavirus
Other viral activity remains low.
Where to get COVID-19 & Flu vaccines this fall?

- Healthcare provider or pharmacy

- CDPH Immunization Clinics
  - Greater Lawn Clinic
  - Uptown WIC Clinic
  - Lower West Clinic

- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

- CDPH’s City Colleges Family Vaccination Clinics

- Some pharmacies (Bridge Access Program)
Percent of **COVID-19** and **Flu**-Associated Hospitalizations with in-hospital **Death** among Adults by Age Group, October 2022-April 2023

Percent of COVID-19 and Flu-Associated Hospitalizations with ICU Admissions among Infants, Children and Adolescents by Age, October 2022-April 2023

Why should I get the new COVID-19 vaccine?

• New vaccines prevent doctor visits, hospitalizations, and deaths due to COVID-19
• Evidence suggests protection against Long-COVID
• Specifically designed against Omicron
• Also protective against highly mutated BA.2.86

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/slides-2023-09-12.html
It's ALL Still OMICRON

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Source: CDC (updates every other week)
Everyone over age 6 months is recommended to get an updated COVID-19 vaccine this fall

Note: those ages 6 months-4 years who have previously received a single dose of Pfizer-BioNTech would need 2 additional doses. Additional doses are recommended for persons with immunocompromised conditions.
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Protect yourself and your family

• Stay home if you are sick
• Get a COVID-19 test if you have cough, runny nose, sore throat, or fever
  • Find a free test: testinglocator.cdc.gov
• Keep a high-quality mask available in case you find yourself in a crowded setting: this is especially important for those with immune compromise

• GET THE UPDATED VACCINE
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 OR LATER
End isolation:
• If you never had symptoms OR symptoms are improving and are fever-free for 24 hours.

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
Finding COVID-19 and Flu Vaccines

• Where can someone get a vaccine?
  o CDPH Walk-in Clinics, Healthcare Providers, FQHCs, and Retail pharmacies

• Annual FLU/COVID Campaign
  o Over 100 clinics Planned Citywide
  o Family Vaccination Clinics at City Colleges
  o Aldermanic Wards
  o CDPH Immunization Walk-in Clinics
  o DFSS Senior Center Clinics
  o City Hall - 10/16/2023, 11/15/2023, 12/12/2023

• Questions
  o Vaccines.gov
  o Spanish version - Vacunas.gov
  o City's COVID-19 helpline at 312-745-4835