# Chicago COVID-19 Community Transmission and Risk Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Very High Transmission</th>
<th>High Transmission</th>
<th>Substantial Transmission</th>
<th>Lower Transmission</th>
<th>Low Transmission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COVID-19 Cases Diagnosed Per Day</strong></td>
<td>800+</td>
<td>400 – 799</td>
<td>200 – 399</td>
<td>20 – 199</td>
<td>≤20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago residents - 7-day rolling daily average</td>
<td>Current: 4,591 Stable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COVID-19 Test Positivity</strong></td>
<td>10%+</td>
<td>8.8 – 9.9%</td>
<td>5.0 – 6.5%</td>
<td>2 – 4.9%</td>
<td>≤2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago residents - 7-day rolling daily average</td>
<td>Current: 23.6% Increasing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hospital Beds (Non-ICU) Occupied by COVID Patients</strong></td>
<td>1250+</td>
<td>750 – 1249</td>
<td>250 – 749</td>
<td>100 – 249</td>
<td>≤100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago hospitals - 7-day rolling daily average</td>
<td>Current: 1,142 Increasing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ICU Beds Occupied by COVID Patients</strong></td>
<td>400+</td>
<td>300 – 399</td>
<td>100 – 299</td>
<td>20 – 99</td>
<td>≤20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago hospitals - 7-day rolling daily average</td>
<td>Current: 266 Increasing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Chicago Department of Public Health, data current as of January 3, 2022. These metrics represent general community COVID transmission and should not be applied to individual settings that have mitigation practices in place.
Chicago: COVID-19 case rate is **highest** it has been since the beginning of the pandemic

12/28 Daily Total: 7,443

Current average case rate: 4,591
Chicago: COVID test positivity is highest it has been since the first wave of the pandemic.

Current positivity: 23.6%
Chicago: Non-ICU Hospital Beds occupied by COVID-19 patients at **highest** census since the beginning of the pandemic

Current average: 1,142

Chi.gov/coviddash
Chicago: ICU Hospital Beds occupied by COVID-19 patients at **highest** census since December 2020

Current average: 266

Chi.gov/coviddash
Good News: Vaccine still highly protective against INFECTION, though Omicron variant leads to more breakthroughs.

Since Thanksgiving in Chicago, unvaccinated diagnosed with COVID at more than TWICE the rate of vaccinated Chicagoans, and THREE times the rate of vaccinated and boosted Chicagoans.
Good News: In Chicago, vaccines continue to protect beautifully against COVID HOSPITALIZATION, and boosters clearly add to that protection.

Unvaccinated Chicagoans continue to drive our increase in COVID hospitalizations. Since Thanksgiving in Chicago, unvaccinated have been hospitalized with COVID at FIVE times the rate of vaccinated Chicagoans and NINE times the rate of vaccinated and boosted Chicagoans.
COVID death increase also driven by unvaccinated Chicagoans. Since Thanksgiving in Chicago, unvaccinated have died of COVID at more than FIVE times the rate of vaccinated Chicagoans and NINE times the rate of vaccinated and boosted Chicagoans.
As expected with increased post-holiday testing, Chicago children 0-17 y/o have seen an increased COVID case diagnosis rate.
Very good news: Child COVID hospitalizations remain very rare. Across the whole city (550,000 children), Chicago is averaging just 7 COVID hospitalizations daily for children age 0-17.
Numbers: Very few Chicago adolescents (and even fewer younger and vaccinated children) have been hospitalized recently with COVID. Since Thanksgiving, just 55 total COVID hospitalizations in children age 5-17 citywide; 46 (84%) of these children were unvaccinated. No hospitalizations in vaxxed 5-11 y/o. No deaths in children over this time period.
How does this compare to influenza?

Estimated Number of Influenza-Related Hospitalizations* among 0-17 year olds, Chicago – 2018-2019 Season

188 cumulative number of hospitalizations among 0-17 years

*CDC FluSurv-NET weekly rates were used to calculate estimated number of influenza hospitalizations in Chicago October - April.
Estimated Number of Influenza-Related Hospitalizations* among 0-17 year olds, Chicago – 2019-2020 Season

232 cumulative number of hospitalizations among 0-17 years

*CDC FluSurv-NET weekly rates were used to calculate estimated number of influenza hospitalizations in Chicago.
For comparison, between October 30, 2020 and April 3, 2021 (approximate flu season and including last winter’s COVID surge), in Chicago we saw nearly 19,000 COVID diagnoses in children age 0-17—but just 231 COVID hospitalizations (and no deaths)
Risk of hospitalization increases with age, particularly in unvaccinated. Hospitalization risk among working-age adults (30-64y) in Chicago who have received a booster vaccine is near zero.

Among 1,250 COVID hospitalizations in Chicagoans age 30-64y since Thanksgiving, just 33 (3%) were fully vaccinated with a booster dose. Since Thanksgiving, unvaccinated Chicagoans age 30-64y have been 35 TIMES as likely to be hospitalized with COVID than vaxxed and boosted adults of same age.
Deaths among unvaccinated adults have increased. Risk of death among working-age vaccinated adults has remained very low.
Chicago remains above national average of percent of fully vaccinated population* that received a booster dose, however there is still much work to be done.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Chicago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population ≥ 18 years</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population ≥ 50 years</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population ≥ 65 years</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
<td>60.1%</td>
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*Not all may be due to receive a booster dose
Chicago youth have higher COVID-19 vaccination rates than youth Nationwide

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<tr>
<td>5-11 yrs</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-17 yrs</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
<td>71.7%</td>
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The best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 are the things we have been doing all along:

• Get a **COVID-19 vaccine and booster** as soon as you are eligible

• Wear a **mask that covers your nose and mouth** to help protect yourself and others

• **Stay 6 feet apart** from others who don’t live with you

• Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces

• **Test** to prevent spread to others

• **Wash your hands** often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren’t available
If you test positive with *any* COVID-19 viral test:
Consider this a true positive and isolate at home for a minimum of 5 days.

1. Given the current surge in COVID-19, there is additional pressure on laboratories. **Stay at home while waiting for COVID-19 test results.**

2. If you have **symptoms of possible COVID-19** but you are unable to take a COVID-19 test, isolate at home for at least 5 days and until symptoms improve, even if you are vaccinated.
   1. With Omicron, most people who are vaccinated and boosted have mild COVID-19 illness and can recover at home without medical care.
   2. Seek immediate medical care if you are experiencing **emergency warning signs** of COVID-19.

3. If you are an older adult or someone living with an underlying condition, or your symptoms worsen, please contact your healthcare provider if you test positive as soon as possible or if your symptoms become worse.

4. If you have none or only mild symptoms and are having trouble finding a [COVID-19 viral test](#), **do not seek testing in emergency departments.**
Vaccines ARE available!

- Pediatric vaccine shipped to Chicago provider sites: **294,700 doses**
- 72% Chicago providers; 27% pharmacies

- Active COVID-19 Pediatric Providers: **205 sites**

- Number of pediatric orders processed: **663 orders**
REMINDER: This new requirement went into effect yesterday, January 3rd.

VACCINATION AND MANDATORY MASKS REQUIRED

Effective January 3, 2022, the City of Chicago requires all patrons age 5 and older to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and wear a mask to visit this location.

VALID FORMS OF VERIFICATION INCLUDE:
- Valid photo ID (age 16+) and
- Vaccination card
- Photocopy of vaccination card
- Digital record or app
- Printed record from vaccine provider

Find a COVID-19 vaccine at CHICAGO.GOV/COVIDVAX or by calling 312-746-4835.
Which mask is best?

- One that fits snugly against your face (nose, mouth, and chin). Gaps can let air with respiratory droplets leak in and out around the edges of the mask.
- One that has layers to keep your respiratory droplets in and others’ out.

Layers of Defense Against COVID-19 in Schools

CDC recommended prevention strategies can be layered in different ways – the number and intensity of the layers can increase if community transmission increases.

As community transmission increases, more holes appear in the defenses, meaning more layers of protection may be needed.

As the vaccination rate within a building or facility increases, fewer holes will appear in the defenses.

Promote **vaccination** against COVID-19 for eligible staff and students.

Correctly and consistently use well-fitted **masks** that cover the nose and mouth.

Arrange for **physical distancing**, including cohorting (grouping children together to reduce potential exposures).

Promote **screening and testing** for illness.

Ensure healthy environments and effective ventilation.

Holes in our defenses show that no one intervention is perfect, but layering them together increases success.

Image credit: Michigan Dept of Health and Human Services

Adapted from Ian M. Mackay (virolog@downunder.com) and James T. Reason
CDC’s Science Brief on Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools summarizes evidence on COVID-19 among children and adolescents and what is known about preventing transmission in schools.

Although outbreaks in schools can occur, multiple studies have shown that transmission within school settings is typically lower than – or at least similar to – levels of community transmission, when prevention strategies are in place in schools.
Need a vaccine or a booster? Have questions?

visit CHI.GOV/COVIDVAX

or call 312-746-4835
CPS COVID UPDATE

Last Updated 01.04.22
CPS Schools Remain Safe

We are confident that the proven layers of protection we are using will continue to keep students and staff safe. We know from our experience last school year that students learn far better in the classroom than they do on a screen.

Proven Layers of Protection in Place

- Robust contact tracing
- Universal masking
- Social distancing when possible
- Strong hand hygiene
- Monitored indoor air quality
- Regularly cleaned and disinfected spaces
- In-school testing
- Consistent access to vaccines
COVID-19 Testing

A main focus is to continue to expand our testing capabilities.

- Testing in every school this week, and we are doubling down at schools where we had some tests that came back as inconclusive.
- Administered 10,000 tests yesterday alone.
- Number of students and staff consenting to testing is on the rise.
CPS Staff & Student Vaccination Status

90.7% of CPS staff are fully vaccinated

51.1% of CPS students ages 12 and up have been fully vaccinated

24.0% of CPS students ages 5 - 11 have received at least one dose of the vaccine

Additional Vaccination Opportunities Through CPS

- 33 vaccination events this week, which includes our 4 regional sites, 24 school-based sites, and mobile events.
- Mobile event at Darwin ES was sold out completely yesterday.
CPS Proposal to CTU

- School level metrics on when to transition to remote learning
  - Aggressive response to confirmed COVID Cases
- Increased contact tracing capability
- 200K KN95 masks for staff distributed immediately
- More masks will be distributed throughout the month of January
- Daily health screeners and temperature check implemented at school’s discretion
- Tactical team to meet with CTU daily to address specific school concerns