Chicago: COVID-19 case rate remains very high

Current average case rate: 3,772

12/21 Daily Total: 5,454
Chicago daily COVID case rates currently highest in 18-39 year-olds. Children have seen an increased COVID case diagnosis rate in surge, but lower than adults.
Chicago: COVID test positivity is the highest it has been since the first wave of the pandemic.

Current positivity: 16.7%
Good News: In Chicago, vaccines continue to protect beautifully against COVID hospitalization, and boosters add to that protection. 

Unvaccinated Chicagoans are driving our increase in COVID hospitalizations.
Good news: Child COVID hospitalizations remain rare. Across the whole city, Chicago is averaging 5 COVID hospitalizations daily for children age 0-17.

Chi.gov/coviddash
Are you up to date on your COVID-19 vaccinations?

“Up to date” means you have received all authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines based on your age and time eligibility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pfizer-BioNTech</th>
<th>Moderna</th>
<th>Johnson &amp; Johnson</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td>5+ years old</td>
<td>18+ y/o</td>
<td>18+ y/o</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Series</strong></td>
<td>2 doses given 21+ days apart</td>
<td>2 doses given 28+ days apart</td>
<td>1 dose</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Booster Dose</strong></td>
<td>Everyone 18+ should get a booster at least 6 months following primary series</td>
<td>Everyone 18+ should get a booster at least 6 months following primary series</td>
<td>Everyone 18+ should get a booster at least 2 months following primary series</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Teens 16-17 may get a Pfizer booster*
Making good progress on child vaccinations, well ahead of national average. Citywide, 72% of Chicago adolescents have had a first dose and 34% of 5-11 year olds.

U.S.: 23% of 5-11 year olds have had a first dose
63% of 12-17 year olds have had a first dose
If you test positive for COVID-19:

- Stay home and isolate for 5 days
- After 5 days, if your symptoms have resolved you can leave your house
- You must continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days and should avoid contact with high-risk people
- If you are still feeling sick or have a fever after 5 days, you must continue to isolate at home until you feel fine

Regardless of vaccination status:

NO need to repeat a positive at-home test in a medical setting; treat a positive as positive.
So, what should we do to protect ourselves and community from COVID and its variants?

- VAX UP
- MASK UP
- BACK UP
- WASH UP
- TEST UP

(BOOST UP)
What should I do if I have a child returning to school on Monday?

• Most importantly, **make a vaccine appointment** for anyone in your home, child or adult, who is not up-to-date with COVID vaccines, including boosters.

• Make sure your child has a **well-fitting mask** that they are comfortable wearing.
  • More layers are better; the most important is that your child will keep it on.

• If your child develops new potential COVID symptoms, he/she should **stay home** until getting a negative test result.
  • It’s even more important right now that anyone with symptoms stay home.
Science Brief: Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs – Updated

- 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 Take-Home Test Kit Program

- **150,000 test kits** provided to students
- **Sent to over 300 schools** in areas most impacted by COVID with low vaccine rates
- Instructions provided to families along with kits
- Reminders sent out via email, text, phone call
- Instructions and drop-off information available at [cps.edu/testkit](http://cps.edu/testkit)
Test Kit Pickup Update

- Deadline for drop-off extended to 5 p.m. Thurs, Dec. 30
- Test kits dropped off on Friday, Dec. 31 will NOT be picked up
- All kits dropped at FedEx and library sites on Wednesday, including those left outside, will be processed on time.
  - Test kits in sealed envelopes are valid
  - Kits were not damaged if left outdoors
  - Packaging is waterproof
  - Samples collected in saline solution to withstand cold weather
Test Kit Drop-Off Locations

Visit FedEx.com for list of FedEx DropBoxes

Library Locations:

- Englewood: Kelly Branch, 6151 S. Normal Blvd.
- Garfield Ridge Branch, 6348 S Archer Ave.
- South Shore: South Shore Branch, 2505 E. 73rd St.
- Southeast Side: Vodak-East Side Branch, 3710 E. 106th St.
- Austin: Austin Branch, 5615 W. Race Ave.
- Altgeld Gardens: Altgeld Branch, 933 E. 131st Pl.
Visit cps.edu/testkit for Drop-Off Locations
Notification of Positive Tests

- **37,000 tests processed so far; 1% positivity rate**
- The lab will be working around the clock to process all kits collected this week by the end of the weekend
- Families will receive results notification via text and email
- Families can also log into their Color account to see result
- Color will also notify CPS of positive cases automatically.
- **If your child tests positive or is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please do not send them to school on Jan. 3**
CPS Pandemic Safety

- Schools remain some of the safest places in the pandemic because of protections put in place:
  - Universal Masking
  - Social Distancing
  - Separating students into classes /cohorts
  - Weekly Testing

- COVID is most often spread outside of school in community settings with less protection, e.g. playdates, family gatherings, public events.
Additional CPS Safety Measures

- Schools have been cleaned and disinfected over break
- 60 school nurses + support personnel added to contact tracing team
- Tactical CPS Team to support individual schools
- Will be aggressive about transitioning classes (and entire schools if necessary) to remote learning
- No district-wide remote learning unless there is a shelter-in-place
  - Remote learning has been damaging for students, leading to academic, social, and emotional issues
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When CPS gets a self report of a COVID-19 case:</th>
<th>When CPS identifies 3 or more cases in a single group (classroom, cohort, etc.):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPS’ Contact Tracing Team works with the school to investigate</td>
<td>Chicago Dept. of Public Health (CDPH) determines if there is evidence of widespread in-school transmission.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Close contacts are notified; unvaccinated or partially vaccinated close contacts are directed to quarantine</td>
<td>If in-school transmission is suspected, CPS provides additional resources:</td>
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<tr>
<td>If necessary, principal can flip a class to remote learning until an investigation is complete</td>
<td>• Extra testing opportunities and/or take home test kits</td>
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<td>• Extra staff, including substitute teachers &amp; support staff</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of the school</td>
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<td>• Promotion of easily accessible vaccination opportunities</td>
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