



**April 8, 2022**

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**Chicago Department of Public Health Updated Travel Advisory:  
96 percent of U.S. has low community level of COVID-19**

CHICAGO – For those traveling in the coming week, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends Chicagoans take precautions against COVID-19 if visiting areas of the United States that have clusters of medium to high COVID-19 risk levels, based on the Centers for Disease Control’s (CDC’s) COVID-19 Community Levels.

This is especially important for unvaccinated travelers, who should take precautions upon returning to Chicago if traveling to medium or high risk areas, including quarantining for five days after travel.

According to the CDC’s Community Levels (CCL) advisory this week, 4.4 percent or 142, of the 3,220 counties in the U.S. and Puerto Rico have COVID-19 levels that are “medium” to “high” risk. That number was 163 last week. COVID-19 levels are predominantly low throughout most states, but some, such as Arkansas, Montana, New York, South Dakota, and Maine have some community-level clusters of medium or high COVID-19 levels. There are 19 counties at a “high” risk community level around the country this week; that’s a slight increase from 17 last week.

CDPH advises anyone traveling to these areas to consult the [CDC’s CCL map](#) to determine the risk level and precautions to take. This county-level data from the CDC is color-coded to reflect low (green), medium (yellow), or high (orange) risk. Cook County is currently low risk.

The CDC’s CCL tool is designed to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels are determined by looking at hospital beds being used by COVID-19 patients, new COVID-19 hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. The CDC measures COVID-19 Community Levels in counties from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 78 counties in Puerto Rico. CDPH’s Travel Advisory is aligned with this new county-level guidance from the CDC, and CDPH is providing its travel guidance every Friday.

ALL travelers should check the CDC map so they know whether the areas they are traveling to are low, medium, or high risk for COVID-19.

- If areas are **low risk (green)**, no additional action must be taken. Continue to follow standard guidance related to travel.
- If the areas are **medium risk (yellow)**, consider wearing a mask in indoor public places.
- If the areas are **high risk (orange)**:
  - Wear a mask in indoor public places.
  - Travelers who are age 5 or older and are *not* up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines are advised to avoid travel to high-risk (orange) counties.
  - Unvaccinated Chicagoans age 5 or older who travel to high-risk (orange) counties, upon returning to Chicago are advised to follow CDC guidance:
    - Stay home and quarantine for 5 days after travel
    - Take a COVID test 3-5 days after return – if it is positive, stay home and [follow CDC guidance](#).
- ALL travelers are also advised to:
  - Ensure you are up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines (including boosters) *before* any planned travel.
  - Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
  - Consider packing an at-home COVID test in case you develop symptoms while traveling.
  - Bring a mask with you. Remember that masks are required at airports, on airplanes, and on all public transportation at this time. Businesses may also still choose to require masks.

Given that children under 5 are not yet eligible for vaccination, at this time they are exempted from the City’s Travel Advisory, as long as the adults they are traveling with are vaccinated. Under the updated Advisory, CDPH continues to follow CDC guidance for all travel – including [international travel](#).

#### COVID-19 Community Levels in U.S. by County

	Level	Total	Percent	% Point Change
	High	19	0.59%	0.06%
	Medium	123	3.82%	-0.72%
	Low	3082	95.6%	0.66%

Vaccination continues to be the best protection against severe outcomes from COVID-19 – including hospitalization or death. The COVID-19 vaccine is widely available at pharmacies and health care providers across the City. CDPH will bring the vaccine to Chicago residents at their homes, free of charge, through Protect Chicago At Home. Up to 10 people at a residence (age 5 and up) can be vaccinated. Make an appointment at [Chicago.gov/AtHome](https://www.chicago.gov/AtHome)

or by calling 312-746-4835. CDPH also holds regular vaccination events across the city, find the full list at [Chicago.gov/VaxCalendar](https://www.chicago.gov/VaxCalendar).

CDPH continues to closely monitor the spread of COVID-19 in other regions across the country. For more information, visit [Chicago.gov/coronavirus](https://www.chicago.gov/coronavirus).

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