



#AskDrArwady

July 25, 2023

WILDFIRE SMOKE CAUSING UNHEALTHY AIR QUALITY

As Canadian wildfire smoke continues to impact air quality, Chicagoans should limit exposure by avoiding extended time and strenuous activity outdoors.

On days with poor air quality, Chicagoans are advised to keep windows and doors closed and turn on their air conditioners if they have one. Seek shelter elsewhere if you do not have an air conditioner and your home is too warm.

For Chicagoans without access to properly ventilated and safe indoor conditions, please utilize public libraries, senior centers, Park District facilities, and the Cultural Center, or one of six community service centers.

Visit
[Chicago.gov/envcommunityinfo](https://www.chicago.gov/envcommunityinfo)

HARM REDUCTION 101

**STAY SAFER AT
FESTIVALS AND
EVENTS THIS
SUMMER**

**STAY
HYDRATED**

**WEAR
EARPLUGS**

PRACTICE CROWD SAFETY

KNOW WHERE THE EXITS ARE
WATCH OUT FOR CROWD SURGE

PREVENT HEATSTROKE TEST YOUR DRUGS

HANG OUT IN SHADED
AREAS WHEN POSSIBLE
WEAR SUNSCREEN,
SUNGLASSES, AND HAT

CALL CHICAGO
RECOVERY ALLIANCE AT
773-708-2206 FOR DRUG
CHECKING SERVICES

CARRY NARCAN

AVAILABLE FOR FREE AT EVERY
CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY (SCAN
THE QR CODE TO FIND NARCAN
NEAR YOU)



[BIT.LY/FINDNARCAN](https://bit.ly/findnarcan)



EMAIL OSU.CDPH@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG
TO ACCESS FENTANYL TEST KITS

JOIN US ON 7/28, 12-1PM FOR NARCAN AND HARM REDUCTION TRAINING



What do you need to know about **Narcan** and **Harm Reduction**?

Join the CDPH Office of Substance Use for a **free virtual training this Friday, July 28, at 12 pm**, so you can help [#endoverdose](#).

Register now:
http://bit.ly/NHR_Training



This summer, keep children safer in water.

Think about the different ways you can help keep your child safe--and if a child is missing, check the water first.

Together, we can protect swimmers!

Learn more #SwimSafety tips:
<http://bit.ly/SwimSafetyGuidelines>

STAY CURRENT ON SWIMMING SAFETY!

Teach your children to swim and to self-rescue this summer and at every opportunity near water.



Chicago Mpox (Monkeypox) Case Summary

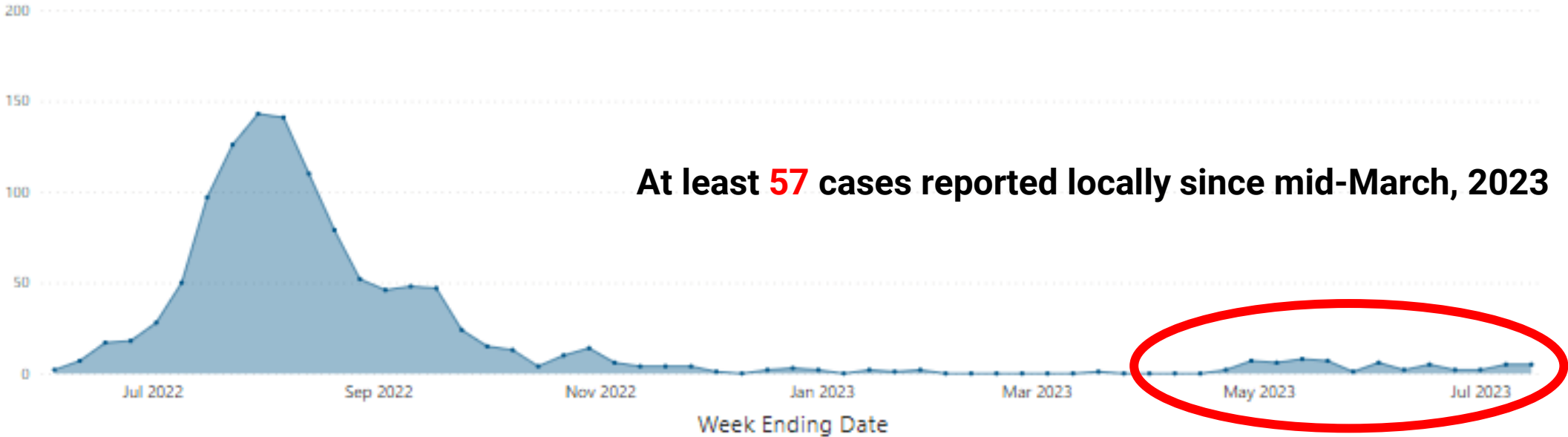


Data last updated 7/24/2023. Counts include cases with specimen collections through 7/19/2023 to account for reporting lags. Data are updated on Mondays and Thursdays at 2:00p.m., except for City holidays. All data are provisional and subject to change.

Cases of Mpox Diagnosed in Chicagoans Between 6/4/2022 - 7/19/2023

5 cases were diagnosed last week. This is the same number of cases diagnosed during the prior week.

Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths
1,181	65	3



*Data represented in the last reported week are not yet complete.

Mpox Vaccine 101

- The **JYNNEOS™ vaccine** can help protect people against mpox (monkeypox) when given before exposure to the virus. CDPH strongly encourages those eligible to get the vaccine to protect themselves and others.
- The vaccine is a **two-dose vaccine given under the skin 28 days apart**. Optimal protection is not achieved until two weeks following the second dose.

Eligibility

Have had **close contact** with someone diagnosed with mpox, regardless of sex, gender or sexual orientation

OR

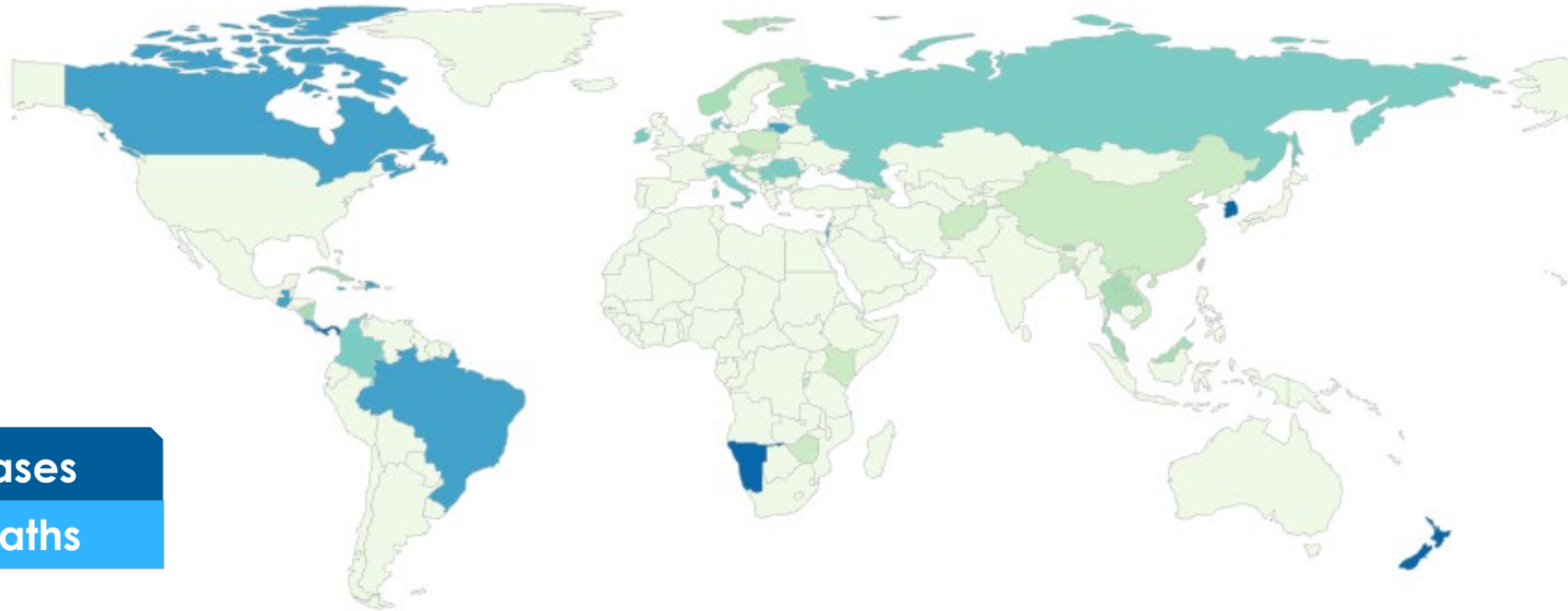
Are a **gay, bisexual, or other man who has sex with men and/or transgender person** who is sexually active.

- Find your vaccine: [CDPH Mpox Vaccine Finder](#)

★ Where can I go to learn more about mpox?

- **Mpox (Monkeypox) Website and Data Dashboard:** www.chicago.gov/mpox
- **HIV/STI Resource Hub (LGBTQ+ call center):** [844-482-4040](tel:844-482-4040)
- **CDPH Call Center:** [312-746-4835](tel:312-746-4835)

Weekly COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population

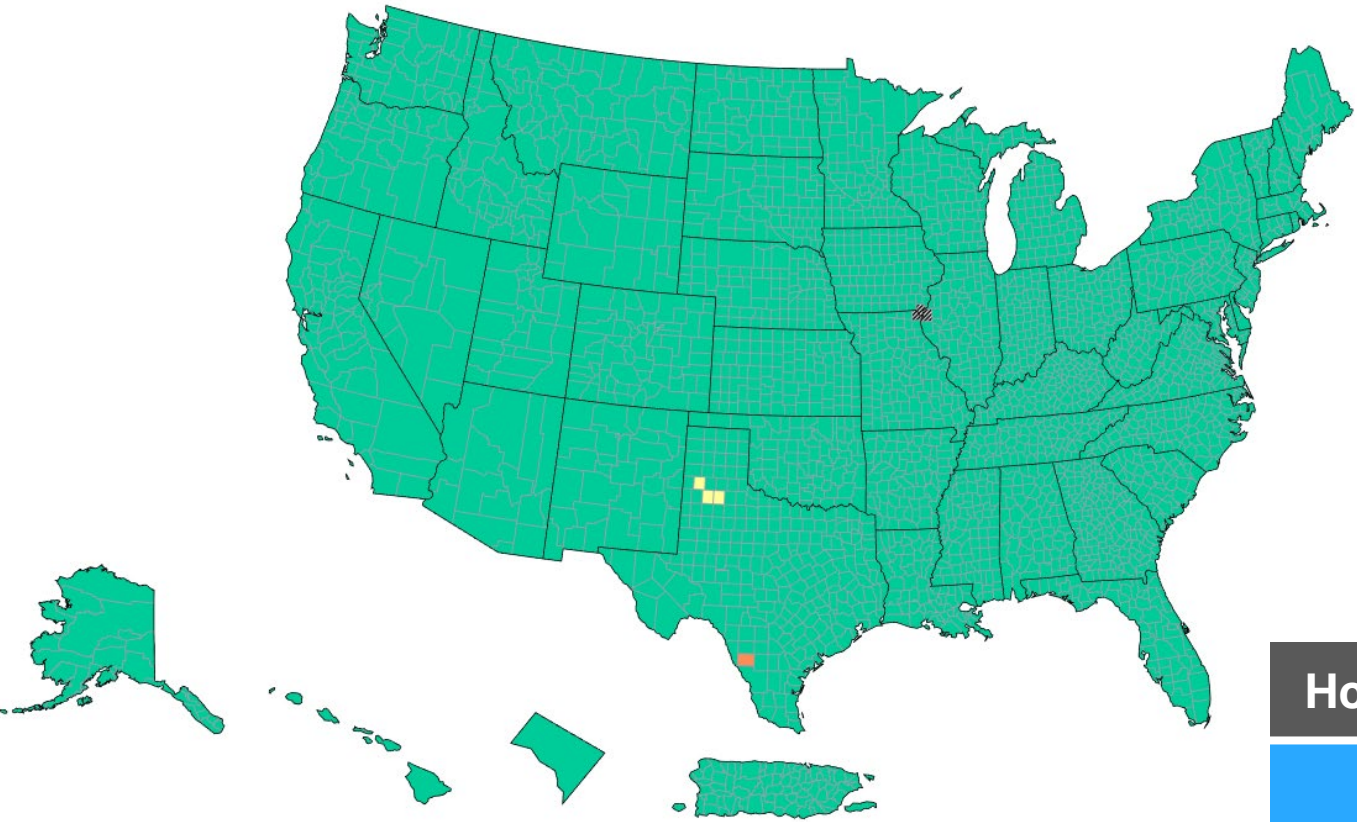


768 Million Cases
6.9 Million Deaths

13.4 Billion Vaccine Doses Administered
5.5 Billion Vaccinated



★ Weekly COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 population

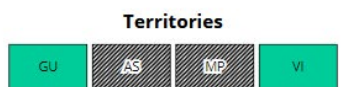


National currently:
1.88 diagnosed weekly admissions per 100,000 people

Illinois currently:
1.57 diagnosed weekly admissions per 100,000 people

Chicago currently:
0.49 diagnosed weekly admissions per 100,000 people

	<u>Past Week</u>	<u>Total</u>
Hospital Admissions	6,228 (-1%)	6,292,122
Deaths	377 (-20%)	1,138,189



*1 US county at **HIGH** hospital admissions level this past week*



CDC Hospital Admission Level for Cook County is at **LOW**

Last Week's Hospital Admission Level 7/2-7/8

1.6 New COVID-19 Admissions per 100,000

Admission Level for 2 Weeks Ago (6/25-7/1)

1.4 New COVID-19 Admissions per 100,000

● Low (<10.0) ● Medium (10.0 to 19.9) ● High (≥20.0) ▨ Insufficient data

Other Metrics for Cook County (7/2-7/8)*

489 Reported New COVID-19 Cases

+28%

9.27 Reported New Cases per 100,000

2 New COVID-19 Deaths

0%

0.04 New Deaths per 100,000

See [CDC COVID Data Tracker: Maps by Geographic Area](#) for more details

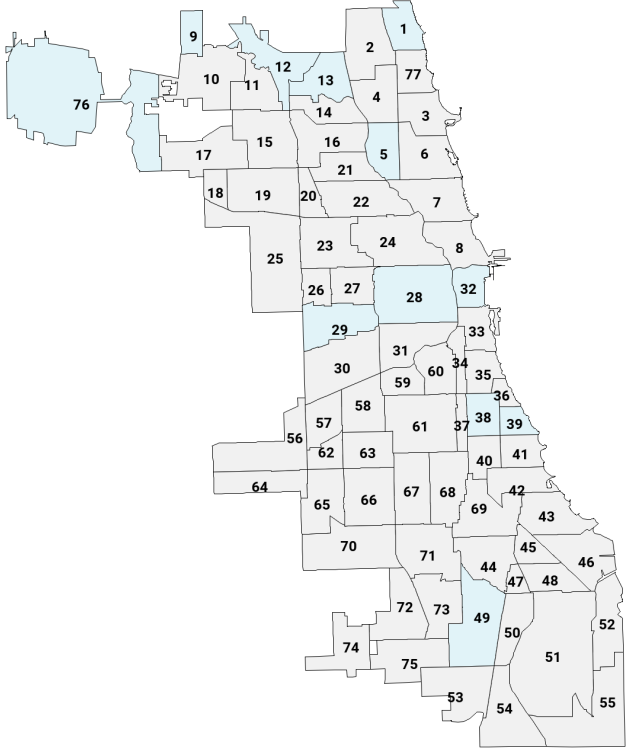
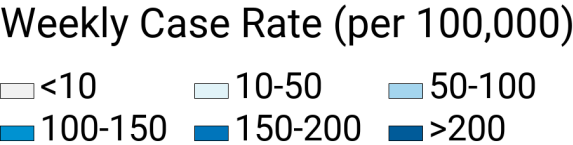
*Other metrics are estimates based on cases reported into the Illinois Electronic Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS)



Lab-confirmed COVID cases are VERY low in every community area

8 community areas had 0 lab-confirmed cases in the past two weeks

Average weekly case rate for the past 2 weeks
7/1/2023 – 7/15/2023



Source:
Includes cases among Chicago residents reported into the Illinois Electronic Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS) with date of specimen collection up to 7/15/2023.



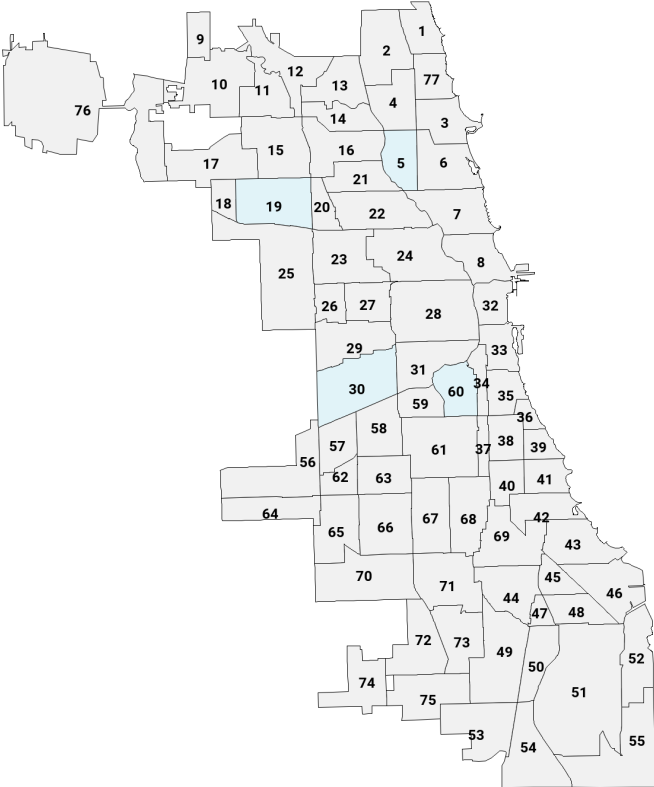
COVID hospitalization rates are largely both low and stable



73 community areas had 0 hospitalizations in the past two weeks
62 community areas had 0 hospitalizations in the past four weeks

Average weekly hospitalization rate for the past 2 weeks
7/1/2023 – 7/15/2023

New hospital admissions (per 100,000)
0 0-5 5-10 10-20 > 20



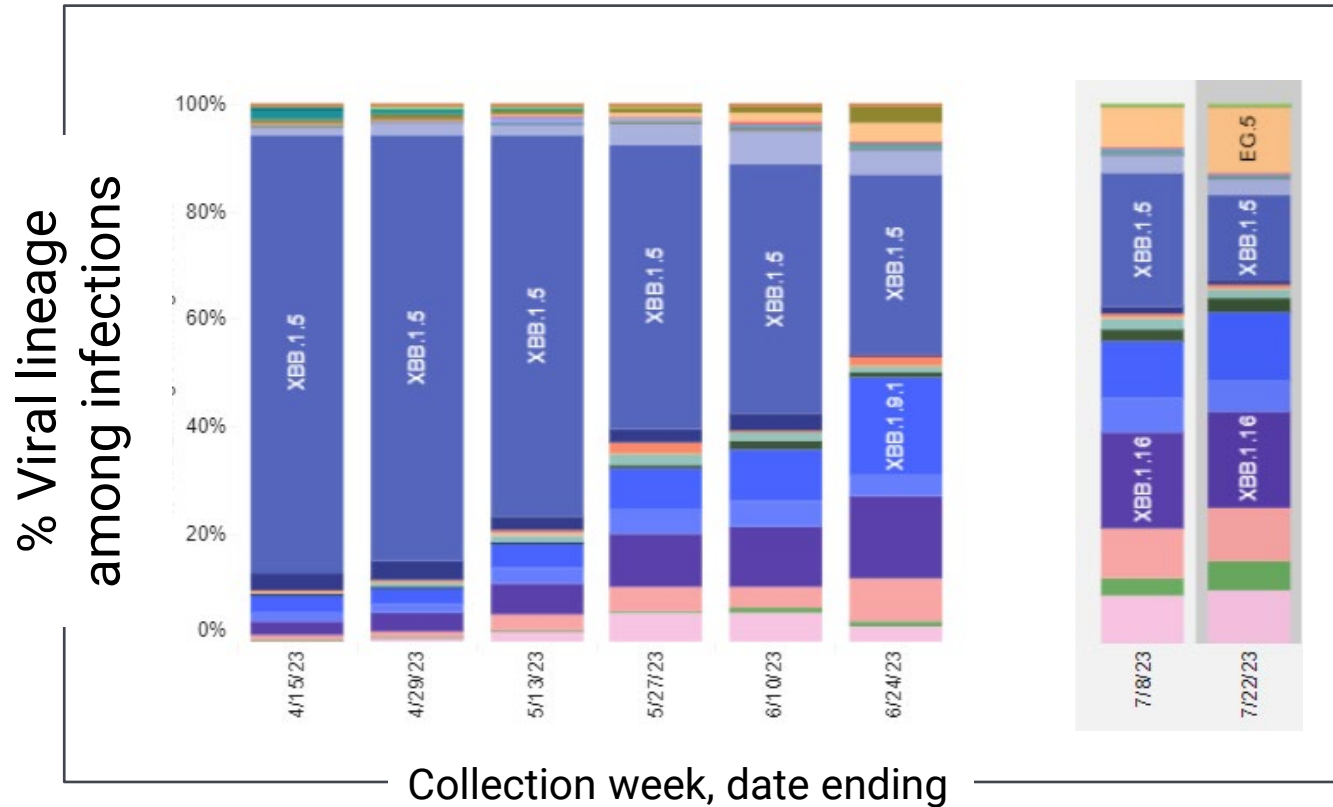
Source:
Includes cases among Chicago residents reported into the Illinois Electronic Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS) with date of specimen collection or admission date up to 7/15/2023.





Variant Surveillance, Midwest Region

Weighted and Nowcast Estimates for Weeks of 4/15/23 – 7/22/23



It's ALL Still OMICRON

XBB.1.16	17.7%	14.7-21.2%	
XBB.1.5	15.8%	13.1-19.0%	
XBB.1.9.1	12.5%	4.2-29.3%	
EG.5	12.0%	5.9-22.5%	
XBB.2.3	9.9%	6.2-15.1%	
XBB.1.16.1	9.7%	7.3-12.6%	
XBB.1.9.2	6.0%	3.7-9.7%	
XBB.1.16.6	5.5%	2.0-13.5%	
XBB	3.0%	1.2-6.8%	
XBB.1.5.72	2.6%	0.4-10.4%	
XBB.1.5.68	1.7%	0.9-3.3%	
FE.1.1	0.7%	0.2-2.1%	
XBB.1.5.1	0.7%	0.4-1.2%	
CH.1.1	0.6%	0.1-3.0%	
XBB.1.5.10	0.6%	0.3-1.2%	
EU.1.1	0.4%	0.2-1.2%	
XBB.1.5.59	0.3%	0.1-0.8%	

★ EG.5 is another (shorter!) for the subvariant XBB.1.9.2.5 and is a descendant of XBB.1.9 family, which has been increasing in prevalence for the past ~4 months.

- Compared to XBB.1.9, EG.5 contains four additional amino acid mutations
- One of the most quickly emerging XBB sublineages
- EG.5 accounts for ~40% of sequences in China and Japan

CDC Nowcast Estimate	Week ending 7/8/23	# EG.5 Sequences to Date	
USA	13.0%	USA	568
HHS Region 5	9.8%	IL	7
		RIPHL (Chicago)	1

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



VAX & PAX lovid



If you're at high risk for severe illness, vaccines are your best protection against COVID-19. But if you do test positive, **TREATMENTS ARE AVAILABLE.**

PAXLOVID, for example, is an oral antiviral therapy for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19.



Individuals ages 12 and up who are at high risk of developing severe illness, are eligible.

Ask a healthcare provider if medications to treat COVID-19 are right for you.



Continues to operate
Saturday and Sunday
8am-6:30pm

GET YOUR UPDATED

COVID BOOSTER & FLU SHOT AT HOME



In-home vaccination is available to all Chicago households at no cost. Up to 10 people can be vaccinated, so invite your family, friends, or neighbors to get vaccinated together.



TO REGISTER FOR AN APPOINTMENT
CALL **312.746.4835** OR VISIT OR CHICAGO.GOV/ATHOME



Need a vaccine or a booster?
Have questions?

visit

CHI.GOV/COVIDVAX

or call

312-746-4835



★ Preparing for the Fall:

Visit chi.gov/coviddash to find CDPH's weekly respiratory virus surveillance report:

The New York Times

Federal Officials Hatch a Three-Pronged Defense Against Another 'Tripledemic'

This fall, Americans will be urged to get shots against the flu, Covid and, if they're older, R.S.V.

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/05/health/vaccines-rsv-covid-flu.html>

Respiratory Virus Surveillance

Find CDPH's weekly surveillance report that tracks influenza, COVID-19, RSV, and other viral respiratory disease activity in Chicago.

This fall, what vaccines should I get?



- Definite recommendation for flu vaccine:
 - **ALL Chicagoans, age 6 months and up: Get your annual flu (influenza) vaccine**, ahead of the 2023-24 winter season
 - Virus that causes influenza continues to mutate; every year, scientists make a new version of the vaccine to best protect against the strains of flu expected to be circulating that winter
 - We expect flu vaccines will start to be available locally as early as August; recommendation is to get *before* winter
- Expected recommendation for COVID vaccine:
 - **(Likely) ALL Chicagoans, age 6 months and up: Get your (likely annual) COVID vaccine**, ahead of the 2023-24 winter season
 - An updated COVID vaccine will *definitely* be available this fall: Pfizer, Moderna, and Novavax will all be in market
 - Dosing still being finalized for pediatric vaccines; hoping to simplify for patients and providers
 - ACIP/CDC will make final official recommendation later this summer
 - Virus that causes COVID continues to mutate; every year, scientists will likely make a new version of the vaccine to best protect against the strains/variants of COVID virus expected to be circulating that winter.
 - We expect COVID vaccines will likely be available locally later in the fall (possibly late September or early October)
- New recommendation for RSV vaccine/antibody shot
 - **Youngest Chicagoans** (infants under age 1 year, vulnerable children under age 2 years) will newly have an RSV antibody shot available to help prevent RSV; talk to your pediatrician or provider
 - **Older Chicagoans** (over 60 years) will newly have an RSV vaccine available; talk to your doctor/provider
 - We expect both the shot for young children and the shot for older adults to be available later in the fall (possibly September or early October)

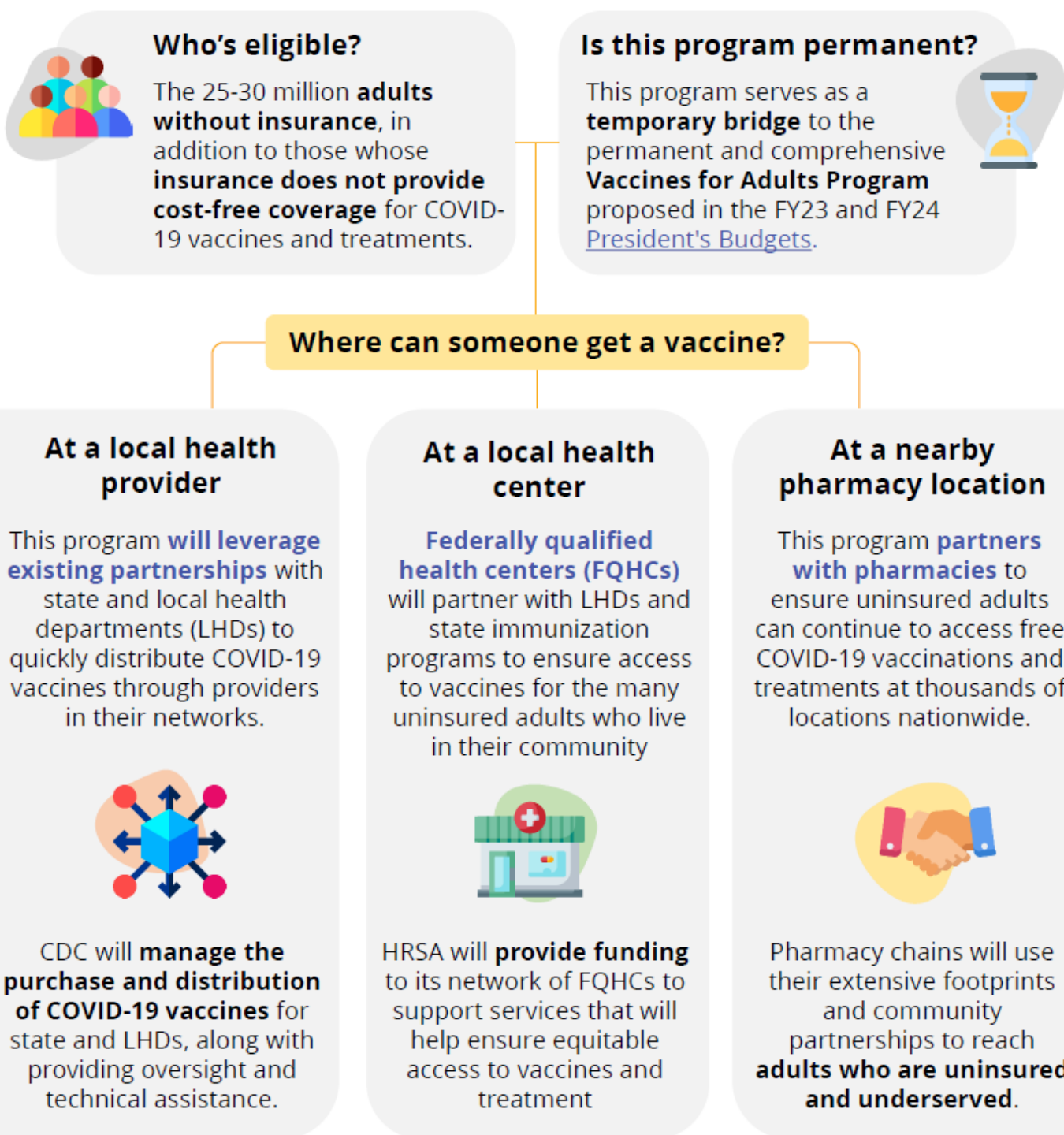
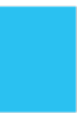
U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) announced program to **maintain broad access to COVID-19 vaccines** for millions of uninsured Americans.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

*Bridge Access Program for
COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments*



Under the management and oversight of the CDC, the Bridge Access Program ensures cost-free access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments after commercialization of these products in Fall 2023 through December 2024.





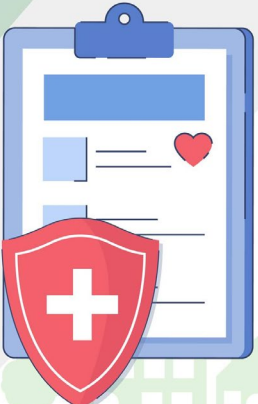
2 Million

At least 1,979,000 people in 29 states and DC have been **disenrolled from Medicaid** since April 1, 2023.

As of July 12, 2023

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) estimates that approximately **700,000 people in Illinois could lose Medicaid coverage.**

Communication and Outreach

Do You Get Health Insurance Through Medicaid? Get Ready To Renew!

Starting May 2023, all Illinois residents must reconfirm eligibility. Don't risk losing your health insurance. To keep your insurance, Illinois Medicaid needs to be able to send you paperwork. Give them an address where mail can always reach you.




Chicago Public Schools Student Health and Wellness

Check your mail. Complete your Medicaid renewal right away!

EVERY SUPERHERO NEEDS A SIDEKICK

Learn More @ cps.edu/medicaid

BEWARE OF SCAMS!

Illinois will NEVER ask you for money to renew or apply for Medicaid.




Pregúntale a la Dra. Luna

CDPH LIVE en Facebook y Twitter #AskDrLuna




Geraldine Luna, MD, MPH, MBAC
Medical Director

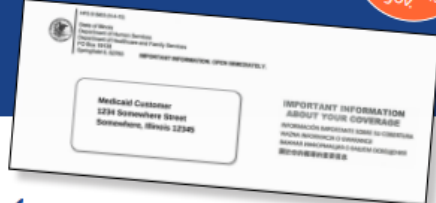
Daniela Vélez-Clucas
Staff Attorney,
Healthcare Justice/Immigration

★ **¡llam | LIVE en Facebook y Twitter**

La Directora Médica del Departamento de Salud Pública de Chicago (CDPH), Geraldine Luna, habló esta mañana con la abogada de Inmigración y de Justicia de Salud del Centro Shriver, Daniela Vélez-Clucas.

¿TIENE MEDICAID? ¡PREPÁRESE PARA RENOVARLO!

Haga clic en Administrar mi caso en abe.illinois.gov




Medicaid Customer
2234 Somerset Street
Summerville, Illinois 22343

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR COVERAGE
RENOVACIÓN DE SU COBERTURA
RECONFIRME SU COBERTURA
RECONFIRMACIÓN DE SU COBERTURA
RENOVARESE

- ✓ Haga clic en Administrar mi caso en abe.illinois.gov.
- ✓ Verifique su dirección postal.
- ✓ Obtenga su fecha de vencimiento (fecha de redeterminación).
- ✓ Revise su correo.
- ✓ Complete su renovación.

Escanee aquí ahora y haga clic en Administrar mi caso.



HFS
Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
1-800-843-6154

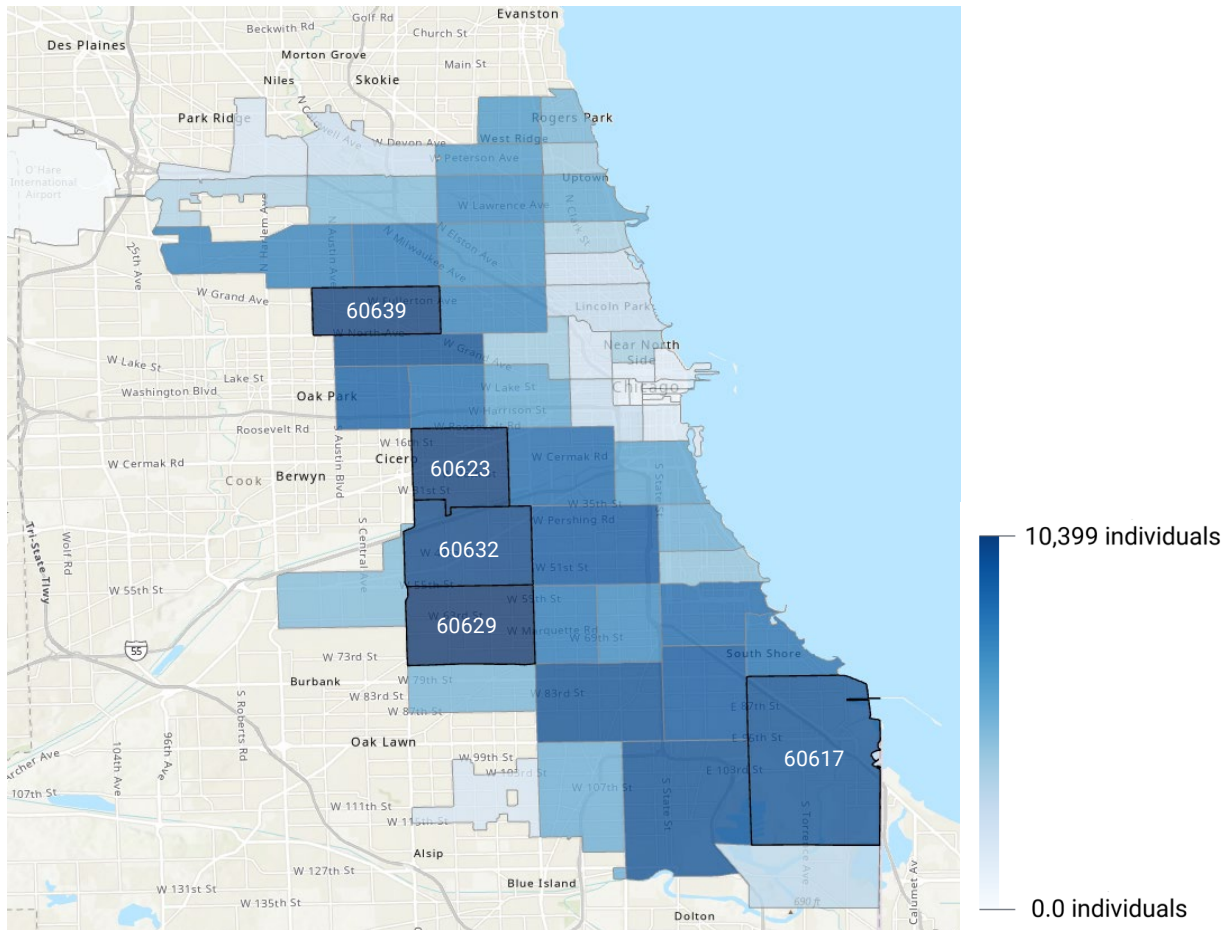
Sources: CDPH, Chicago Public Schools Office of Student Health and Wellness, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services



If federal disenrollment projections (about 17% disenrollment) hold for Chicago, over **180,000 Chicagoans could lose Medicaid coverage during the full unwinding period.**

Which Chicago areas are most impacted?

Applying National Disenrollment Projections to the Top 5 Chicago Zip Codes with Highest Medicaid Enrollment



- 1. 60629**
West Lawn
Chicago Lawn
West Elsdon*
Gage Park*
- 2. 60623**
South Lawndale
North Lawndale
- 3. 60639**
Belmont Cragin
Hermosa
Austin
- 4. 60632***
Archer Heights
Brighton Park
- 5. 60617**
South Deering
South Chicago
East Side
Calumet Heights

Note: CDPH's initial projections utilize public HFS data and disenrollment projections and require further analysis as redeterminations continue. Unwinding the Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Provision: Projected Enrollment Effects and Policy Approaches (Issue Brief HP-2022-20). Washington, DC: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. August 19, 2022. HFS Enrollment Zip Code Search (October 22, 2022). Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS).



People enrolled in
Medicaid



Need help and don't know where to turn?



211MetroChicago.org



Wastewater Monitoring & Polio Surveillance Project

7/25/2023

Alyse Kittner, MPH
Chicago Department of Public Health
Director, Laboratory—Based Surveillance

July 25, 2023

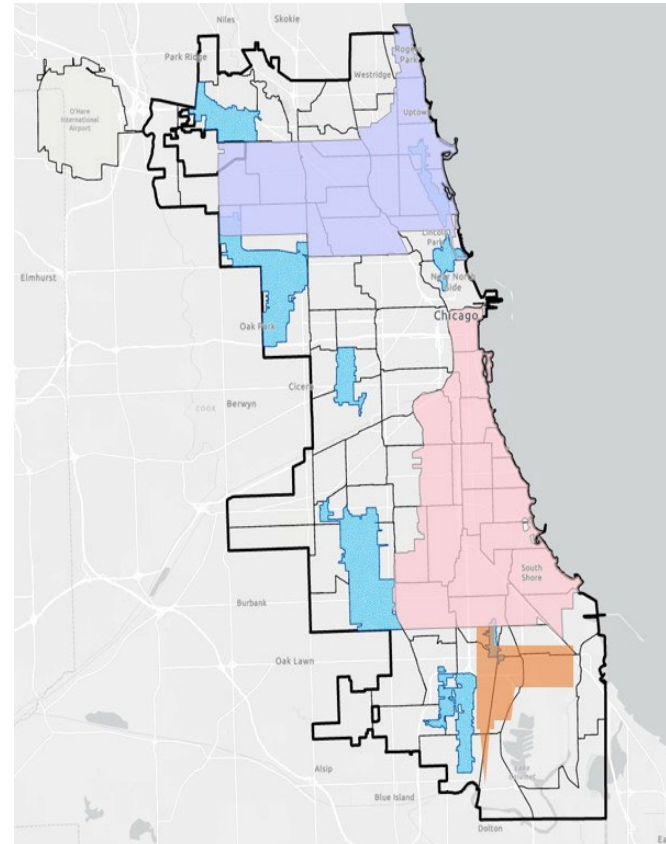


There are **15** community-based wastewater sampling sites

Everyone in the city is covered by at least one site



Four sampling sites from **three** wastewater treatment plants covering **5 million** Chicago and suburban residents.



Eight Chicago **Sewer sites** **320k** residents.
Three Pumping **Stations** **700k** residents.



CDPH tests for multiple pathogens at each sampling site

Site	Pathogen Tested				
	SARS-CoV-2	Flu A & B	RSV	Mpox	Polio (Mar-July 2023)
Wastewater Treatment Plants* (4)	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Pumping Stations (3)	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Sewer sites (8)	yes	yes	yes	yes	no

Flu A & B - Influenza viruses, types A, B, Mpox - Monkeypoxvirus, RSV - Respiratory Syncytial Virus, SARS-CoV-2 – virus causes COVID-19, Polio – Poliovirus that causes poliomyelitis

*Done in collaboration with Illinois Department of Public Health

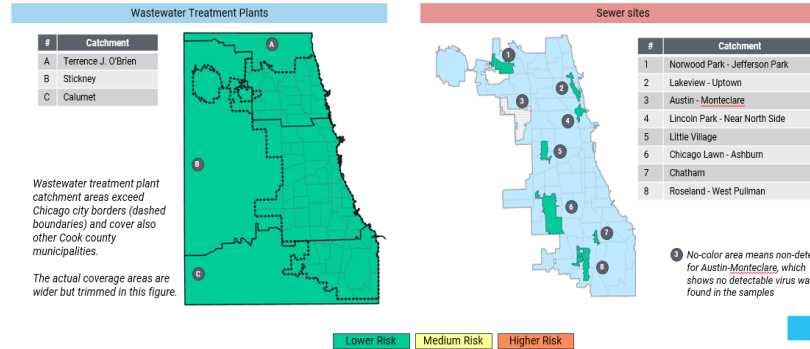


Types of data available varies based on pathogen of interest.

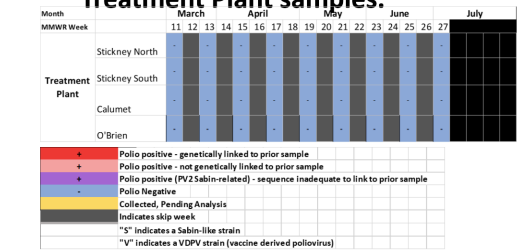
Types of data available

- SARS-CoV-2, Flu A/B, RSV
 - Concentration levels by location
 - Internal "Single Metric" Risk assessment
- Polio and Mpox
 - Detect/non-detect

All treatment plants and community sewer sites currently have **LOW** Influenza A&B risk

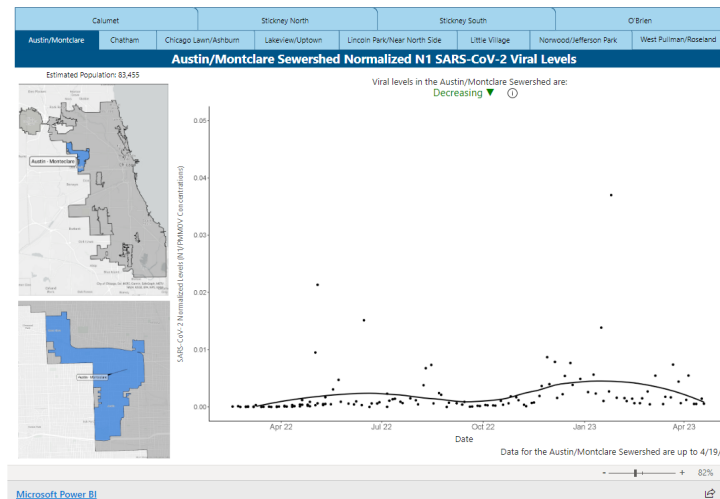


After 9 rounds of bi-weekly testing, **no poliovirus was detected in Wastewater Treatment Plant samples.**

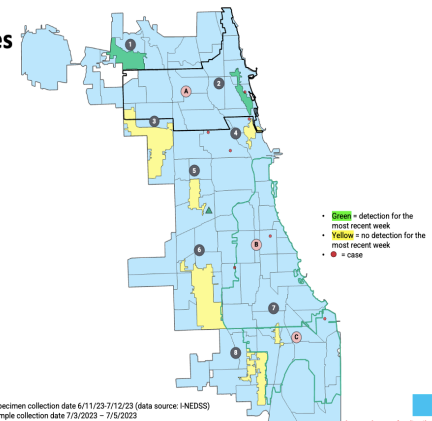


With no poliovirus detections during the 4-month program, wastewater surveillance for polio in Chicago has ended.

Wastewater Monitoring Dashboard



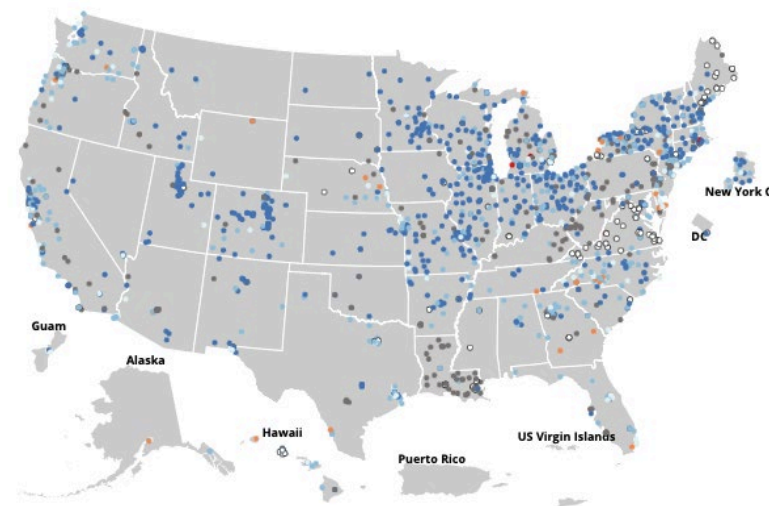
Recent mpox cases overlaid with Chicago's current week WWS detections



[Chicago.gov/wastewater-monitoring](https://chicago.gov/wastewater-monitoring)

CDPH data **contributes** to the National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS).

- CDC dashboard tracks the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater samples collected ~1,600 sites across the country.
- CDPH uploads SARS-CoV-2, flu, RSV and mpox data weekly



Current SARS-CoV-2 virus levels by site, United States

Current virus levels category	Num. sites	% sites	Category change in last 7 days
New Site	127	9	0%
0% to 19%	693	51	- 14%
20% to 39%	377	28	- 9%
40% to 59%	129	9	10%
60% to 79%	37	3	19%
80% to 100%	4	0	33%

Total sites with current data: 1367

Total number of wastewater sampling sites: 1645

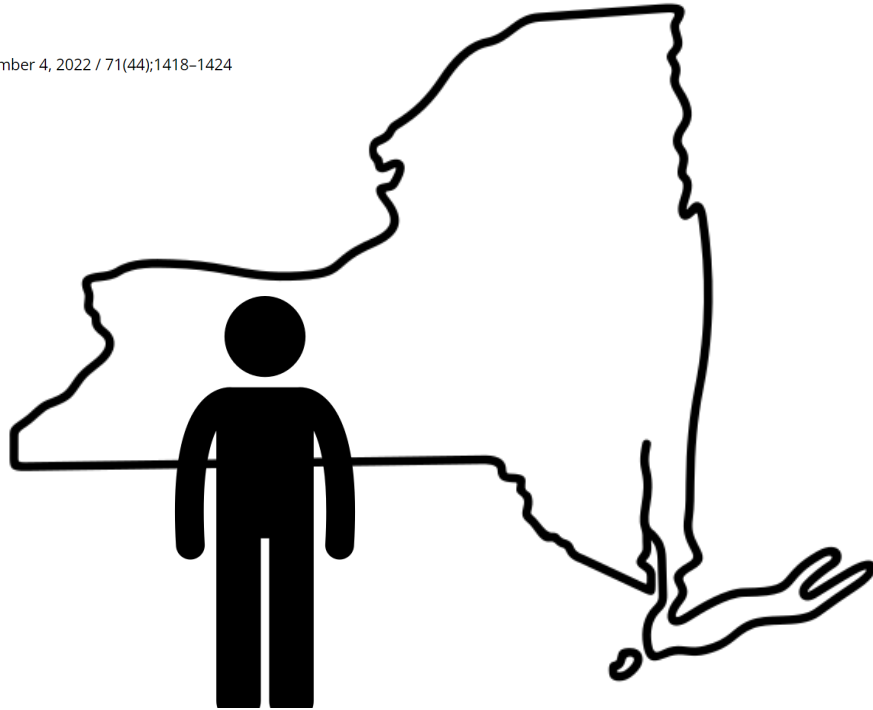
New York State polio case led to wastewater testing efforts

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

CDC

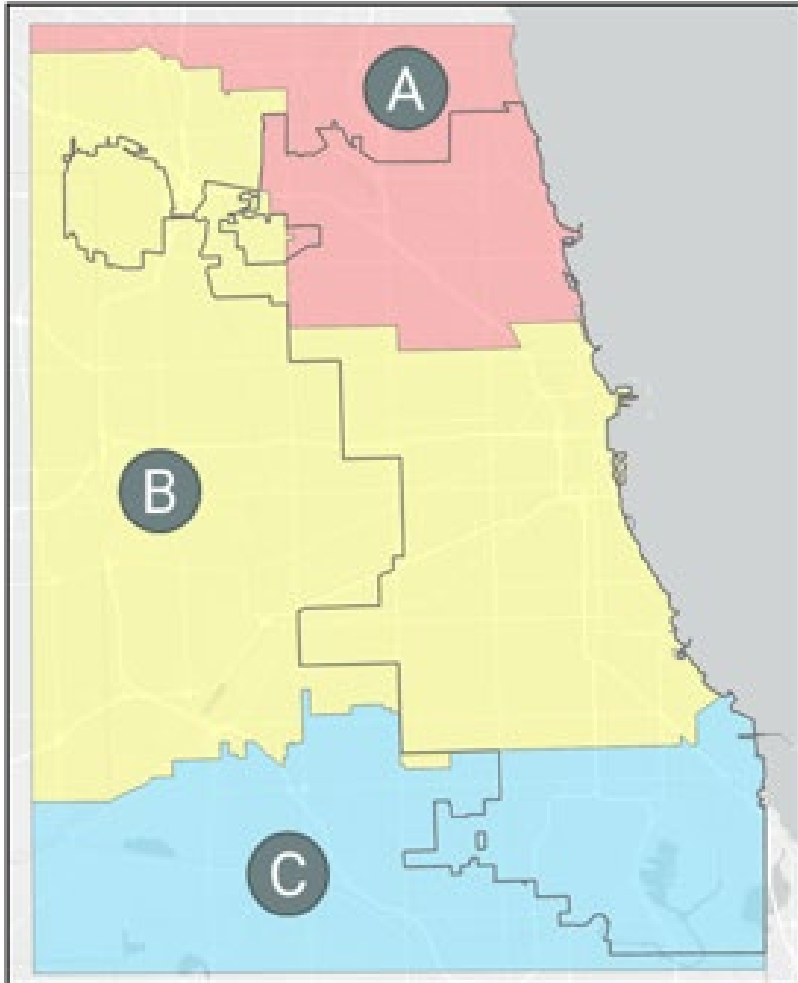
Wastewater Testing and Detection of Poliovirus Type 2 Genetically Linked to Virus Isolated from a Paralytic Polio Case — New York, March 9–October 11, 2022

Weekly / November 4, 2022 / 71(44):1418–1424



- In July 2022 one case of paralytic poliomyelitis confirmed in Rockland County, NY.
- NY began wastewater testing to supplement the response.
- In late 2022, CDC requested select jurisdictions, including Chicago, implement polio wastewater testing.
- Finding poliovirus in wastewater would indicate that someone in the community is shedding poliovirus.

Chicago-area wastewater treatment plans cross multiple jurisdictions.



- Chicago Department of Public Health
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Cook County Department of Public Health
- Evanston Department of Health and Human Services
- Stickney Township Department of Public Health
- Oak Park Department of Public Health

Treatment Plant		Population
A	O'Brien	1,263,110
B	Stickney N*	1,127,736
	Stickney S*	1,127,736
C	Calumet	1,134,897

*Stickney WWTP is divided into North and South sampling sites

Poliovirus Wastewater Testing Process



Bi-weekly wastewater collection



Samples tested for poliovirus



Results to determine public health action

Began: May 16, 2023
Location: WWTPs
Duration: 4 months

- Laboratory Partners
- Discovery Partners Institute
 - Regional Innovative Public Health Laboratory

Result	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3
Polio negative			
Sabin-like strain		X	
Vaccine-derived strain	X	X	X
Wild type			

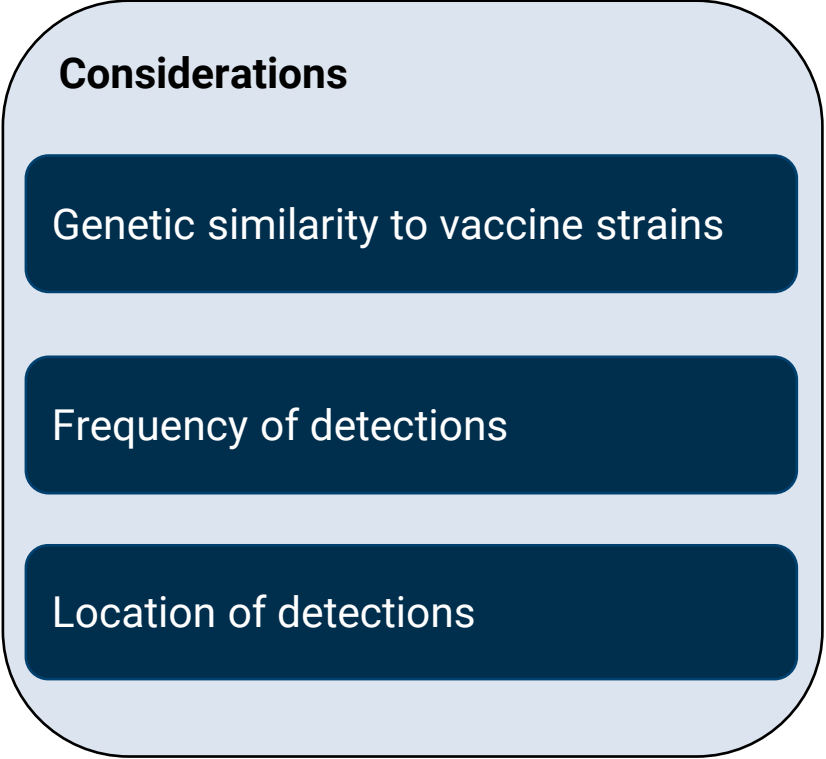
Indicator for public health action = X





Public health action considers a detection's frequency, type, location, and relatedness.

Indicator for public health action





After 9 rounds of bi-weekly testing, **no poliovirus was detected** in Wastewater Treatment Plant samples.

		MMWR Week																
Month		March			April				May				June			July		
MMWR Week		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Treatment Plant	Stickney North	-		-		-		-		-		-		-		-		
	Stickney South	-		-		-		-		-		-		-		-		
	Calumet	-		-		-		-		-		-		-		-		
	O'Brien	-		-		-		-		-		-		-		-		

With no poliovirus detections during the 4-month program, wastewater surveillance for polio in Chicago has ended.

- Polio Negative
 Indicates skip week





Improving vaccination coverage in communities that are at highest risk is the most effective way to ensure that the United States remains protected from polio.

- The complete recommended polio vaccination series is:
 - extremely effective in preventing paralytic polio
 - protects against severe disease
- **Illinois' Vaccines for Children (VFC):** no cost vaccines to eligible children including uninsured, underinsured and Medicaid eligible children: vfc.illinois.gov/search
- **CDPH immunization clinics:** no cost vaccines to children and young adults 18 years of age and under: bit.ly/ChiVaxClinics
- Additionally, adults and children traveling to countries where poliovirus is circulating may need to get updated polio vaccinations before travel. Primary care providers, travel clinics, and pharmacies can provide pre-travel vaccinations to adults.

★ Thank you to our wastewater monitoring partners!



RIPHL | REGIONAL INNOVATIVE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Current



Northwestern University

CDPH LBS team: Chris, Colin, Regina, Deniz, Diamond, Dorothy, Eloesa, Hallie, Haifa, Kayla, Keenan, Kendall, Matt, and Rosie



Thank you!



[Chicago.gov/Health](https://chicago.gov/Health)



HealthyChicago@cityofchicago.org



[@ChicagoPublicHealth](https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoPublicHealth)



[@ChiPublicHealth](https://twitter.com/ChiPublicHealth)