

## Media Inquiries:

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Executive Director

September 1, 2021

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations Increase in DuPage County

**DuPage County**— As COVID-19 cases continue to rise, the County is expected to surpass 100,000 total COVID-19 cases and 1,414 deaths this week. The DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) continues to urge residents to help keep children safe and in schools by getting vaccinated against COVID-19, wearing a mask, and maintaining physical distance.

DuPage County remains at a “High” level of COVID-19 community transmission per [CDC county-level data](#). The 7-day rolling average of new cases reported in DuPage County is 170 cases per 100,000 population per week, a 33 percent increase since last week. As of today, there are 111 individuals hospitalized, and 21 individuals in intensive care units. Hospitalizations in DuPage County increased 33 percent in the last 7 days per data from the CDC. Notably, over 99 percent of hospitalized and deceased COVID-19 cases since mid-December 2020 in DuPage County have been in persons not fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

"It is critical that we act now to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our community from COVID-19. Again, I urge anyone who is eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine but hasn't done so to please get vaccinated as soon as possible," said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department. "We want to bring the level of community transmission down to keep kids safe in school, but we all have to do our part to do so."

As Labor Day weekend approaches, DCHD also reminds residents to celebrate safely to protect themselves and their loved ones from COVID-19. After most holidays, significant increases in COVID-19 confirmed cases are reported across the county. While celebrating this holiday weekend, residents are encouraged to [take steps](#) to make gatherings safer by celebrating outdoors and wearing masks in indoor spaces. CDC recommends delaying travel until you are [fully vaccinated](#), because travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. If you are not fully vaccinated and must travel, follow CDC's recommendations for people who are not fully vaccinated traveling [internationally](#) or [domestically](#).



Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

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According to the latest [CDC COVID-19 vaccination data](#), 87 percent of eligible residents 12 years and older in DuPage County have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, and 69 percent are fully vaccinated. Of residents 65 years and older, 99.9 percent have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, and 84 percent are fully vaccinated. However, among 12 to 17-year-olds in DuPage County, 76 percent have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, and only 56 percent are fully vaccinated.

Currently, individuals with moderately to severely compromised immune systems are recommended for a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine. This includes people currently receiving treatment for cancer, people taking medications that weaken the immune systems, and other conditions. A [full list of conditions](#) can be found on CDC's website. Individuals who believe they are eligible for a third vaccine dose should talk to their healthcare provider. Third-dose vaccinations are available through local pharmacies or healthcare providers and can be given 28 days after receiving the second dose.

As vaccination efforts continue, there are numerous options for people to get their COVID-19 vaccine in DuPage County. In addition to visiting [www.vaccines.gov](#) to find a nearby vaccine provider, the DCHD Community Vaccination Clinics in Wheaton and Lombard offer COVID-19 vaccines Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccineclinic](#). Another vaccination resource is the DCHD Care Van mobile clinic which provides free COVID-19 vaccinations directly to DuPage County communities. To learn more and view this week's schedule, visit [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine](#).

Additionally, any DuPage County residents who are homebound or who cannot safely leave their residence to visit a vaccination clinic are eligible to be vaccinated through our homebound vaccination program and should register at [dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccineregistration](#), or call (630) 682-7400 for assistance.

For general questions about COVID-19 and Illinois' response and guidance, call 1-800-889-3931 or email [DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV](mailto:DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV).

**STAY SAFE  
DUPAGE**



WEAR  
A MASK



WATCH  
YOUR DISTANCE



WASH  
YOUR HANDS



GET  
VACCINATED