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Executive Director

December 7, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations Increase Locally Vaccination and Boosters Reduce Risk of Infection and Severe Outcomes

DuPage County - The DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) is urging residents to continue to take action to protect themselves and the community against the spread of COVID-19. This is the result of significant increases in COVID-19 cases and related hospitalizations in DuPage County, and across the U.S.

As of Tuesday, December 7th, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 3,351 COVID-19 cases in DuPage County over the last 7 days, which represents an increase of 126% from the previous week. There were also 190 individuals hospitalized in DuPage County related to COVID-19 illness, which represents a 52% increase (or 65 additional patients) since last Tuesday, November 30. Positivity rates have also been steadily rising and are now at 6.26%.

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations rise, DCHD is reminding residents that there are simple, practical steps you can take to protect yourself, your family, co-workers, and friends. Get vaccinated and boosted, wear a well-fitting, high-quality mask when you are in indoor public places – especially in crowded places and poorly ventilated spaces, and get tested to minimize chances you'll be the one bringing COVID-19 to a gathering.

According to the latest CDC COVID-19 [vaccination data](#), 70% of eligible residents over 12 years old in DuPage County have been fully vaccinated and 78% of the total population has received at least one dose. All three COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the U.S. continue to be effective in reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, including protection against the Delta variant which continues to be the main variant currently circulating. However, the protection provided by many vaccines can wane over time and individuals 18 years and older should get a [booster](#) shot 6 months after their initial Pfizer or Moderna series or 2 months after their initial J&J vaccine. Any of the three authorized COVID-19 vaccines can be used for the booster dose.

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.

-More-

**STAY SAFE
DUPAGE**



WEAR
A MASK



WATCH
YOUR DISTANCE



WASH
YOUR HANDS



GET
VACCINATED

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On November 26, 2021 the World Health Organization named and classified the [Omicron](#) variant as a Variant of Concern. On December 1, 2021 the first case of Omicron was identified in the United States and as of December 6th, there were cases in 18 states. DuPage County Health Department Executive Director Karen Ayala shared, “while much remains unknown about the severity, transmissibility, and impact on immunity with the Omicron variant, we do know what works – masking, distancing, getting vaccinated including getting a booster and getting tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19.” According to [DuPage County COVID-19 Dashboard](#) graphs reflecting cases by vaccination status and severity, over 97% of hospitalized and deceased COVID-19 cases between mid-December 2020 to the end of November 2021 occurred in persons *not* fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

These prevention strategies are widely available and increasingly important as the holiday season approaches. Director Ayala stressed “it is important to make sure everyone is doing their part in protecting their health and the health of those they are celebrating with this holiday season.” For more information on celebrating safely, visit the Illinois Department of Health for holiday season [safety tips](#). CDC has also provided updated guidance on [improving ventilation in your home](#).

For more information on COVID-19 in DuPage County, visit www.dupagehealth.org/covid19.

Anyone age 5 or older is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and can find an appointment by going to www.vaccines.gov, contacting their pharmacy or primary care physician or by visiting www.dupagehealth.org/covid19. Individuals seeking a COVID-19 vaccine from the Health Department must register first at www.dupagehealth.org/COVID19Vaccine. For registration or scheduling assistance, please call 630-682-7400.

No-cost testing remains available. For more information on testing locations visit www.dupagehealth.org/covid19testing.

For general questions about COVID-19 and Illinois’ response and guidance, call 1-800-880-3931 or email DPH.SICK.@ILLINOIS.GOV.

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