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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.

January 11, 2022

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Vaccinations, Boosters, and Therapeutics Reduce Risk of Severe Outcomes from COVID-19** COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations Continue to Rise Locally

**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. Being [up-to-date](#) with COVID-19 vaccine recommendations, including a booster dose, is the best way to protect yourself against severe illness and death from COVID-19. Everyone age 12 and older is now recommended to receive a vaccine booster.

As of Tuesday, January 11, 2022 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 17,063 COVID-19 cases in DuPage County over the last 7 days, which represents an increase of 66 percent from the previous week. There were also 444 new hospital admissions in DuPage County related to COVID-19 illness, which represents a 3 percent increase (or 13 additional patients) since last Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Positivity rates have also been steadily rising and are now at 20 percent.

In the past week, there have been 23 deaths due to COVID-19 in DuPage County. Those who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 continue to remain at a consistently higher risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and COVID-19 related deaths. Over 88 percent of all deceased COVID-19 cases in DuPage County since December 15, 2020, occurred in persons not fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Last week, CDC updated their recommendation for when people can receive their booster shot, shortening their interval from 6 months to 5 months for those who received the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

**-More-**



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CDC has also expanded the eligibility of Pfizer booster doses to those 12 to 15 years old. Additionally, consistent with their prior recommendation for adults, CDC is recommending that moderately or severely immunocompromised 5–11-year-olds receive an additional primary dose of vaccine 28 days after their second shot. To find COVID-19 vaccines near you, visit [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov).

DuPage County Health Department is now offering appointments for 12–15-year-olds to receive their COVID-19 booster shots. DCHD COVID-19 booster shots are available at the Central Public Health Center in Wheaton and through the [Care Van COVID-19 vaccination clinic](#).

Individuals should be considered for outpatient therapy for COVID-19 if they are symptomatic with mild-moderate COVID-19 illness AND have a positive SARS-CoV-2 viral test result, AND are at [high risk](#) for progressing to severe COVID-19 illness and/or hospitalization. We encourage healthcare providers to stay up to date on [COVID-19 outpatient treatment guidelines](#). Illinois Department of Public Health has developed a list and map of outpatient therapy locations at [dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid-19-outpatient-therapy-locator.html](http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid-19-outpatient-therapy-locator.html)

All residents are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated against COVID-19, and stay up to date with booster shots, wear a well-fitting, high-quality mask when in public indoor settings, especially in crowded places and poorly ventilated spaces, and consider self-testing before indoor gatherings. In addition, anyone who becomes ill or infected with COVID-19 needs to stay home (except to receive medical care) and [self-isolate](#) to prevent further spread of COVID-19.

More information and resources to prevent COVID-19 in DuPage County are available at [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19).

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