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Executive Director

May 4, 2022

**For Immediate Release**

## **DuPage County COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations are Rising Again as New Infections Spread**

**DuPage County** – After a sharp decline since a peak in January, COVID-19 infections are rising again in DuPage County, bringing the county from “Low” up to “Medium” Community Level. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) COVID-19 [Community Levels](#) Framework defines “Medium” transmission as higher than 200 cases per 100,000 residents, also factoring in new COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days and the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients. As of May 4, 2022, DuPage County is reporting 259 cases per 100,000 residents in the last 7 days.

COVID-19 cases are especially high among youth aged 0-19 years old. Reported COVID-19 cases among this age group in DuPage County spiked dramatically in January due to the winter Omicron surge, peaking at approximately 714 cases reported in one day. Cases began rising again in early April, now with approximately 134 cases reported daily, which is higher than most other points throughout the pandemic.

“Vaccines and treatments for COVID-19 are now widely available and play a crucial part in preventing severe illness related to COVID-19. Individuals can visit <https://www.covid.gov/> to find Test-to-Treat locations, providing necessary testing and treatment near them.” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD). “If you test positive for COVID-19, let your healthcare provider know about your positive test and talk with them about whether COVID-19 treatments are appropriate for you.”

COVID-19 vaccination and boosting continue to be critical prevention measures as well. According to [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\) vaccination data](#), while 75 percent of youth aged 12-17 years are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, only 50 percent of children aged 5-11 years are fully vaccinated in DuPage County.

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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Low vaccination rates continue to increase risk of *preventable* infection, severe illness, and COVID-19 spread in households, schools, gatherings, and communities. Continuing to expand vaccine coverage and ensuring all eligible people are [up to date with vaccination](#) is essential to protecting individuals against hospitalizations and deaths.

The coming weeks will be critical to slowing the spread of COVID-19. DCHD reminds individuals that we have the tools to manage and prevent severe illness related to COVID-19, such as:

- Staying [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.
- Staying home and [getting tested](#) if you have symptoms.
- Wearing the most protective mask you can that fits well (such [as an N95 or KN95](#)), especially if you have symptoms, a positive test, or been exposed to COVID-19.
- Washing your hands often or using a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Increasing air flow and maintaining improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible. Spending more time outdoors and in well-ventilated settings.

You may choose to wear a mask at any time as an additional precaution to protect yourself and others. If you are at [high risk for severe illness](#), consider wearing a mask indoors in public and taking [additional precautions](#). More information and resources are available at [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19).

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**STAY SAFE  
DUPAGE**

