

Media Placement Highlights

March 2024

Notable media placements:

WGN 9

"Lake County, Ill., confirms 1st measles case connected to recent rash of cases in Chicago" – March 24, 2024

<https://wgntv.com/news/north-suburbs/lake-county-ill-confirms-1st-measles-case-connected-to-recent-rash-of-cases-in-chicago/>

- A measles case was reported in Lake County after several cases were reported in Chicago.
- The Health Department confirmed a resident contracted measles and is connected to the cases in Chicago.
- The Health Department is working to notify and identify anyone who may have been exposed and will provide a list of locations and dates where exposure could have been possible.
- Lake County Health Department Medical Epidemiologist Dr. Sana Ahmed said, "Vaccination is the best tool we have to prevent the spread of measles. This is a good reminder to make sure that you are up to date on all your vaccines. If you don't know if you have been vaccinated, ask your healthcare provider to find out if you need an MMR vaccine. If your child is 1 year old or older and has never received the MMR vaccine, contact your child's pediatric provider to discuss how your child can get caught up with their vaccines."
- The Health Department is in close contact with the Illinois Department of Public Health as the investigation into any potential exposures continues.
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Lake County News-Sun

"Lake County's fourth 'anni-misery' of COVID-19 marked by memories of tragedy, triumphs and lessons learned" – March 12, 2024

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/2024/03/12/lake-countys-fourth-anni-misery-of-covid-19-marked-by-memories-of-tragedy-triumphs-and-lessons-learned/>

- The coronavirus was declared a national health emergency in the United States four years ago, with the first case of COVID-19 reported in Lake County in mid-March. This created changes in the way Americans still live their lives today.
- Lake County Health Department Executive Director Mark Pfister oversaw the county's effort to deal with the pandemic, protect against the disease and get people vaccinated. He spread the message of the three Ws — wash your hands, watch your distance, and wear a mask.
- Pfister said, "I call this the fourth anni-misery of the start of the pandemic. I can't call it an anniversary because I'm not celebrating it. I am marking it."
- Pfister said, "With 98% of the American population developing strong immunity to COVID-19, it is because they received vaccinations, got the disease, or both. That is why there are fewer hospitalizations and deaths."

Crain's Chicago Business

"Distressed Waukegan hospital still without trauma center designation, but owner says it's coming" – March 7, 2024

<https://www.chicagobusiness.com/health-care/vista-medical-center-east-still-without-trauma-center-clearance>

- Vista Medical Center East in Waukegan has still not recovered its Level II Trauma Center designation more than a month after the Illinois Department of Public Health stripped the hospital of the distinction.
- IDPH has been working with Vista to reinstate its Level II Trauma Center designation and expects to regain it soon.
- Lake County Health Department Executive Director Mark Pfister said, "Because of quality concerns, OB-GYNs affiliated with the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center have avoided delivering babies at Vista Medical in recent weeks unless a patient specifically requests to."
- Pfister said, "I'm always concerned when you have a struggling hospital. What is the long-term sustainability of it?"

Press Releases Issued

- [A Way Out Program Provides Access to Substance Use Treatment for Over 1,000 Clients](#)
- [Health Department Offers Reduced Well Water Testing Rates](#)
- [Lake County Health Department Reports First Measles Case, Stresses the Importance of Vaccination](#)

Total Media Placements

March 1 – March 31, 2024

Press Releases Sent	3
Press Release Placements	17
Other Articles Mentioning/Quoting LCHD/CHC	6