

Media Placement Highlights

May 2026

Notable media placements:

Daily Herald

“Tiny biters can make you seriously sick’: Prevention key during tick season” – May 12, 2026

<https://www.shawlocal.com/news/2026/05/12/tiny-biters-can-make-you-seriously-sick-prevention-key-during-tick-season/>

- As the days get warmer, many local health experts caution anyone heading outdoors to take simple measures to protect themselves from ticks and the diseases they can cause.
- Lake County Health Department Ecological Services Program Coordinator Alana Bartolai said, “Milder winters, wet and humid springs and an increase in wildlife hosts, such as deer and mice, can impact tick populations. Residents should expect ticks to be active in spring, summer, fall and even winter.”
- Bartolai said, “Ticks can also carry multiple viruses and humans can get co-infections, meaning a single tick bite could transmit multiple viruses.”
- Different tick species carry different viruses that can cause serious illness such as Lyme (deer/blacklegged tick), Rocky Mountain spotted fever (American dog tick) or Alpha-gal syndrome, a potentially life-threatening allergy to red meat and products made with it (Lone Star tick).
- The Lone Star tick is more prevalent in central and southern Illinois but has been making its way north. Lake County has been monitoring the Lone Star tick and other tick species and viruses since 2013.
- Bartolai said, “Lone Star ticks are known as aggressive biters, as they actively pursue hosts.”

Shaw Local

“Work on new Community Health Improvement Plan begins” – May 28, 2026

<https://www.shawlocal.com/lake-county-journal/2026/05/28/work-on-new-community-health-improvement-plan-begins/>

- Every five years, the Lake County Health Department partners with a countywide collaborative to conduct a Community Health Assessment and develop a Community Health Improvement Plan.
- The most recent plan identified “Access to Care” as one of the top priorities for improving health across Lake County.
- In May, partners from across the region came together to begin work on the “Northeast Lake County Healthcare Futures Initiative.” Convened by the Lake County Health Department and the Lake County Community Foundation, the initiative brings together stakeholders to assess healthcare needs and challenges in northeast Lake County.

- The goal of this project is to develop a shared, data-driven understanding of northeastern Lake County’s current healthcare state and challenges.

Press Releases Issued

- [Second-Annual Operation Dropbox Donation Drive Now Open](#)
- [Media Statement on Northeast Lake County Healthcare Futures Initiative](#)
- [Learn and Be Aware: The Lake County Health Department Invites Public To Upcoming Events On Preventative Care](#)
- [Health Department Encourages Lake County Residents to Practice Safe Swimming](#)

Total Media Placements

May 1 – May 31, 2026

Press Releases Sent	4
Press Release Placements	3
Other Articles Mentioning/Quoting LCHD/CHC	2