

Media Placement Highlights

February 2026

Notable media placements:

Patch

“Scammers Prey On Owners Of Lost Pets In Lake County” – February 27, 2026

<https://patch.com/illinois/libertyville/scammers-prey-owners-lost-pets-lake-county>

- The Health Department wants residents to be aware of a scam that targets pet owners who are searching for lost animals.
- Scammers are impersonating Lake County Animal Care and Control and other local organizations to exploit people during emotionally stressful situations, according to health department officials.
- The Health Department encourage residents to remain calm if contacted by a suspected scammer and verify claims directly with the organization through official channels.
- Lake County Health Department Executive Director Chris Hoff said, “This scam preys on people who are already vulnerable and distressed about a missing pet. Lake County Animal Care and Control will never call, text, or message you to request payment over the phone to ensure your pet’s safety.”

“What To Know About This Year's Flu Season In Lake County” – February 27, 2026

<https://patch.com/illinois/grayslake/amp/33723520/what-to-know-about-this-years-flu-season-in-lake-county>

- The Health Department answered four questions posed by Patch regarding flu season, including:
 1. Can you provide an update on what you are seeing regarding respiratory illnesses and flu at this point in the season? Does it seem like the worst is behind us and cases are leveling off?
 2. How does this year’s flu season compare to previous years in terms of cases, hospitalizations, and severity?
 3. Are there any specific strains of the flu circulating in Lake County this season that the public should be aware of?
 4. How effective have the flu vaccines been in Lake County this season, and would you encourage residents to get vaccinated if they haven’t already?
- The answers reflect that the overall flu activity in Lake County this season has been lower and less severe compared to last flu season, with activity hitting its peak in December.
- The strains circulating in Lake County are consistent with what is being seen nationally during the 2025–2026 flu season, with the influenza A viruses most predominant.
- Vaccine effectiveness is typically assessed through national and international surveillance systems rather than at the county level.

Daily Herald

“Lake and McHenry County Health Departments Announce Operation Dropbox Registration Open” – February 16, 2026 <https://www.dailyherald.com/20260216/submitted-content/lake-and-mchenry-county-health-departments-announce-annual-operation-dropbox-registration-for-dropbo/>

- The Health Department announced its 2nd annual Operation Dropbox, a donation drive dedicated to supporting more than 3,000 local veterans and their families, in collaboration with the McHenry County Department of Health.
- Lake County Health Department Executive Director Chris Hoff said, “We saw tremendous success and enthusiasm throughout our community during our inaugural event last year. This is a great opportunity for our community to come together, support veterans across the region, and strengthen our ability to respond to emergencies before they occur.”
- Following the donation drive, Lake and McHenry counties will hold separate state-mandated emergency preparedness exercises in June.
- The collected donations will be used to simulate the process of unloading and distributing medical countermeasures during an emergency,

Press Releases Issued

- [Lake and McHenry County Health Departments Announce Annual Operation Dropbox](#)
- [Health Department Warns Residents About Scam Involving Lost Pets](#)

Total Media Placements

February 1 – February 28, 2026

Press Releases Sent	2
Press Release Placements	4
Other Articles Mentioning/Quoting LCHD/CHC	1