

## Media Placement Highlights

January 14, 2018 – February 16, 2018

### Notable media placements:

#### Lake County News-Sun

"Lake County health officials, some lawmakers on board with higher smoking-age bill" – February 2, 2018

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/news/ct-lns-smoking-age-side-st-0203-20180202-story.html>

- Legislation has been proposed to raise the Minimum Legal Sales Age (MLSA) for tobacco products to 21 in the state of Illinois. State Rep. Camille Lilly, D-Chicago introduced a bill in the House. State Sen. Julie Morrison, D-Deerfield, introduced the bill in the Senate.
- State Senator Terry Link, a bill sponsor, said with tobacco use on the rise among teens for the first time in years, it is the perfect time to have a uniform age of 21 established for legally purchasing tobacco in Illinois.
- LCHD's Mark Pfister was present for a Springfield news conference on the effort on Tuesday, January 30. "We applaud this move by Illinois state legislators to continue pursuing a statewide Tobacco 21 policy, building upon the momentum of Tobacco 21 successes in Lake County," Pfister said. "This is an important step forward in our efforts to prevent youth from using tobacco products."

"At health care job fair, officials say there are plenty of positions, but qualified people are needed" – February 2, 2018

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/news/ct-lns-lake-healthcare-job-fair-st-0203-20180202-story.html>

- More than 200 job seekers attended the Health Care Job Fair hosted at the Lake County Health Department on February 1.
- 28 organizations were present with over 500+ available positions at hospitals, government healthcare facilities, health insurance companies and long-term care agencies.
- LCHD's Mark Pfister said there are an abundance of positions available in health care, but it's true that educated people are needed to fill them. Pfister said even office positions in health care now require much more than just answering phones and paper filing. "The beauty of the health care field is that it goes from A to Z, and it requires a lot of different people to do many jobs. So, it's not just nurses and doctors."

“Waukegan hosts project aimed at getting new HIV infections to ‘functional zero’” – January 24, 2018

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/news/ct-lns-zero-new-hiv-cases-st-0125-20180124-story.html>

- Tuesday, January 23, LCHD and the Getting to Zero Project partners hosted a town hall meeting at the Waukegan Public Library focused on eliminating HIV in Illinois.
- According to the Illinois Department of Health, new HIV cases dropped by nearly 28 percent between 2006 through 2015 in Illinois.
- In 2016, the Getting to Zero group, including the Lake County Health Department, began creating a framework to help Illinois dramatically impact the rate of HIV infections.
- ‘An increase in the pre-exposure prophylaxis... along with the increase of HIV treatment would create fewer than 100 new HIV cases per year, said Valerie Johansen of the Lake County Health Department. "The virus won't be able to sustain itself."'
- The information collected by the project partners will be used to plan a strategy for a five-year implementation plan and the 10-year goal to eradicate the virus.

“Flu hits Lake County harder, sooner this season; officials insist people should vaccinate” – January 16, 2018

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/news/ct-lns-lake-county-flu-st-0116-20180115-story.html>

- At the time of the article, one flu-related pediatric death had been reported this season, and 37 people had been sent to intensive care units for flu-related illness, as compared to 48 ICU hospitalizations for the entire 2016-2017 flu season.
- LCHD’s Victor Plotkin is featured throughout the article. “Medical experts say this year’s strain may just be peaking early this season.”
- Officials advise residents to get vaccinated and follow the “Three Cs”:
  - Clean hands with soap and warm water, or use an alcohol based hand rub;
  - Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your shoulder;
  - Contain illness by staying home when you are ill.

## Daily North Shore

"Schneider, Nerheim Discuss State of Union Speech" – January 31, 2018

<http://jwcdaily.com/2018/01/31/brad-schneider-mike-nerheim-discuss-president-trump-state-of-the-union-speech/>

- On Tuesday, January 30, President Donald Trump spoke on the opioid epidemic during his State of the Union speech, suggesting a combination of enforcement and treatment. He said it will take time but expects a victory for the American people in the end.
- State's Attorney Mike Nerheim attended the address as a guest of Representative Brad Schneider.
- Nerheim noted that Lake County treatment facilities are nearing capacity. "We need federal funding for treatment," said Nerheim. "Our A Way Out program puts people into treatment without fear of arrest but we're running out of places to put the folks."
- 'In Lake County, there were approximately 50 opioid overdose fatalities in 2016, according to Lake County Coroner Howard Cooper. In the same year, 85 overdoses were reversed with the administration of Naloxone, according to Hannah Goering, a spokesperson for the Lake County Health Department. There were 58 deaths and 92 saves last year.'

## Chicago Tribune

"Editorial: Raise the age to 21 for buying tobacco" – February 2, 2018

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/ct-edit-cigarette-illinois-21-legislature-20180131-story.html>

- The Tribune Editorial Board voices its support for statewide Tobacco 21 legislation.
- "We don't recommend this change lightly. This page long has opposed Nanny State decrees about what adults may eat, or drink, or (legally) smoke... But for us, the overwhelming potential public health benefit tipped the scales."

## Total Media Placements

November 15, 2017-January 12, 2018

Press Releases Sent	2
Press Release Placements	11
Other Articles Mentioning/Quoting LCHD/CHC	34