

## Media Placement Highlights

May 11 – July 10, 2019

### Notable media placements:

#### Lake County News-Sun

“To combat mental illness in Lake County, officials seek alternatives to jail: ‘We don’t have a system in place to help them’” – July 5, 2019

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/ct-lns-lake-county-mental-health-st-0705-20190704-y6kfu63mefdsfcnaxwizrtelti-story.html>

- Two million people with mental illness are booked into jails annually, according to the National Alliance on Mental Health.
- The Lake County Board approved a study to determine if a 24-hour mental health care crisis center is needed in the county. The study will look at current resources and space requirements and offer options and alternatives to a potential Lake County wellness care and drop off center. The study, not to exceed \$99,000, is to be completed by Sept. 30.
- LHCD Director of Behavioral Health Sam Johnson-Maurello said, “It would essentially be like an ER, but for behavioral health issues only, it would have staffing and time committed to keeping people from going to the jail or the emergency room who might not need to be there, and finding them help and resources. Let’s say someone is on a street corner and they’re talking and yelling at someone who then calls the police, the officer takes them to jail and gives them a disorderly conduct citation. That would be a person who might have been able to go to the crisis center.”
- “We don’t want people to think we’re considering building a center because there’s nothing here. There are services available. The current conversation is how to add to what’s available,” Johnson-Maurello said.
- Free mental health first-aid classes for adults are now being provided by the Health Department. About 159 employees at the sheriff’s office have been trained in crisis intervention, and a \$250,000 federal grant has, so far, helped train more than 116 police officers from 17 police departments.

“Moran: Waukegan makes ‘such a powerful statement’ by hosting first celebration of LGBTQ Pride Month” – June 15, 2019

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/news/ct-lns-moran-waukegan-pride-event-st-0615-story.html>

- This year in June the City of Waukegan made its first official commemoration of LGBTQ Pride Month.
- PrideWauk is being wrapped into the city’s monthly ArtWauk. The Health Department hosted a resource booth during the evening to educate the public about services available to the LGBTQ community.

- LCHD Associate Director of Prevention Zara Zamor is quoted, “At the health department, our message is always to serve all who live, work and play, and that certainly includes LGBTQ residents.” “...stigma and fear cause LGBTQ people to avoid health care.”

## **CBS2 Chicago**

“Testing Continues in Lake County After 10 Locations Test Positive for Ethylene Oxide” – June 24, 2019

<https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2019/06/24/lake-county-ethylene-oxide-testing/>

- LCHD Director of Environmental Health Larry Mackey is interviewed about ethylene oxide monitoring results made available to the public on June 21.
- Monitoring results showed varying levels of ethylene oxide detected in every sample.
  - “People should always be concerned about their health and that’s why we’re doing this sampling program” said Mackey. “The preliminary tests are not conclusive in any way to develop any sort of health risk assessment at this point, but that’s why we’re collecting data over a long period of time”
- Vantage said it recently installed new emissions control equipment. Medline said it has two emissions control systems operating at more than 99% efficiency.

“Authorities Monitoring for Levels of Cancer-Causing Gas Near Facilities in Waukegan and Gurnee” – June 11, 2019

<https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2019/06/11/levels-of-cancer-causing-gas-near-north-suburban-facilities/>

- Ten air quality canisters have been placed in different locations, based on recommendations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Samples will be collected every third day for one month.
- In the broadcast, Mark Pfister describes how the air monitors collect samples.
- Once the monitoring is complete, The Lake County Health Department will send data to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry to conduct a health assessment and determine the risks.

## **Chicago Tribune**

"Pritzker signs law aimed at reducing cancer-causing ethylene oxide pollution" – June 21, 2019

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/environment/ct-medline-ethylene-oxide-air-testing-20190621-nsgxnmaj25fihmaynsvvs52m4-story.html>

- Bipartisan legislation signed into law by Gov. J.B. Pritzker June 21 requires facilities using ethylene oxide to prevent leaks and dramatically reduce legally allowable pollution emitted through smokestacks.
- 'High levels of the toxic gas were detected in a residential neighborhood near Medline on two of the three days in early June when air samples were collected, according to maps posted online by the Lake County Health Department.'
- 'Members of the Stop EtO in Lake County community group contend there aren't enough monitors and that some of the equipment deployed near the two facilities should be relocated. "Our community was looking forward to continuous testing, as it is much harder for an EtO-emitting facility to ramp down production for an extended period of time," Jolanta Pomiotlo and Tea Tenaka, two of the group's members, wrote in a June 13 email to the county health department.'

## **ABC7 Chicago**

"Lake County ethylene oxide results released as Pritzker signs law cracking down on emissions" – June 21, 2019

<https://abc7chicago.com/health/lake-co-ethylene-oxide-results-released-as-pritzker-signs-law-cracking-down-on-emissions/5357826/>

- Lake County officials received preliminary results from tests measuring the levels of ethylene oxide present in the air indicating elevated levels of ethylene oxide at one location in Waukegan and at varying lower levels at all other sites.
- Under the new legislation Pritzker signed Friday, June 21, companies that use ethylene oxide must capture all of the chemical's emissions within their facilities and conduct annual tests and send results to the state Environmental Protection Agency.

"Lake County officials measuring ethylene oxide levels" – June 6, 2019

<https://abc7chicago.com/health/lake-county-officials-measuring-ethylene-oxide-levels/5335837/>

- Air monitoring for ethylene oxide began the week of June 3 in Lake County. GHD Services, Inc. began placing air monitors around Gurnee and Waukegan to determine how much ethylene oxide (EtO) is present in the air.
- Mark Pfister is interviewed saying, "We have four sites surrounding the Medline location; we also have four sites near Vantage and we have two remote sites."
- In the meantime, the Health Department requested the Illinois Department of Public Health conduct a cancer cluster analysis, similar to the study done in Willowbrook.

## Daily Herald

"Schneider calls for Waukegan plant's temporary closure after carcinogenic gas detected" – June 21, 2019

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20190621/schneider-calls-for-waukegan-plants-temporary-closure-after-carcinogenic-gas-detected>

- Following EtO monitoring results released by the Health Department on June 21, U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider, Sens. Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, and Reps. Sean Casten and Lauren Underwood -- all Democrats -- sent letters calling on the state and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to take "all appropriate actions to protect the public health."
- The data released Friday comes from just three days of sampling, and legislators calling for action acknowledged it is "preliminary and based on a small sample size."
- 'Ethylene oxide, used as a sterilizing agent for medical equipment and to manufacture industrial chemicals, is one of 187 air pollutants Congress considers "hazardous," Health Department spokesperson Hannah Goering said.'

"Talks to extend ethylene oxide air testing underway" – June 7, 2019

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20190607/talks-to-extend-ethylene-oxide-air-testing-underway-->

- Air monitoring equipment was put in place the week of June 3, 2019 at four sites around Vantage Specialty Chemicals in Gurnee, four around Medline Industries in Waukegan and two at remote sites -- one between the two and another about three miles to the west.
- Health Department officials worked with acting Illinois EPA director John J. Kim on securing \$125,000 in state funds to pay for another 30 days of testing, and with U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider to secure federal funds.
- Mark Pfister is quoted, "My hope is we can get to 90 days of testing with local sources, state sources and federal sources. That's been my goal since day one."

## Total Media Placements

May 11 – July 10, 2019

Press Releases Sent	5
Press Release Placements	22
Other Articles Mentioning/Quoting LCHD/CHC	32