

Media Placement Highlights

April 10 – May 5, 2020

Notable media placements:

Lake County News-Sun

“Coronavirus testing site opens Sunday in Waukegan” – May 3 2020

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/ct-Ins-waukegan-covid-test-site-st-0504-20200503-ljfus7h4v5dfvf7535tarvhe7u-story.html>

- On May 3, the State-run Community-Based Testing Site opened in Waukegan, located at the temporarily closed Vehicle Emissions Testing Station at 216 Northwestern Avenue near Gurnee.
- The Illinois National Guard administers 500 tests per day, seven days per week, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Mark Pfister was mentioned, “Lake County has the third-highest population of positive COVID-19 cases in the state.”
- The Lake County Health Department will work with those who test positive in a practice called contact tracing, where trained staff members track who has come in contact with the infected person.

“Waukegan’s Vista Medical Center East to receive emergency medical field unit to fight coronavirus” – April 17, 2020

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/ct-Ins-lake-county-hospital-tents-st-0418-20200417-zwa5tlybpfampcydpikuxpoxva-story.html>

- Tents outside of Vista Medical Center East will be used as an emergency medical field unit that the Waukegan hospital plans on using to triage and test potential coronavirus patients.
- The nonprofit International Medical Corps set up the field unit Friday, one of two being funded by North Chicago-based biopharmaceutical company AbbVie along with additional personal protective equipment and other supplies.
- ‘The Lake County Health Department reached out to the Vista Health System leadership team last weekend about the possibility of a field unit. Since then, the hospital has been working with the International Medical Corps to make it happen, and to determine how best to use the unit.’

“Ethylene oxide air testing around Medline in Waukegan, Vantage in Gurnee to wrap up in May” – April 14, 2020

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/ct-Ins-coronavirus-lake-what-we-know-st-0403-20200403-tkxwp6ypqjbvxfelhwddkycf5m-story.html>

- Ambient air testing around Medline Industries’ Waukegan facility and Vantage Specialty Chemicals’ Gurnee site resumed earlier this month after Medline got the go-ahead from the state to resume full operations. This final phase of air monitoring began April 4.
- Hannah Goering was mentioned, “The Illinois EPA has agreed to also fund this third round of testing, which is expected to be completed in May.”
- During the third round of air testing, samples will be collected at the same 12 sites that were monitored during the second phase.
- The testing results will be shared with the U.S. EPA, the Illinois EPA, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Illinois Department of Public Health. The assessments and studies are expected to take several months to complete.

Daily Herald

"Free COVID-19 testing facility to open in Waukegan" – May 1, 2020

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20200501/free-covid-19-testing-facility-to-open-in-waukegan>

- A drive-through COVID-19 testing facility, the state's first community-based site in Lake County, will open Sunday in Waukegan at 2161 Northwestern Ave., a vehicle emissions testing facility.
- Testing is free and will be administered every day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or until 500 tests are completed. Results will be available in four to seven days.
- Mark Pfister was mentioned,
 - "There's a lot more people out there (throughout the county) who are positive."
 - He said expanded testing will provide a better understanding of the impact on communities. A team is ready to complement the tests with "thorough contact tracing" to prevent additional cases.
 - "Having a more complete picture of this crisis will improve our response and plans for recovery."

"Lake County sheriff sues health department for COVID-19 patient information" – April 30, 2020

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20200430/lake-county-sheriff-sues-health-department-for-covid-19-patient-information>

- The Lake County sheriff has filed a lawsuit to force the county health department to provide information about COVID-19 patients. A judge is scheduled to hear the matter in court Friday.
- Sgt. Christopher Covelli was mentioned,
 - "The suit was filed Tuesday, days after the health department refused a request last week from Sheriff John Idleburg to, on a confidential basis, pass along the names and addresses of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the county."
 - "This will help our deputies responding to calls and it will also help us place confirmed positive cases immediately in medical isolation cells at the jail. Knowing an inmate is COVID-19 positive upon their entry would allow us to place them immediately into an isolation cell with reverse airflow capability, versus in the pod being used for the 14-day quarantine period."
- Hannah Goering was mentioned,
 - "While the agency thinks the sheriff's request was made with good intentions, health officials believe providing this information would give police a dangerous, false sense of security."
 - "To date, approximately 1.67 percent of Lake County residents have been tested for COVID-19, and only 0.51 percent of residents have tested positive," Goering said. "The data the sheriff is requesting vastly underrepresents the number of people infected within our communities."
 - "Our message remains unchanged: Assume that anyone you encounter is infected,"

Press Releases Issued

Health Department Coronavirus Updates - April 10-May 5, 2020

<https://www.lakecountyil.gov/2650/News-Releases>

Total Media Placements

April 10 – May 5, 2020

Press Releases Sent	19
Press Release Placements	44
Other Articles Mentioning/Quoting LCHD/CHC	35