

## Media Placement Highlights

August 2020

### Notable Media Placements:

#### Lake County News-Sun

“We’re moving in the wrong direction’: Lake and McHenry health officials urge residents to remain vigilant against coronavirus” – August 9, 2020

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/ct-hpn-city-releases-joint-statement-coronavirus-tl-0813-20200807-af4ac527fvcshg6cgu7w6xwki-story.html>

- The Lake County Health Department and McHenry Health Department hosted a COVID-19 Q &A on Facebook Live on Friday, August 7, in which more than 100 people participated. The session was hosted by Lake County Health Department Executive Director Mark Pfister and McHenry County Department of Health Administrator Melissa Adamson.
- Pfister and Adamson discussed the current state of COVID-19 in the region, the rising positivity rate and how to reduce it, and answered questions from the public.
- Participants asked questions such as recommendations for travel and how to protect children returning to school.
- Pfister also expressed concern in the rising cases of COVID-19 and shared what can be done to reverse the trend. “We’re moving in the wrong direction,” said Pfister. “We’re getting reports of people not socially distancing or wearing masks.”

#### Chicago Sun-Times

“A renewed warning about COVID-19 at summer’s end” – August 24, 2020

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2020/8/24/21376903/covid-19-coronavirus-outdoor-risk-summer-masks-social-distancing>

- A gathering of families swimming and playing volleyball at a private beach in Lake County led to an outbreak of 16 cases of COVID-19, 11 of which were children.
- Those involved in the outbreak admitted to Lake County Health Department case investigators that they were not always wearing masks or social distancing.
- “Even outdoors, if you are in close proximity to people who don’t live in your household, you’re taking a risk,” said Lake County Health Department spokeswoman Hannah Goering. “It is very important to wear a mask and maintain social distancing any time you gather with others.”
- Swimming along Chicago’s lakefront has been banned all summer, which caused a surge of Chicagoans heading north. In response, Evanston and Lake County has limited visitors to its beaches.
- “Being outdoors is much better than being inside because you have constant air movement, but it does not mean you are safe,” said Dr. Rachel Rubin, senior medical officer at Cook County Department of Public Health.

## Patch

"COVID-19 Violations on Rise at Bars, Restaurants" – August 7, 2020

<https://patch.com/illinois/grayslake/covid-19-violations-rise-bars-restaurants>

- Lake and McHenry County Health Departments have investigated more than 300 business-related complaints regarding social distancing and masking violations at restaurants and bars in the past two months.
- According to Lake County Health Department Executive Director Mark Pfister, the majority of businesses have followed procedure, but the number of complaints are rising.
- "In our region, we are working with municipal leaders to step up local enforcement, reinforcing this message: these guidelines are not just a suggestion—they are critical to protecting the public's health so that businesses can remain open," Pfister said.
- Governor J.B. Pritzker announced the Illinois Department of Public Health's new emergency rules to enforce the state's mask mandate on businesses. Business that refuse to comply can be subject to a class A misdemeanor and a fine of up to \$2,500. The rules are intended to give health departments more opportunities to warn businesses before issuing penalties.

"All Lake County Jail Inmates, Staff to Get Tested for Coronavirus" – August 24, 2020

<https://patch.com/illinois/lakeforest/all-lake-county-jail-inmates-staff-get-tested-coronavirus>

- A new protocol announced Monday, August 24 by the Lake County Sheriff's Office includes COVID-19 testing for all detainees, staff and contractors at Lake County Jail.
- The decision came after an off-duty jail guard tested positive COVID-19. As a preventative measure, jail administrators decided to test everyone.
- After testing nearly 140 tests were conducted, two additional correctional officers and one administrative assistant tested positive for COVID-19. All were asymptomatic.
- "I view it as a top-priority to keep my employees as safe and healthy as possible, as well as the inmates in the jail who we are responsible to protect," said Lake County Sheriff John Idelburg. "Overall, our mitigation efforts have proven to be successful and we look forward to the ongoing increased testing in our facility."
- The Sheriff's Office has been working closely with the Lake County Health Department to craft a mitigation plan and test all workers and detainees who enter the jail.

## Press Releases Issued

[COVID-19 Cases Rising in Lake and McHenry Counties](#)

[Mobile COVID-19 Testing Offered in Zion and North Chicago](#)

## Total Media Placements

August 2020

Press Releases Sent	2
Press Release Placements	5
Other Articles Mentioning/Quoting LCHD/CHC	81