

Media Placement Highlights

September 2020

Notable media placements:

ABC Chicago

"Nearly 200 possibly exposed to COVID-19 after outbreak in Lake County adult volleyball league" – September 29, 2020

<https://abc7chicago.com/illinois-covid-outbreak-lake-county-volleyball-league/6654545/>

- A COVID-19 outbreak was traced to a north suburban volleyball league at Jesse Oaks Food & Drink, where close to 200 people may have been exposed and 14 positive cases were traced to players and spectators.
- Dr. Sana Ahmed was quoted, "This could potentially be a large outbreak, and we need the public's help to contain the spread of this virus. Since last week we have identified approximately 14 individuals infected with COVID-19 that are linked to Jesse Oaks in Gages Lake."
- The Health Department confirmed COVID-19 patients were volleyball players and spectators, and then intermingled with other patrons and staff without wearing masks or observing social distancing guidelines.
- Jesse Oaks suspended volleyball for 14 days but remains open for indoor and outdoor dining. It is believed that they were violating the rules before the outbreak. They were not cited or fined.
- "People are tired of hearing about it so much and we can't lose sight of the fact that the virus is still circulating in our community and people are still getting sick," said Ahmed.

NBC Chicago

"Will Coronavirus Force Many to Cancel Trick-or-Treating? Here's What Chicago-Area Officials Say" – September 14, 2020

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/coronavirus/will-coronavirus-force-many-to-cancel-trick-or-treating-heres-what-chicago-area-officials-say/2338790/>

- Many are wondering if the coronavirus will cancel trick or treating.
- Chicago, several area suburbs and health departments are watching closely with answers coming soon. Some are awaiting guidance from IDPH, which should have details by the end of the month.
- The Lake County Health Department said they were monitoring for a possible rise in cases following the Labor Day weekend. "A lot can change in a few weeks," said Health Department spokesperson Hannah Goering. Many city-wide Halloween events have been canceled but decisions regarding trick or treating had yet to be made. If the festivities are not cancelled, they are expected to look different.

Lake County News-Sun

"Lake County health director urges residents to stay the course in face of mixed coronavirus numbers" – September 11, 2020

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/ct-lns-lake-positivity-rate-st-0912-20200911-xjnwarmc6bhxngtq26mb2jskda-story.html>

- Some statistics measuring the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in Lake County are improving and others are worsening.
- Mark Pfister said the need for vigilance continues, the spread of COVID-19 is still growing but at a slower rate and was quoted, "The state moved us from orange to blue, so we're no longer 'at-risk,' [...] We're still going in the wrong direction, but not at as high a rate. [...] Now that school is back in session, we're seeing more outbreaks in schools, not among students but with staff who have returned."
- The state wants to see COVID-19 deaths stabilizing or declining and cases per 100,000 below 50. At the time of the article, Lake County was at 89 cases per 100,000 with eight deaths.
- The number of cases could rise with the cold weather and social gatherings and dining moving indoors.
- Businesses could have their hours curtailed if the county goes back on warning status and conditions do not improve quickly.

WGN Radio 720

"Lake County contact tracer Kelley Donley shares the process of investigating the chain of COVID exposures" – September 10, 2020

<https://wgnradio.com/john-williams/lake-county-contact-tracer-kelley-donley-shares-the-process-of-investigating-the-chain-of-covid-exposures/>

- Lake County contact tracer Kelly Donley describes what it's like to investigate COVID-19 cases, with radio host John Williams.
- Donley said, "The Health Department is only getting this information for the safety of the community. It is not meant to point fingers and blame. Really just to provide support and education."
- Donley stated that the county offers support for those that test positive and may need food delivered or an alternative place to shelter away from those with underlying conditions.

Daily Herald

"Here's what happens when a coronavirus contact tracer calls"

– September 9, 2020

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20200907/heres-what-happens-when-a-coronavirus-contact-tracer-calls?cid=search>

- Three Lake County Health Department contact tracers were interviewed about their role as COVID tracers, including Kelly Donley, Alejandra Paiz, and Sean Collins.
- Contact tracer/case investigator Alejandra Paiz said, "We're not here to scold you -- this has already happened, let's figure out a solution."
- Contact tracer Sean Collins said, "People are starting to understand the severity of it, but a lot think it's not a serious thing."

Press Releases Issued

Health Department Coronavirus Updates – September 3 – September 29, 2020

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

[Lake County Shows Warning Signs of Increased COVID-19 Risk](#)

[Suicide is Preventable and Help is Available](#)

[Health Department Coronavirus Alert](#)

Total Media Placements

September 2020

Press Releases Sent	3
Press Release Placements	13
Other Articles Mentioning/Quoting LCHD/CHC	67