

Media Placement Highlights

October 2020

Notable media placements:

Daily Herald

"Libertyville mayor: We won't enforce state ban on indoor dining" – October 28, 2020

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20201028/libertyville-mayor-we-wont-enforce-state-ban-on-indoor-dining>

- Libertyville Mayor Terry Weppeler said in a conference call with restaurateurs that he will not enforce the new state ban on indoor dining.
- Weppeler said, "I know the COVID virus is dangerous and I am as concerned as many of you that we protect people's health, [...] However, there have been no issues of Libertyville restaurants causing spreading of COVID."
- Weppeler stated that a state legislator told him the Lake County Health Department said it had not seen a connection between current restaurant rules and an increase in COVID-19 cases.

"Lake County 211 system shows measurable results in first year" – October 27, 2020

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20201027/lake-county-211-system-shows-measurable-results-in-first-year>

- After one year of service, United Way of Lake County's 211 system has made measurable impact. In its first year, 211 received 6,760 calls and texts and 49,663 website visits.
- The most sought-after assistance was for housing and shelter followed by utilities and food.
- Lake County Health Department Director of Behavioral Health Sam Johnson-Maurello said, "The complete impact of COVID-19-related stress and anxiety won't be known for a long time. However, virtual methods have been useful in connecting."

"McHenry County contact tracing efforts meeting high level of resistance" – October 23, 2020

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20201022/mchenry-county-contact-tracing-efforts-meeting-high-level-of-resistance>

- McHenry County is experiencing a high level of resistance from people with COVID-19 investigations.
- The health department emphasizes that they respect people's privacy but if people do not participate in the case investigation and they have been in contact with somebody, then they can't alert the other person to inform them they've potentially been exposed to COVID-19 and should quarantine.
- The Lake County Health Department also faces issues with people not responding or wanting to cooperate with contact tracers.
- Lake County Health Department spokeswoman Hannah Goering said, "Our contact tracers have encountered some resistance from the public, [...] We continue to work with them to try to get them to cooperate and be part of the conversation, because that's really how we support people as they're going through this."
- In contrast, Kane County communications coordinator Susan Stack said that only 3.3% of people who were called refused to participate.

Chicago Tribune

"Those attending large Thanksgiving celebration could reconvene for Christmastime funeral, state health director warns" – October 27, 2020

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/ct-lns-hispanic-impact-covid-st-1028-20201027-j7wjzdb2ufgy3htb5mdsqyanaa-story.html>

- IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike warned about the dangers of large family gatherings during the pandemic at a virtual event at Mano a Mano Family Resource Center.
- Lake County Health Department executive director Mark Pfister, who spoke after Dr. Ezike, offered advice, saying, "Know your bubble, [...] Do they wear masks, keep their distance and wash their hands? Do they go to bars? If they do, keep your distance. You don't want your Thanksgiving to turn into a super-spreader event."
- Questions were raised about the disproportionate impact of the virus where 39% of Lake County's coronavirus cases are within the Hispanic community which only represents 22% of the population.
- Dr. Ezike responded, "Many have jobs where they are in touch with the general public [...] They aren't able to work from home. There are fears of being tested. Contact tracers must be representative of the community."

WGN Radio 720

"Lake Co. Health Department is recommending all schooling transition to 'virtual'"

– October 20, 2020

<https://wgnradio.com/chicagos-afternoon-news/lake-co-health-department-is-recommending-all-schooling-transistion-to-virtual/>

- Lake County Health Department executive director Mark Pfister discusses COVID-19 case increases and the recommendation to switch to virtual learning, with radio host Steve Bertrand.
- Pfister said, "The trajectory of the increase is higher than it was in the spring."
- Pfister stated the Health Department is starting to see mask and social distancing fatigue as well as a lack of following the 3Ws within the community.
- Pfister explained that the Health Department has the power to recommend virtual learning but not to mandate it. Superintendents meet on a weekly basis with the Health Department to discuss metrics, so they can make the best decision for their schools.

Lake County News-Sun

"'We're open, but it's not over': Lake only county in Chicago area placed on COVID-19 warning status"

– October 12, 2020

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/ct-lns-lake-covid-warning-st-1013-20201012-k3zplwtcrfavji6d746ysl3cte-story.html>

- Lake County was placed on COVID-19 warning status by the state after numbers were increasing for hospital admissions and too many cases per 100,000 residents.
- Lake County Health Department executive director Mark Pfister said, "We need to decrease the number of new COVID cases, [...] They come from congregate gatherings like sports, private indoor events and schools."
- Pfister hopes that bars, restaurants and sporting venues enforce regulations to avoid increased mitigations.
- COVID-19 cases are increasing in surrounding states such as Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri where people are traveling for sports or other reasons.

Press Releases Issued

Health Department Coronavirus Updates – October 1–31, 2020

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

[North Suburban Region 9 to Enter Mitigation for COVID-19](#) – October 28, 2020

[Mobile COVID-19 Testing Offered in Lake County](#) – October 26, 2020

[Health Department Recommends Virtual Learning](#) – October 20, 2020

[North Suburban Region 9 COVID-19 Trends May Trigger Mitigation](#) – October 16, 2020

[Mobile COVID-19 Testing Offered in Lake County](#) – October 14, 2020

[Mobile COVID-19 Testing Available in Crystal Lake and Barrington](#) – October 6, 2020

Total Media Placements

October 1–31, 2020

Press Releases Sent	6
Press Release Placements	24
Other Articles Mentioning/Quoting LCHD/CHC	90