

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

December 2021



December 15	System	Illinois	Wisconsin
In-house cases	811	449	362
One week change	+1.08%	+1.05%	+1.12%

\*Note the numbers are fluid. For the most updated information on active/fatal cases, visit the IL Dept of Public Health and WI Dept of Health Service

## COVID-19 and Vaccine Update

**COVID-19 situational update.** As COVID-19 cases rise across Midwestern states, we are experiencing increasing hospitalizations with the vast majority of patients being unvaccinated. At times, this may result in the need to reschedule some non-critical or elective procedures, depending on local COVID case numbers, staffing scenarios and bed availability. However, urgent and emergent services will continue to be available 24 hours a day, and it is critical that patients seek care when needed. This underscores the importance of continuing to provide vaccinations and booster doses to those eligible. We are monitoring the situation closely and remain prepared for continued increases in patients as we head into the winter season.

**COVID-19 Vaccination and boosters.** Currently we are vaccinating anyone ages 5 and over at our vaccination clinics, and pediatric and family practice offices across Illinois and Wisconsin. In addition, we are providing boosters to eligible age groups in accordance with CDC and FDA guidelines. Scheduling is available through our LiveWell app, [aah.org](http://aah.org) and by phone at 866-443-2584. Vaccination continues to be our best defense in the COVID-19 pandemic and the CDC and FDA recommend boosters for everyone 16 and above to provide continued protection as the Delta and Omicron variants continue to spread. More information about COVID-19 and the vaccines can be found on our [COVID-19 Resource Center](#).

**Updated Limited Visitor Policy.** As COVID-19 cases continue to surge across our communities and peak season for other viruses begin, we have updated our Limited Visitor Policy for non-COVID-19 patients in our adult hospitals, outpatient, emergency departments as well as clinics who share a hospital entrance to allow two designated visitors onsite for the duration of the patient's stay with one visitor in the patient's room at a time. The latest on our visitor policy can be found at [aah.org](http://aah.org).

## Advocate Aurora Health Updates

**We raised our minimum wage to \$18/hour.** We're proud to announce Advocate Aurora Health is once again increasing our minimum wage to \$18 an hour in December – a 20% increase. Continuing to ensure our team members have access to rewarding careers with comprehensive benefits, competitive wages and an engaging work environment will not only strengthen our workplace, it will strengthen our marketplace and most importantly, enhance the quality of life for our team members and in our communities. Learn more about our commitment to our team members [here](#).

**We contributed over \$2.5 billion in community charitable care and services in 2020, a 16% increase over the previous year.** As the COVID-19 pandemic hit, our community efforts health efforts shifted and transformed to meet the most urgent needs, while also remaining committed to its bedrock programs, such as charity, care, education, trauma services, behavioral health services and more.

**We've raised nearly \$275,000 to support community health organizations.** We're proud to help our communities and team members live well by sponsoring teams for the March of Dimes' March of Babies, Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's, American Heart Association's Heart Walk, American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and more. This year, we surpassed all event goals and raised nearly \$275,000 to give back to the community.

## Advocate Aurora Health Updates (cont'd)

**Best Hospitals in Maternity Care.** Fourteen of our sites were named to U.S. News & World Report's 2021 list of Best Hospitals in Maternity Care. This inaugural evaluation of maternity services aims to help inform expectant parents on how hospitals perform on key measures of perinatal quality. Check out the [full list](#) of hospitals that have been recognized as "High Performing" for maternity services.

**Advocate Aurora joins Chicago health systems to promote careers in healthcare across West and South sides.** We joined Sinai Chicago and University of Chicago Medicine to announce [Healthcare Forward](#), part of the systems' Bridge Initiative Chicago partnership to promote healthcare careers. Healthcare Forward offers free training and the guarantee of a job interview to people in economically distressed communities who may have never considered a career in the healthcare field.

**Advocate Aurora again named 'Top Workplace' by Chicago Tribune and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.** Awarded amid the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, this is the third Top Workplace recognition for Advocate Aurora Health since Advocate Health Care and Aurora Health Care merged in April 2018. Aurora Health Care had won the [Journal Sentinel](#) honor eight times previously. Advocate Health Care had won the [Tribune](#) honor six times previously. This year, Advocate Aurora is the only integrated health system on the Tribune's list of exemplary workplaces.

## News Your Communities Can Use

**Feeling sick? Know where to go.** Get the care you need by evaluating your symptoms and choosing the method of care that best aligns with your needs. If you're experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, the flu or the common cold, get started with [a virtual visit today](#). Choosing the right setting for care can save you both time and money. Learn where to go when it comes to immediate and emergency care: [Illinois](#) | [Wisconsin](#).

**Critical blood shortages continue.** Like other health care systems across the nation, Advocate Aurora Health continues to manage intermittent, critical shortages of blood products. Our blood suppliers in Wisconsin (Versiti) and Illinois (American Red Cross) say inventories are critically low and forecast shortages will continue into 2022 due to pandemic-related concerns, decreased blood donations and staffing shortages. You can help by donating blood at a location nearest you: [Illinois](#) | [Wisconsin](#).

**Help Us Help People Live Well.** With our wide range of careers, leading benefits, and opportunities for learning and advancement, you'll not only fulfill that passion, you'll thrive and grow every day at Advocate Aurora. We each have a voice, and we're empowered to use it to innovate and change the future of health care for our patients, communities and each other. [Start exploring job opportunities!](#)



[Taking extra steps to ensure safe care](#)



[Guiding people through the pandemic and flu season](#)



**Help Center**

[Providing help on how to start video visits, use our LiveWell app and more](#)

**LiveWell**  
with Advocate Aurora Health

[Making it easy for families to manage their health all in one place](#)



[Keeping people informed to help them live well](#)