



# Health Alert

## Chicago COVID-19 Hot Spot Report February 9, 2021

### Summary and Action Items

- COVID-19 test positivity and case incidence are both on the decline in Chicago.
- The CDC is monitoring for spread of COVID-19 variants, which could lead to a new surge of COVID-19 cases. **Continue to encourage consistent adherence to effective public health measures such as masking, social distancing, and hand-washing, even for those who have been vaccinated.**
- **Chicago continues to vaccinate people who live or work in Chicago in phase 1a and phase 1b of vaccination. Enrolled vaccination sites should continue to vaccinate HCW in 1a priority, in addition to vaccinating patients and community members eligible for vaccination in 1b.**
- CDPH is vaccinating HCW not affiliated with a hospital or large health system and is also working with employers of frontline essential workers in 1b priority. Invitations to make an appointment at a CDPH vaccination site will be sent weekly in batches.
- On January 25, Chicago announced the “Protect Chicago Plus” initiative, which will direct vaccine supply to the communities in Chicago most affected by COVID-19.

### Chicago COVID-19 Trends: includes testing data through 2/4/21

- 7-day rolling average for COVID-19 test positivity in Chicago is 4.9%. This is a **decrease** from the prior week's 7-day average of 5.7%.
- 7-day rolling average for daily COVID-19 cases in Chicago is 493. This is a **decrease** from the prior week's 7-day average of 626 daily cases.
- 7-day rolling average for deaths related to COVID-19 is 9 deaths per day. This is a **decrease** from the prior week's 7-day average of 11 deaths per day.
- See [Chicago COVID Dashboard](#) for more details.
- The COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7 (strain first identified in U.K.) has been detected in Chicago. Other variants of concern (e.g. B.1.351 and P.1) have been detected elsewhere in the US and are likely circulating at some level. See [CDC page](#) for more information.
- There is emerging evidence that some vaccines (notably the AstraZeneca vaccine) might be less effective against mild/moderate disease caused by some strains, particularly B.1.351, but Moderna and Pfizer have so far reported good efficacy against the variants of concern.
- It is likely that some of the more transmissible variants will become the dominant circulating strains in Chicago in the coming months, which could lead to a new surge of COVID-19 cases. Therefore, although COVID-19 incidence is currently declining in Chicago, it continues to be important to emphasize proven prevention messages even for those who have been vaccinated: wearing a mask, washing your hands, maintaining social distance.

### COVID-19 vaccination information:

- The FDA issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine on December 11, 2020. This vaccine is 95% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 infection and can be administered to people age 16 years and older.

- The FDA issued an EUA for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on December 18, 2020. This vaccine is greater than 94% effective at preventing illness from COVID-19 and can be administered to people age 18 and older.
- The CDC updated their [guidance](#) on interim clinical considerations for COVID-19 vaccinations on January 21, 2021. Changes include updated guidance on [intervals between first and second doses as well as interchangeability of vaccine products](#).
- Johnson & Johnson submitted an Emergency Use Authorization application to the FDA on February 4, which will be reviewed on February 26. If approved, Johnson & Johnson vaccine may be available for use as early as late February or early March.
- Novavax and Oxford AstraZeneca are currently in phase 3 of clinical trials.

### **Vaccine in Chicago:**

- As of Monday, January 25, Chicago has formally moved into vaccination Phase 1b. Vaccine supply continues to be extremely limited, and sub-prioritization should be considered within these phases to target people age 75 and older, or people over 65 years old with significant underlying conditions, based on clinical judgment. There are >700,000 Chicagoans eligible for vaccination in phase 1b and the city receives between 35,000 and 40,000 first doses of vaccine per week.

#### **Definitions for Phase 1B groups**

Categories	City of Chicago Definition	Chicago Estimate*
<b>People 65 years of age and older</b>	People 65 years of age and older; where possible, prioritizing Chicagoans 75 years and older and Chicagoans age 65-74 with underlying medical conditions	363,000
<b>Non-healthcare residential settings</b>	Homeless shelters, women's shelters, adult day care programs, correctional settings (jail officers, juvenile facility staff, workers providing in-person support, detainees), and other non-healthcare residential settings that have experienced outbreaks (e.g. convents)	21,000
<b>First Responders</b>	Fire, law enforcement, 911 workers, security personnel, school officers	42,000
<b>Grocery Store Workers</b>	Baggers, cashiers, stockers, pick-up, customer service, those working in feeding or at food pantries	17,000
<b>Education</b>	Teachers, principals, student support, and student aides at pre-K-12 schools, day care staff	142,500
<b>Public Transit Workers</b>	Bus drivers, train conductors, flight crews, taxi drivers and ride sharing services (workers that have worked an average of at least 20 hours per week for the last three months), and all persons working for local transit agencies unable to work from home	60,000
<b>Manufacturing</b>	Industrial production of goods for distribution to retail, wholesale or other manufacturers	53,000
<b>Food and Agriculture</b>	Processing plants, veterinary health, livestock services, animal care, greenhouses and indoor locations where food is grown en masse	10,000
<b>Government</b>	U.S. Postal Service Workers; City government leaders and City elected officials critical to maintain continuity of governmental operations and services	5,300

\*Sources: 2019 American Community Survey, Civilian employed population 16 years and older. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, Annual Averages 2019. Personal communication with industry and residential settings.

- Vaccination for people in 1b will be offered through the same avenues as other vaccines in Chicago:
  1. Primary care office/medical home (most people will access vaccine in this way)
  2. Employer partnerships
  3. Pharmacy locations
  4. City-run vaccination sites.
- A centralized appointment system called ZocDoc is now available for Chicagoans. Though vaccine supply continues to be extremely limited, Chicago residents can sign up to receive alerts when new vaccine appointments are added. Visit [www.zocdoc.com/vaccine](http://www.zocdoc.com/vaccine) to sign up.
- CDPH has created some provider toolkits that healthcare providers and facilities can use to communicate with patients – find the toolkit [here](#) under the “toolkits” tab.
- Over 32 million people have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine in the U.S. Find CDC data about total doses distributed and administered on the [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#).

- Visit <https://www.chicagohan.org/covidvax> to view frequently updated information for healthcare providers regarding COVID-19 vaccination. For general, current information on COVID-19 vaccination in Chicago, visit [www.chicago.gov/covidvax](http://www.chicago.gov/covidvax).
- Individuals interested in receiving vaccine rollout updates can enroll at <https://covidcoach.chicago.gov/>.

### **COVID-19 trends and vaccination data:**

**Over 270,000** doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Chicago residents. **There have been more doses of vaccine given in Chicago than known COVID-19 cases in Chicago** (238,360). Graphs and data regarding COVID-19 vaccination can be found on our [website](#) under “Latest Data”.

On January 25, Mayor Lightfoot and CDPH announced the “**Protect Chicago Plus**” plan, which will guide vaccine distribution to the communities most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially Black and Latinx residents. Read more about Protect Chicago Plus [here](#).

Chicago has published [maps](#) of where essential workers live, including essential workers in healthcare. Many healthcare support staff live in the neighborhoods hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. All healthcare staff should have ongoing access to vaccination, including outreach and education about COVID-19 vaccination, in order to ensure equitable vaccination in healthcare.

