

Daycare News

July 5, 2022



COVID Vaccination Recommended for Children Aged 6 Months - 5 Years

On June 18, 2022, the CDC issued a recommendation that all children 6 months through 5 years of age should receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Parents and caregivers can now get their children 6 months and older vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines to better protect them from COVID-19. All children, including children who have already had COVID-19, should get vaccinated.

The Kane County KaneVax Hub in Batavia accepts walk-ins, however, appointments are required for those aged 6 months-5 years. For more information, or to make an appointment, visit: kanevax.org

Weekly Testing for Unvaccinated Daycare Staff Recommended

[DCFS guidelines for daycares](#) have not changed since the 1/31/22 update, and state that daycare center workers who have not been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must undergo testing for COVID-19 until they establish that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Any licensed daycare center workers who have not established that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must be tested weekly, at a minimum.

The Kane County Health Department offers free COVID-19 testing at our KaneVax Hub, which can be recommended to unvaccinated staff for weekly testing, or to parents of children with COVID-like symptoms. Walk-ins are welcome. View address and hours [here](#).

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Summer Illness Awareness

Summertime means outdoor fun, but it's smart to be aware of seasonal illnesses and health concerns.

Ticks and Mosquitos

Ticks are a big threat during the summer months, with their activity peaking from April – September. Ticks carry several dangerous diseases, including Lyme disease, Ehrlichiosis, Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness, and most alarmingly, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.



When outside, it is important to avoid tick infested areas, which may include areas with tall grass, wooded and bushy areas, and areas with leaf-litter. Have a policy and plan ready for the occasion that a tick is discovered on a child. [More information about ticks in Kane County](#).

Mosquitoes are one of the most annoying summer insects. They can also carry bacteria and viruses that cause illnesses like [West Nile Virus](#), dengue fever and La Crosse encephalitis. To avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, it's important to wear light colored clothes and wear mosquito-repellent if you can. You should also avoid going outside during peak mosquito hours (like dawn and dusk when wind is the stillest).

Food Poisoning

Food-borne illnesses increase during the summer months for two main reasons. First, bacteria (including food-borne bacteria) thrive in warm, moist temperatures—like the hot, humid summers in Illinois. Secondly, we are more likely to serve and eat foods outside during the summer, where temperature-controlled refrigeration and cleaning tools are less common.

Eating outside also makes it harder for us to wash our hands—a vital part of cutting down on germs. This allows bacteria to multiply more easily and make its way into our food.

4 STEPS TO FOOD SAFETY



To cut down on the likelihood of food poisoning, it's important that children and staff wash hands frequently and clean cooking surfaces often during food prep. Separate meats and fish from other foods, and never mix raw foods or their juices with cooked foods. Do not let food sit outside for extended periods of time. [More about foodborne illness and reporting cases of suspected foodborne illness.](#)



Water-Borne Illness

If you are considering taking the children to a water activity, like a pool or a splash pad, plan ahead to help avoid spreading germs. Ensure that staff is taking children on hourly bathroom breaks and checking diapers regularly. Swim diapers don't stop germs, fecal matter, or urine from getting into the water. Children experiencing diarrhea should not be allowed in the water, and children should shower/rinse off before entering the water.

Help children avoid getting sick by reminding them not to swallow water. More information on avoiding and preventing water-borne illnesses at pools and splash pads is available at: cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming

Monkeypox in Illinois

In June, the Illinois Department of Public Health confirmed the first case of monkeypox virus in Illinois. As of June 29, 2022, there were 26 confirmed and 19 probable cases of monkeypox in Illinois.

In humans, the signs and symptoms of monkeypox are similar to smallpox, but usually milder.



About 12 days after people are infected with the virus, they may get a fever, headache, muscle aches and backache, swollen lymph nodes and a general feeling of discomfort and exhaustion. Within one to three days after development of a fever, they will get a rash. Not everyone will have symptoms before the rash. The bumps go through several stages before they get crusty, scab over and fall off. A person is considered to be infectious to others until their lesions scab over, fall off, and a new layer of intact skin has formed where the scabs fell off. The illness usually lasts for two to four weeks. The symptoms of the current monkeypox outbreak are milder than in the past, but can still cause severe disease in certain groups, including children under 8 years old.

If you believe that a child or staff member in your daycare has been exposed to monkeypox, please contact the Kane County Health Department at 630-208-3801. [More information about monkeypox](#).

Covid-19 Treatment Consumer Survey

If you tested positive for COVID and received treatment, the Illinois Department of Public Health would like to know more about your experience. Please complete this [brief survey](#).

Connect with KCHD

The Kane County Health Department is your partner in ensuring a safe environment for daycare staff and students. Visit our website for [current guidance and resources for daycares](#).

Report positive COVID-19 cases and potential outbreaks to KCHD at:
redcap.link/kaneschoolreport

Our School Team is available to answer questions via email to: school@co.kane.il.us

Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues. Any daycare provider can sign up for KCHD notifications for daycares by completing [this form](#).

How do you get your health information?

Let us know!

We are working to ensure low cost/free resources are provided in a way that is easily accessible to our residents.



Please take this brief survey



¿Cómo obtiene su información de salud?

¡Haznos saber!

Estamos trabajando, para garantizar que se proporcionen recursos gratuitos o de bajo costo de una manera que sea de fácil acceso para nuestros residentes.



Por favor tome esta breve encuesta



KCHD Health Survey

Please take a moment to help us improve and increase communication with Kane County residents regarding vaccinations and infectious diseases by taking the survey. Use your phone's photo function to scan the code above, or the following links:

[Take survey in English](#)

[Tome encuesta en Espanol](#)