



Public Health Statement – President Gallagher
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
April 12, 2021

75% of Illinoisans age 65 and older have now been vaccinated. Today marks the day that all Illinois residents 16 and older are eligible to receive the vaccine. The state is reallocating vaccines away from areas of low demand to regions where demand is high, including suburban Cook County. As a result, the state has seen an acceleration of people getting vaccinated.

The Village has contributed to that success by hosting vaccination clinics in town, the most recent clinic was held this past Friday. We are grateful for the many volunteers and staff members who make these clinics a success. There are no current plans for another Western Springs clinic, but watch the COVID-19 webpage on the Village's website for updated information should we get the call to host another clinic.

Governor Pritzker announced thousands of new vaccine appointments will be available in suburban Cook County this week. Appointments can be made at vaccine.cookcountyil.gov or by calling 833-308-1988, 7am-10pm, M-F. This includes appointments for all 3 vaccines: Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. Please note the Pfizer vaccine is the only one currently approved for 16-17 year olds.

Over 7 million vaccines have been administered in Illinois. To move into Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois Plan, 50% of residents 16 and older must be vaccinated with at least the first shot. That number stands at 43% as of yesterday and is expected to rise quickly as vaccine and resident eligibility expands. Health officials are hopeful that the increase in vaccinated people will help to reverse the recent upward trend of cases and hospitalizations.

Additional health metrics to move on to the next phase include greater than 20% hospital ICU bed availability, and no significant increase in new COVID-related admissions, total COVID hospital patients, and death rates over the most recent 28-day period. As of yesterday, new hospital admissions and COVID hospital patients are increasing, and the daily number of positive cases is trending upwards. Right now, the average availability of ICU beds is greater than 20% but declining. The increase in positivity rates and resulting hospitalizations have prompted the governor to pause his "bridge" plan for partial reopening.

Whether you are vaccinated or not, the CDC recommends we all continue to take precautionary steps to [protect ourselves and others](#) in many common situations. Please see the CDC guidelines on the Village's COVID-19 webpage for details. We are close, but we're not out of the woods yet. In fact, the statewide seven-day positivity rate is at 4.4% - the highest it's been since late January. Please remain vigilant and continue to wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet apart from others, avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.

Together we'll get through this.