

CCDPH School Health Meeting

October 18, 2024



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health



Welcome to the October School Health Meeting

What is the School Health

A community of learning where administrators and staff from schools along with daycares in suburban Cook County to get the latest guidance on preventing the spread of infectious diseases, receive valuable resources and tools, and discuss everyday strategies to ensure the safety and health of staff, students, and their families.

Meeting Objectives

- **Stay Informed:** Get the most up-to-date information and guidance's to navigate issues related to health and wellness.
- **Resource Sharing:** Access valuable tools, resources and events in our communities.
- **Community Support:** Connect with peers to keep your staff, students, and families safe and healthy.



****HOUSEKEEPING****

- ✓ Please let us know if you have any specific access needs(e.g., transcription, etc.)
- ✓ Please keep your line muted
- ✓ Feel free to put any questions in the chat

All Webinars are being recorded and will be uploaded to our [Website](#) and to CCDPH's [YouTube Page](#)



Cook County Department of Public Health

@cookcountypublichealth • 217 subscribers • 248 videos

The Cook County Department of Public Health is the public health authority for most of su...more

cookcountypublichealth.org

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Agenda

- Welcome & Housekeeping
- Announcements, Resources & Events
- Communicable Disease Updates
- Chronic Disease Updates
- Rescue Illinois Program Updates
- CCDPH Nursing Programs and Offerings
- Early Intervention Resources and Programming
- Questions and Answers
- Adjournment



Announcements



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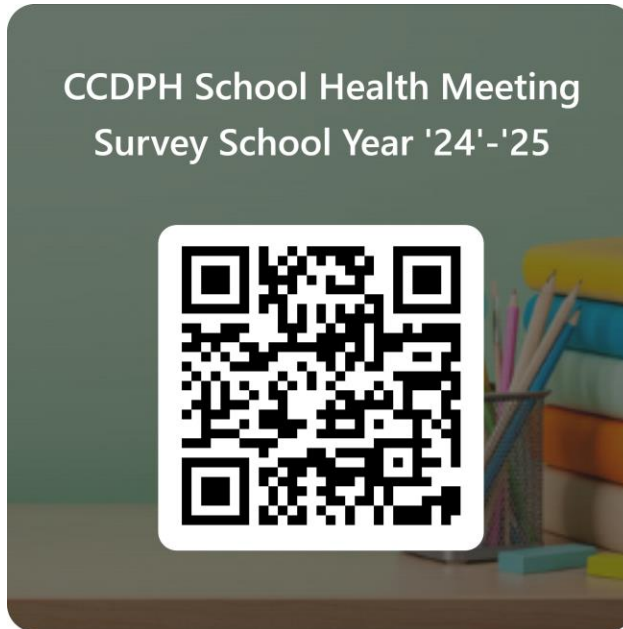
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Announcements

- Kelly Jones will be out until the February,
 - Interim Facilitators Marcia McCullough, Staci Diggs-Spence and Alecia Boyd
- New CCDPH Schools SharePoint Site will be temporary until School Health Website is updated
- We are now hosting School Health Meeting on Teams Webinar Platform, monthly registration required
- **NO MEETING IN DECEMBER-EVERYONE WILL RECEIVE THE SCHOOL HEALTH NEWSLETTER**



School Health Meeting Topic Survey



Feel free to take the survey and share it with any colleagues: [School Health Meeting Survey Link](#)

Deadline November 30th



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Contact CCDPH

Webinar Related Questions/General Questions

- CCDPH Healthy Cook General Email: healthycook@cookcountyhhs.org

Line Lists/Reporting Communicable Diseases/Metrics Questions

- CCDPH Communicable Disease Reporting Email: ccdph_schools@cookcountyhhs.org
- **CCDPH Website:** <https://cookcountypublichealth.org/>
- **CCDPH School Page:** [School Health - Cook County Department of Public Health \(cookcountypublichealth.org\)](https://cookcountypublichealth.org/school-health/)
- **Asthma and Allergy Resources for Suburban Cook Schools**
 - Website Link: <https://cookcountypublichealth.org/school-asthma-allergy-resources/>
 - [School Request for Undesignated Medication Prescription and Standing Order](#)
- **CCDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Website:** vaccine.cookcountyil.gov



Naloxone Requests

Naloxone Requests through CCDPH

Denise Holman, MPH

Opioid Health Educator, Community Behavioral Health Unit

denise.holman@cookcountyhealth.org

Naloxone Request Form: <https://bit.ly/neednaloxone>



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**Extended
Until
October 31st**

Join dozens of hospitals, health departments and community organizations in shaping the future of community health by taking our community input survey!



TAKE THE
SURVEY

YOUR VOICE MATTERS



Your anonymous input in our 7-10 minute survey is crucial for improving health equity in Chicago and Suburban Cook County.



Visit www.allhealthequity.org for more info.

The survey is intended for people of all ages living in Chicago and Suburban Cook County.



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Juntos con los hospitales, departamentos de salud y organizaciones comunitarias, podemos mejorar el sistema de salud de la comunidad.



HAZ LA
ENCUESTA

TU VOZ IMPORTA



Sus respuestas son anónimas y confidenciales y servirán para mejorar la salud en Chicago y el condado de Cook.



Para más información:
www.allhealthequity.org.

The survey is intended for people of all ages living in Chicago and Suburban Cook County.



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The Cook County Department of Public Health will be conducting the 2024 Youth Risk Behavior Survey starting **October 21st**

There are 28 **randomly selected** high schools in Suburban Cook County to complete the CDC Survey

The YRBS is the primary source of information to understand:

- youth depression & suicidality
- bullying and violence
- alcohol and drug use
- vaping
- unintended pregnancy and injury
- and many other risk behaviors.

If your school has as received the packet, the health department needs you to complete the materials ASAP

Questions? Call 800-937-3456



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Promoting health. Preventing disease. *Protecting you.*

Resources



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CCDPH Free COVID-19 and Flu Vaccination Clinics

CCDPD is offering children (6 months +) and adults Free COVID-19 and flu vaccines, regardless of insurance coverage. **Select Saturdays from October 19 - February 22, 2025, 8AM to 4PM**

- Walk-ins welcome, no appointment necessary
- Resource coordination and referrals available
- Bring a form of I.D. and insurance card (**Note: insurance is not required**)
 - A person's immigration status will not stop them from receiving immunizations.
- Clinic Locations:
 - Arlington Heights
 - Blue Island
 - Ford Heights
 - North Riverside
 - Robbins

For more information email: healthycook@cookcountyhhs.org

[Free COVID-19 and Flu Vaccination Clinics - Cook County Department of Public Health](https://www.cookcountypublichealth.org)
([cookcountypublichealth.org](https://www.cookcountypublichealth.org))



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**SATURDAYS
8AM-4PM**

**OCTOBER 19, 2024—
FEBRUARY 22, 2025**

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
BLUE ISLAND
COTTAGE GROVE
NORTH RIVERSIDE
ROBBINS

**FREE COVID & FLU
VACCINATIONS**

10/14/24

WALK-INS WELCOME • NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED • FREE TO
EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF INSURANCE • AGES 6 MONTHS & OLDER

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SATURDAYS, 8AM-4PM

10/19/24 – 02/22/25

Fall & Winter Vaccination Clinics

LOCATIONS & DATES

NORTH SUBURBS

Arlington Heights Health Center	11/09/24
3250 N. Arlington Heights Rd., #300	12/28/24
Arlington Heights, IL 60004	01/24/25
	02/22/25

WEST SUBURBS

North Riverside Health Center	11/16/24
1800 South Harlem Ave., Suite A	12/21/24
North Riverside, IL 60546	01/18/25

SOUTH SUBURBS

Blue Island Health Center	10/19/24
12757 South Western Ave.	12/07/24
Blue Island, IL 60406	02/01/25

Cottage Grove Health Center	10/26/24
1645 South Cottage Grove Ave.	11/23/24
Ford Heights, IL 60401	12/14/24
	01/11/25
	02/08/25



Robbins Health Center	10/19/24
13450 South Kedzie Ave.	11/02/24
Robbins, IL 60472	01/04/25
	02/15/25

WALK-INS WELCOME • NO APPOINTMENT
NEEDED • FREE TO EVERYONE REGARDLESS
OF INSURANCE • AGES 6 MONTHS & OLDER

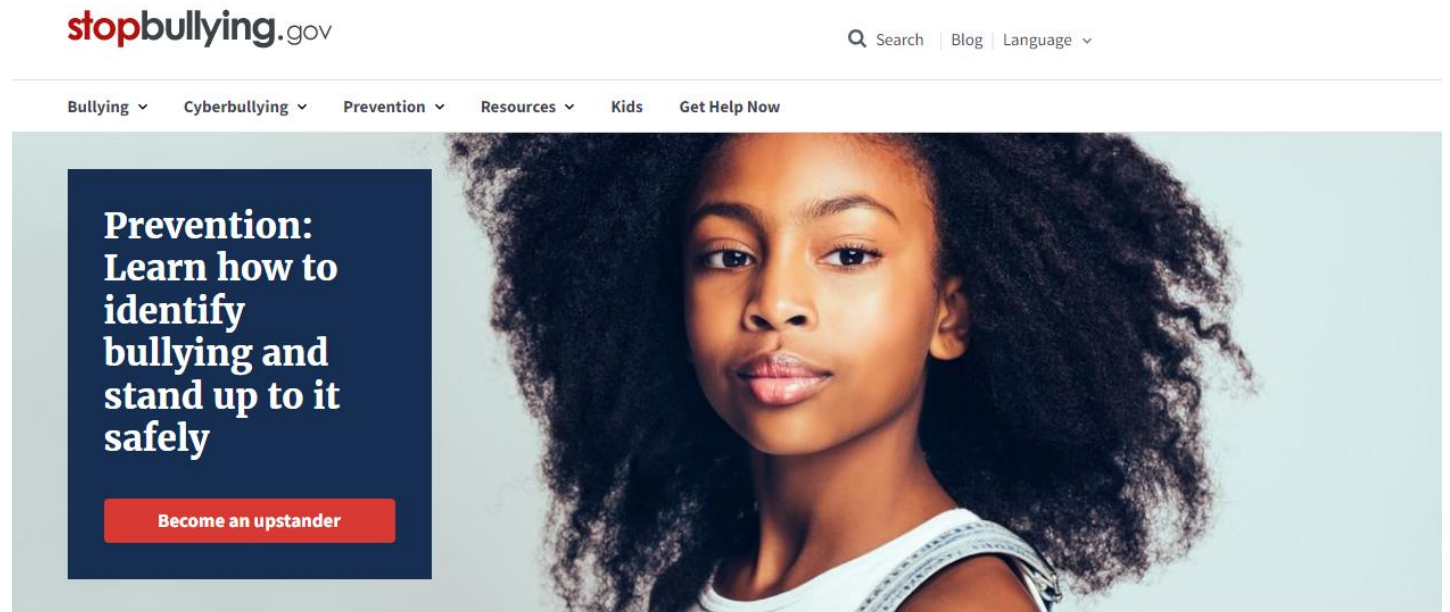
cookcountypublichealth.org

CCDPH – Nursing

- Vision and Hearing Screening Program
 - As of September 2024, CCDPH has restarted the screening program for hearing and vision of preschool children ages 3-5 years old. The application is available on CCDPH's website at [Vision and Hearing Screening - Cook County Department of Public Health](#).
 - All screenings are conducted by a certified technician that has been trained by the Illinois Department of Public Health.
 - Our program conducts comprehensive vision and hearing screening for preschool children ages 3-5 years old within the suburban communities of Cook County in all public, private and parochial schools.
 - Screening services include the identification, testing, evaluation, and follow up services
 - Provide necessary referral services based on the evaluation results
 - Our goal for the upcoming FY 2025-2026 is to include the school age children grades kindergarten, first, second and eighth grades for hearing and vision screenings.
 - For any additional questions, please contact us at visionandhearing@cookcountyhealth.org



National Bullying Prevention Month



<https://www.stopbullying.gov/>

Stop Bullying on the Spot

When adults respond quickly and consistently to bullying behavior they send the message that it is not acceptable. Research shows this can stop bullying behavior over time.

Parents, school staff, and other adults in the community can help kids prevent bullying by talking about it, building a safe school environment, and creating a community-wide bullying prevention strategy.



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YOUTH4WARD

A Positive Youth Development Program

About Our Program

WHO WE ARE

-A program that supports the health and well-being of adolescents 12-17.

WHAT WE DO

-Help youth build resilience and foster coping skills that are positive and sustainable.

-Engage and empower vulnerable youth to ultimately reduce mental health inequities.

WHAT YOUTH WILL RECEIVE

-Self management tools to deal with trauma, anxiety, and depression.

-Health maintenance support.

-Educational workshops

-Case management and linkages to additional resources and support



A holistic, integrated approach is the foundation to address youth development and health care.

Serving South Suburban Cook County

Reach out today to see how the youth in your life can participate in our program

Contact: Kelly Werner
kwerner@auntmarthas.org or
Bob Clasby
rcclasby@auntmarthas.org



Empowering students through education

In recognition of the vital role tutoring plays in student success, Varsity Tutors is committed to providing accessible and high-quality educational support to students across Illinois. Through its online **NO-COST Platform Access**, Varsity Tutors offers a wealth of resources, expert tutors, and personalized instruction designed to meet each student's unique needs.

How Schools Can Benefit

Illinois schools can leverage Varsity Tutors' **NO-COST Platform Access until 6/30/2030** to enrich their educational offerings and support their student's academic journey. By registering for these services through Keven Brown, **Director of Educational Partnerships**, schools can unlock a wealth of resources that will not only enhance academic performance but also promote positive mental health among students.

Contact keven.brown@varsitytutors.com for a list of eligible School Districts



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Adolescent Suicide Postvention Resources: Navigating Towards Healing

Welcome to our Adolescent Suicide Postvention Resources Hub. We understand the pain and difficulty that comes with loss, especially when it involves young lives. "Postvention" is a term to describe best practices after a suicide. This page is dedicated to providing comprehensive resources to support adolescents and their communities through the healing process.

[Read More](#)

Resources

Find articles, books, and other resources to help navigate the grieving process and find a path towards healing specific to your context.



Illinois Breakfast After the Bell Grant opportunity + Child nutrition contract role w/ ISBE

GRANT OPPORTUNITY: The Illinois State Board of Education is seeking grant applications for the Breakfast After the Bell Program.

This program is open to public schools in Illinois. Eligible entities are school districts, charter schools, and Regional Offices of Education.

In addition, an entity must be eligible and approved to operate the federal School Nutrition Programs. Grant awards are up to \$7,000 per each eligible school.

The Illinois Breakfast After the Bell Grant Program supports implementation of Breakfast After the Bell service models in schools to make school breakfast more accessible to students. Visit the Breakfast After the Bell Grant Program website to read the Request for Proposals and to apply. **The application deadline is Nov. 14.**

For more information visit the website: [Breakfast After the Bell Grant Program \(isbe.net\)](https://www.isbe.net/bell)



2024 Clean School Bus (CSB) Rebate Program

Through the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the Clean School Bus (CSB) Program will benefit school districts that meets one or more of the community prioritization criteria's by providing funds to replace existing school buses with clean and zero-emission models.

For more information visit: <https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-rebates#dates>

Important Dates

Date	Activity
September 26, 2024 – January 9, 2025, 4:00 PM ET	2024 Clean School Bus Rebates Application Period.
October 2024 – December 2024	Various Webinars on CSB Program.
November 14, 2024, 4:00 PM ET	Final date to submit questions prior to the application period closing about the 2024 Rebates to cleanschoolbus@epa.gov .
January 9, 2025, 4:00 PM ET	2024 CSB Rebates Application Deadline.



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Events



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This year, the Quinn Center is taking you
to infinity and beyond at our annual



FALL FEST

Friday, October 25
5:00-8:00pm

Join us for family-friendly fun,
fall games, pick-a-treat, and
festive food. Costumes are
encouraged!

Enter door 3 on 8th Ave.



RSVP by
October 18
using QR code



Parent Support Series



Join us for a series of educational sessions designed to empower parents with valuable insights and skills to help you and your family be well. Meet us in-person or via zoom on the select dates below!

In Person

August 15th 5:30-7:00

23485 Western Ave, Park Forest, IL

Food and giveaways will be available

In Person

December 19th 5:30-7:00

23485 Western Ave, Park Forest, IL

Food and giveaways will be available

In Person

February 20th 5:30-7:00

23485 Western Ave, Park Forest, IL

Food and giveaways will be available

In Person

June 19th 5:30-7:00

23485 Western Ave, Park Forest, IL

Food and giveaways will be available

Zoom

October 17th 5:30-7:00

Scan the link to join!



Zoom

April 17th 5:30-7:00

Scan the link to join!



For more information contact Kelly Werner kwerner@auntmarthas.org
or Ericka Leonard Whorton eleonard@auntmarthas.org



You're Invited to our *Autumn Zen Bash*

Join us for a relaxing afternoon of Tai Chi, peaceful nature vibes, snacks, and chances to win giveaways. This event offers a perfect opportunity to unwind, connect with friends, and explore mindfulness in a fun and engaging way.



Date: October 26th

Time: 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Location: Sandridge Nature Center (15891 Paxton Ave,
South Holland, IL 60473)

Ages: Teens 12-18 and their families

RSVP HERE

REGISTRATION DEADLINE- 10-23-2024



For more information contact Leah
Smith lesmith@auntmarthas.org



VIRTUAL RESOURCE SHOWCASE

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Discover new approaches to strengthen and enhance social and emotional learning in your school, district, and community

Whether you have a strong SEL approach that you are seeking to enhance or you are looking to head in a new direction, this event will provide you with valuable options and strategies. Learn from national experts and exchange tips with other SEL leaders and champions in this dynamic professional development event.

[Register Here](#)

Communicable Disease Updates



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Pertussis: Whooping Cough

- ❖ Bacterial Infection

 - Coughing Fits

- ❖ Very Contagious

- ❖ Spread by Respiratory Droplets

Outbreak Definition

An outbreak is five or more cases clustered in time (within 42 days of each other) that are epidemiologically linked (non-household).

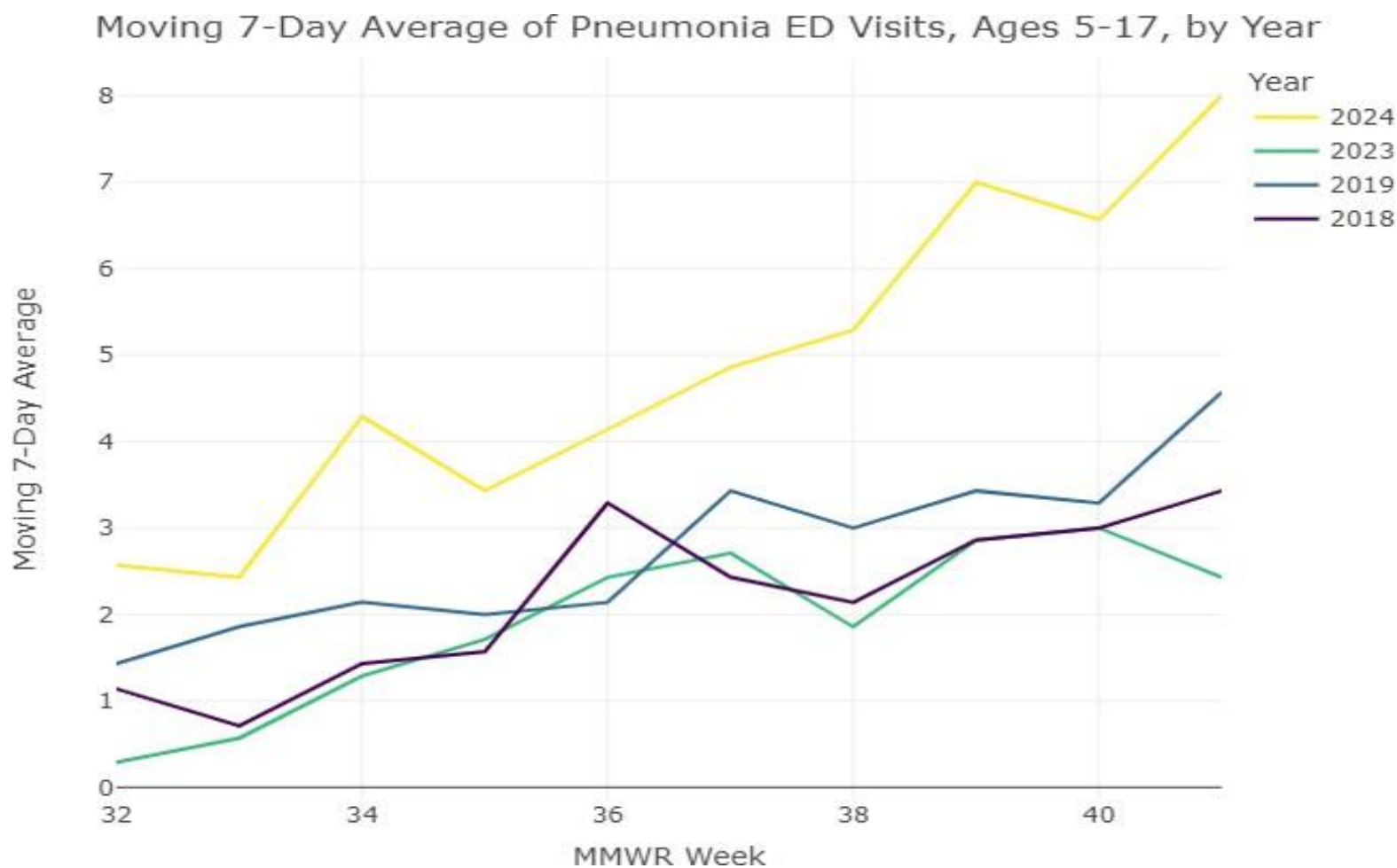
- ❖ Vaccination
 - Childhood vaccinations
 - Adults require a booster dose every 10 years
- ❖ Handwashing
- ❖ Masking
- ❖ Postexposure antimicrobial prophylaxis



An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood in Cook County, Illinois. The image shows a dense arrangement of single-family homes with varying roof colors (brown, grey, white). Lush green trees are scattered throughout the yards and along the streets. Several swimming pools are visible in the backyards. A network of paved roads winds through the area. The overall scene depicts a typical affluent suburban setting.

Pneumonia: Increase cases within Suburban Cook County

Pneumonia Among School-Aged Children



Mycoplasma Pneumonia

Transmission

M. pneumonia is spread through respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing. Other people can get infected if they breathe in those droplets

Prevention



There is no vaccine to prevent infection with M. pneumonia. Hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes



Practicing good respiratory hygiene is a core prevention strategy to lower the risk of M. pneumonia and other respiratory illnesses

- CDC Guidance for Infection Prevention and Control in K-12 Schools
- Document

- [Preventing Spread of Infections in K-12 Schools | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/orsp/school-preparedness/infection-prevention/prioritizing-strategies.html)

- Emergency Operations Plans and Sustaining Partnerships Videos

<https://rems.ed.gov/trainings/CourseInfectious.aspx>


- Considerations for Prioritizing Additional Strategies

- <https://www.cdc.gov/orsp/school-preparedness/infection-prevention/prioritizing-strategies.html>

- Everyday Actions for Schools to Prevent and Control the Spread of Infections

- <https://www.cdc.gov/orsp/school-preparedness/infection-prevention/actions.html>





CCDPH Mailbox School Year FY 2024-2025

ccdph_schools@cookcountyhhs.org



**Thank
you**

Chronic Disease Prevention & Control Updates



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CCDPH Asthma and Allergy Resources for Suburban Cook Schools

- **Overview:** CCDPH has updated our school request process for undesignated medication (epinephrine/asthma) prescription and standing orders to make it more efficient for school nurses.
- **What's New**
- CCDPH webpage with additional resources: <https://cookcountypublichealth.org/school-asthma-allergy-resources/>
- New online school request form: [School Request for Undesignated Medication Prescription and Standing Order](#)
- Submit all questions to our NEW email address: CCDPHUndesignatedMedication@cookcountyhhs.org



Updated Instructions to Request Prescription and Standing Order

- ❖ Complete the [online School Request Undesignated Medication Prescription and Standing Order form](#) on CCDPH website.
- ❖ The school nurse will need to complete this request. Please complete one form for each school within the district. Schools can save a copy of the request form submitted. An autogenerated email will be provided following submission and CCDPH will follow-up within 7 business days.
- ❖ All request forms must be completed for **each** medication requested (you will NOT be able to select both epinephrine and asthma medication on the same form).
- ❖ Schools will need to identify and document at least two employees, in addition to the school nurse that have been trained to correctly administer the undesignated medication. Only trained personnel should administer medication. Training must be renewed annually, certified by the school nurse or a physician.
- ❖ **If you are experiencing difficulties or have additional questions, please submit all questions to CCDPHUndesignatedMedication@cookcountyhhs.org**



Illinois Youth Tobacco Survey (ILYTS)



Overview

- The ILYTS gathers data about the trends and nuances of youth tobacco use at the county and state levels.
- The information collected helps shape public health policies and programs aimed at reducing tobacco use and improving the health of young people across the counties and state.
- Conducted every other year; 150 schools throughout the state of Illinois have been randomly selected to participate in the 2024 fall survey. Another 150 schools have been selected to participate in the survey during spring 2025.

Requesting School Participation!

Each participating school will receive \$1,000. Additionally, the school with the highest participation rate will win a \$500 gift card of their choice.

If interested or have questions, reach out to ILYTS@illinois.edu for more information!

Lift Your Voice: Healthy School Meals for All

- Illinois has taken the critical first step in ensuring our school children are hunger-free, healthy, and able to learn and thrive by passing the Healthy School Meals for All law, which amends the previous Illinois Free Lunch and Breakfast statute.
- Now, the program needs to be funded!
- You can submit written testimony to ISBE about the importance of funding Healthy School Meals for All. *We can share a template that you can tailor.* You can submit your written testimony here: Budget Hearing Form (isbe.net)
- You can testify at the upcoming ISBE budget hearings: October 28 (virtual, 1pm-4pm). Sign up to provide oral testimony here: Agency Budget Information (isbe.net)
- Pass this information along to others in your network that you think might wish to testify (parents, physicians, students, school leaders, advocacy organizations, etc.)



Rescue Illinois Program Updates

Asthma Emergency Medication Resources for Schools



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CCDPH Nursing Updates



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Early Intervention Resources & Programming

Birth to Five Illinois



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Meet Your Region 1-B-C Team



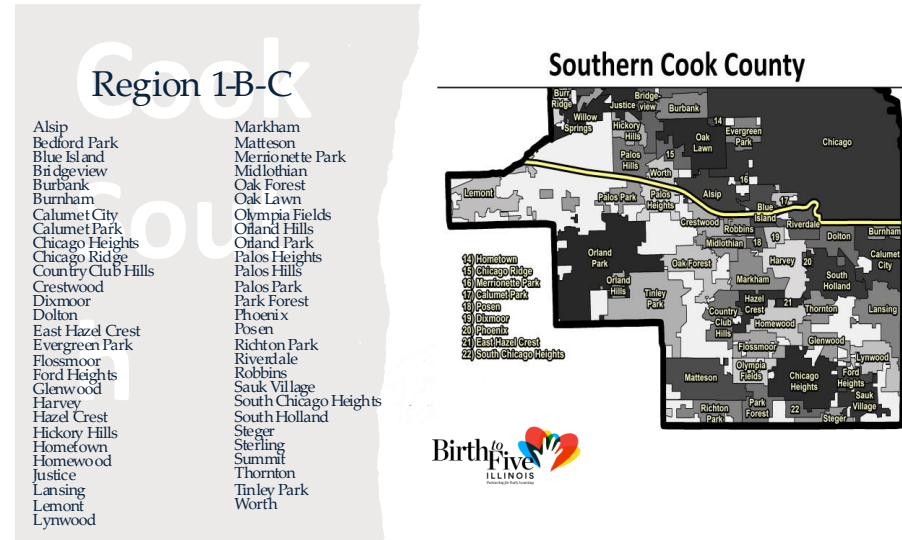
Jaime F. Garibay (he/him/él)
Family and Community Engagement
Specialist

Ashonti M. Jackson (she/ her)
Regional Council-Manager



Leah M. Armour (she/her)
Administrative Support

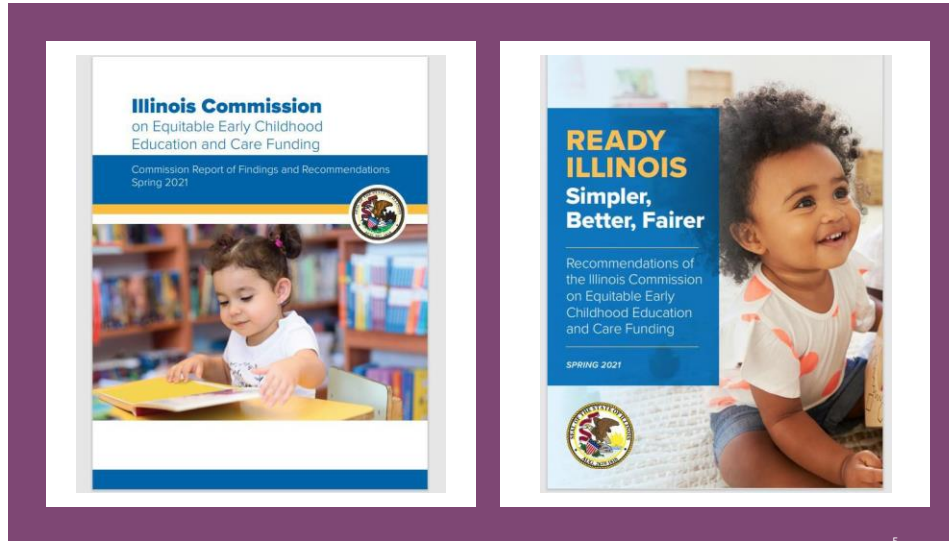
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Illinois' Commitment to Early Childhood Education: Expanding Access and Equity for Families

- **Illinois' Goal:** To become the best state for families raising young children by improving childcare and early learning programs.
- **Early Childhood Funding Commission:** Established in 2019 to study and recommend equitable funding strategies for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services.
- **Equitable Access for All:** Recommendations aim to ensure all Illinois families, regardless of race, language, ability, or social circumstances, have access to high-quality early childhood services.



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Mission

To create a statewide regional infrastructure that will amplify input from communities in the development of policies and funding priorities. We support the mobilization of communities to build and sustain equitable access to inclusive, high-quality early childhood services for all children and families in the state of Illinois.



www.birthtofiveil.com

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Vision

Reimagining a more **equitable** Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system that respects **family and community voice** and works to ensure it is **centered and prioritized** at every level of decision-making in Illinois.



www.birthtofiveil.com

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Values/Goals

- **Family Voice:** Through this transformation centered on authentic family and community engagement, we will address the inequitable distribution of resources and services and rebuild our State's Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system.
- **Racial Equity:** To move our Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system to one where racism no longer impacts a child's success, we will work to dismantle barriers that have limited access to high-quality services for minoritized children in every corner of our State.
- **Collective Impact:** Birth to Five Illinois will build a system that harnesses knowledge directly from families and providers and encourages decision-makers to ensure new and/or expanded services are created to meet community needs. This community-driven framework will directly influence policy/funding at the local, regional, and state level.



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Culture Statement

- Birth to Five Illinois is committed to nurturing a community of leaders and learners actively engaged in creating an environment that supports and reflects culturally responsive practices. Centering equity is at the core of everything we do; we reflect, intentionally engage, and honor the diversity of each person. We value the celebration of accomplishment and work-life well-being.

Racial Equity Definition

- Racial equity is achieved when an individual's racial/ethnic identity does not determine their life trajectory. Racial equity results from long-standing and present-day embedded systemic practices and policies, **not** the ability of the individual or oppressed racial/ethnic group. Eradicating racial inequities requires intentional and bold efforts to address not only individual bias but also systems and policies.



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What are Birth to Five Illinois Councils?

The Action Council comprises family members, caregivers, Early Childhood professionals, and people from various work sectors and roles across each Region. Action Council Members either live or work in the Region.

The Family Council comprises Families and Caregivers living in the Region with Children under the age of 8.



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Years 1 & 2 Scope of Work

Birth to Five Illinois' takes a Regional approach to prioritize family voice in determining regional needs.

Year 1 (2022 - 2023)

- Launch Family Councils and Action Councils
- Completed and published Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessments

Year 2 (2023 - 2024)

- Mental and Behavioral Health prominent and reoccurring needs across the State
- Completed and published Mental/Behavioral Health Needs Assessment
- Developed and published Early Childhood Action Plans

Year 3 (2024 - 2025)

- Early Childhood Action Plan Implementation
- Mental and Behavioral Health Report - Community Feedback, Action Plan and Implementation



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Year 3 Scope of Work

- **Share** the Region's Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment, Regional Action Plan, and Mental & Behavioral Health Needs Assessment with the community to gather additional input.
- **Continue to advocate** for successfully implementing activities identified in the Regional Action Plan (using the CQI process).
- **Update the Regional Action Plan** to address the needs identified in the Mental & Behavioral Health Needs Assessment.
- **Continue to build relationships** with local community stakeholders.
- **Support** the development of the new Illinois Department of Early Childhood



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Regional Reports



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Mental & Behavioral Health

Why focus on Mental & Behavioral Health?

- Mental and Behavioral Health was a prominent and reoccurring need identified in our needs assessments across all 39 Regions. The feedback received throughout the State, along with the announcement of the Illinois Governor's Smart Start initiative and the State's focus on children's Mental Health, solidified our goal to understand these issues at the community level better.



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Early Childhood Mental & Behavioral Health Regional Landscape

- Regional teams and council members discussed the overall mental and behavioral health landscape to understand better what is available to families and ECEC professionals in the region. Conversations focused on who can access services and what the referral process looks like for families.
- While services for young children may be available in the Region, not all families can access them. Most providers are in the eastern Region; some services are available virtually. However, families would need the technology and understanding of how to use it to access services.
- 61% of the people surveyed across the State said they waited two or more months to gain services after receiving a referral. 11% said they were never able to get services for their child. 37% of those surveyed said they traveled an average of 30 or more minutes for services.
- Most Regional referrals come from a pediatrician, Early Intervention or Child's School



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Parent & Caregiver Experiences

- “Eventually, we located a single doctor in a different Region who could conduct the evaluation. However, this practitioner gave me an evaluation [the parent] to administer to my child, resulting in a considerable waste of time. To find a suitable provider, we had to switch insurance companies. It took a year before we could finally access the necessary support for our child” -
Community Member



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Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (I/ECMHC)

- I/ECMH Consultants provide training and support for the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) professionals who work directly with young children.
- I/ECMH programs do not provide direct Mental or Behavioral Health services. Instead, they support parent-child relationships by facilitating group connections, encouraging healthy growth and development, and promoting safety and family well-being.
- I/ECMH services are not readily available in Burnham, Country Club Hills, Ford Heights, Palos Heights and Phoenix. These communities are primarily served by license-exempt childcare providers and Family, Friend and Neighbor childcare.
- Council and community members also shared that staffing shortages, lack of funding, and lack of awareness are also reasons that some ECEC programs do not use I/ECMHC



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Parent & Caregiver Experiences

- “As providers, we do not have the same resources as the CBOs [Community-Based Organizations] or school districts.” – *Family Child Care Provider*
- “I was not aware that I/ECMH Consultants were available for providers.” – *Family Child Care Provider*



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Home Visiting

- There are several home-visiting programs in Illinois that support expectant families and caregivers with newborn babies.
- These programs aim to support people who may experience conditions that can lead to harmful health, educational, and social outcomes.
- While services for young children may be available in the Region, not all families can access them. and some services are available virtually, but families must have the technology and understanding of how to use it to access services online.
- There are some Prevention Initiative program sites in Region 1-B-C that offer Home Visiting, yet the actual number of Home Visitors working in the Region is not known.
- Baby Talk, a family engagement model, provides a framework for some home visitors within the Region.
- There is a significant uptick in Individualized Family Service Plans in the State and the Region. Many Regional service coordinators have a caseload of 80-100 cases.

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Parent & Caregiver Experiences

- “Home Visiting services made a significant difference for my child, especially considering that his first two years coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. Without Home Visiting, he would have limited socialization opportunities outside our family circle.” – *Community Member*



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Regional Needs

1. **Improved access to Mental & Behavioral Health Services**, particularly for underserved populations and non-English speaking families.
2. **Culturally competent services and resources sensitive to families' diverse backgrounds and needs**, including more bilingual staff to support families who speak languages besides English.
3. **Services that meet the needs of families** based on their locations, with insurance plans accepted and appointment times available during non-traditional hours.
4. **More training opportunities** for leadership and support staff to enhance their capacity to address Mental & Behavioral Health challenges.
5. **Mental & Behavioral Health services** that are integrated into other social services to provide holistic support for families and children.



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Key Takeaways

- **Advocacy is crucial in advancing** Mental and Behavioral Health priorities and securing resources for Mental Health Services.
- **Barriers to accessing** Mental and Behavioral Health services, such as stigma, lack of awareness, and financial constraints, must be addressed to ensure equitable access for all families.
- **Collaboration and participation** among stakeholders are essential for improving Mental and Behavioral Health outcomes.
- **There is a pressing need for increased awareness and education** about Mental and Behavioral Health issues among both caregivers and professionals. We must all play a part in this educational process.
- **The importance of mental and behavioral health** in early childhood development needs to be more recognized.



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Thank you



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Stay in touch!

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Join our Facebook Group
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Questions ???



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Closing Out

- School Health Meeting Topics Survey: Please remember to complete and share it with any colleagues:

[School Health Meeting Survey Link](#)

- Next meeting is **Friday November 15th at 2:00 PM**: [Register Here](#)
 - Must register for every meeting with new platform
- **NO MEETING IN DECEMBER-EVERYONE WILL RECEIVE THE SCHOOL HEALTH NEWSLETTER**
- All attendees will receive follow up email with slide deck
 - All Webinars are being recorded and will be uploaded to our [Website](#) and CCDPH's [YouTube Page](#)



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