

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Virus season gaining steam

Local medical experts urge vaccination as hospitalizations spike

By Angie Leventis Lourgos
Chicago Tribune

As COVID-19 hospitalizations rise across large swaths of Illinois and the nation, only about 11% of Chicago residents are up to date on vaccinations against the virus.

The combination is concerning to many health officials as respiratory virus season amps up and the Christmas and New Year's holidays approach.

Medical experts are also alarmed by a simultaneous rise in recent hospitalizations for other respiratory illnesses like RSV and the flu, with the CDC issuing an "urgent need" to raise vaccination coverage against all three viruses nationwide.

In anticipation of the coming holiday gatherings, which tend to increase the spread of respiratory viruses, local physicians are encouraging the public to get all vaccinations they're eligible for, including the updated COVID booster shot, which targets currently circulating strains of the virus.

"I can't stress the importance of vaccination enough," said Dr. Colleen Nash, associate professor of pediatrics in the division of infectious diseases at Rush University Medical Center. "We've now been lucky enough to kind of live with COVID but still enjoy normal life and activities and things. And that is directly attributable, at least in part, to vaccinations. So I would really encourage people to do that if they haven't already. It's something that's pretty easy and can make a huge difference."

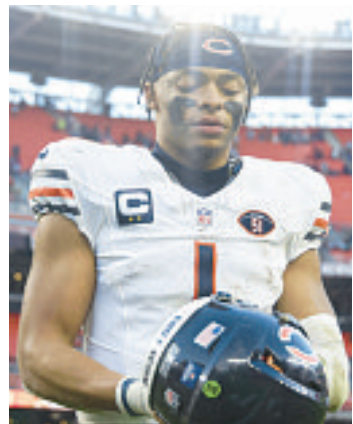
Nearly 50 Illinois counties — almost half the counties in the state — were reporting medium or high levels of hospitalizations for COVID-19, according to the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data from the week ending Dec. 9.

Cook County as well as the surrounding collar counties remained at low levels of hospitalizations for the virus.

Some of the state's highest COVID hospitalization rates were in central Illinois, including the Springfield area, with Sangamon County reporting a 13% increase in hospital admission for COVID over the previous week.

The most recent data showed an additional 1,251 COVID hospital admissions were reported in Illinois; this was roughly equal to the 1,255 new COVID hospitalizations tracked statewide

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BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE

Bears let another late lead slip away

The Browns outscored the Bears 13-0 in the fourth quarter and won 20-17 after a Hail Mary pass from Justin Fields, above, was bobbled in the end zone as time expired.

Chicago Sports



The Brandon Road Lock and Dam on the Des Plaines River in Joliet, seen Dec. 5, is the site of the planned Brandon Road Interbasin Project. The project aims to combat the movement of invasive carp and other nuisance species into the Great Lakes. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Getting a jump on carp

Biologists experimenting with new approaches to battle invasive species

By Adriana Pérez
Chicago Tribune

From old-school nets to unmanned kayaks, biologists and commercial anglers are experimenting with new tools in their arsenal to stem the advance of invasive carp while they await the construction of deterrents at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet.

Recently, they removed 750,000 pounds of silver carp from the Illinois River over 10 days in what they believe to be a

record for freshwater harvest in the country. It is also the largest single removal effort of its kind led by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

This success came after years of trial and error, delayed by issues like lost or broken nets or bad weather.

"It's one of those things that there's a lot of pieces that have to fall into place for it to be effective," said Brian Schoenung, aquatic nuisance species program

Turn to Carp, Page 5



Invasive carp leap from the Illinois River during the Original Redneck Fishing Tournament near Bath on Aug. 4. JOHN KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Sculptor Richard Hunt in his studio on Aug. 11. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

RICHARD HUNT 1935-2023

Sculptor made an outsized impact in Chicago, nation

Abstract pieces monumental in scale and expressive of freedom

By Doug George, Darcel Rockett, and Christopher Borrelli
Chicago Tribune

Chicago sculptor Richard Hunt, whose abstract work includes the Ida B. Wells monument in Bronzeville and centerpieces at the Art Institute and in a Smithsonian museum, and

whose art can be seen across the country, has died. He was 88.

He died at home Saturday in Chicago, according to a statement on his website, which did not specify a cause of death.

Hunt's work has been recognized for the mark it has made on Chicago and the world. In Chicago, in addition to the Light of Truth Ida B. Wells National

Monument, Hunt recently completed the sculptural model for a monument to Emmett Till, titled Hero Ascending, to be installed in 2024 at the Woodlawn home where Till lived with his mother before he was murdered during a 1955 trip to Mississippi.

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CHARLES 'CORKY' GOODMAN 1933-2023

Left mark in business world, 'had zero ego'

As a philanthropist, he was a fierce advocate for Jewish causes

By Bob Goldsborough
For Chicago Tribune

Charles "Corky" Goodman was a key part of overseeing the operations of one of Chicago's most prominent business families, and as a philanthropist, he also was a forceful and passionate advocate for a host of Jewish causes.

"I think he was probably the most unselfish human being that I have ever known, and you add that to his brilliance and his humility, and you have what is obviously a very, very good member of the family and a very good business partner," said Goodman's cousin Lester Crown, who is the chairman emeritus of Henry Crown & Co. "He always stayed in the background as



Goodman

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TODAY'S WEATHER



High 32 Low 20

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 12

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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