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Daily Public-Health Briefing for Chicago, Illinois — November 29, 2025

United States

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has notified the Chicago Department of Public Health of the immediate termination of COVID-related grants.
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Illinois

- The Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) has confirmed the first human West Nile virus-related death in suburban Cook County and Illinois this year. The resident was in their 60s, and laboratory testing confirmed the virus as a contributing factor.
 - Illinois officials are working to address a rise in deaths from illegally obtained synthetic painkillers, despite a long-term decrease in legal opioid prescriptions since 2013.
 - Health officials believe they have contained the recent measles outbreak, with more than a month since the last known exposure at the Pilsen migrant shelter. Schools have been asked to prepare lists of unvaccinated students in case of future cases.
 - Sinai Chicago is considering consolidating Schwab Rehabilitation services under the license of Mount Sinai Hospital.
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Chicago

- The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) has confirmed containment of the recent mpox outbreak. CDPH activated an Incident Command structure in late September to coordinate response efforts. There were 166 mpox cases reported between June 1 and November

24, 2025.

- Only two mpox cases have been reported since Tuesday, November 18. New cases have averaged one or fewer per day for several weeks, and fewer than ten per week for over a month.
 - Measles cases continue to appear at the Pilsen migrant shelter, and health officials are working to control the spread. The CDC provided a positive review of CDPH's response, noting that the situation could have been significantly worse without intervention.
 - A new public-health campaign aims to prevent opioid overdoses by placing vending machines with free Narcan at five CTA stations as part of a six-month pilot with Cook County Health.
 - In some Chicago neighborhoods, nearly 20 percent of babies have low birth weights, raising concerns among local researchers and clinicians.
 - Two cases of Legionnaires' disease have been linked to a Chicago-area nursing facility. Residents and nearby community members are being advised to watch for symptoms.
 - Doctors at Northwestern Memorial Hospital are the first in Illinois to offer a new treatment option for atrial fibrillation.
 - Three Chicago hospitals are partnering in new clinical trials aimed at advancing breast cancer treatment.
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Good News

- CDPH has confirmed the mpox outbreak is contained, reflecting strong public-health interventions.
 - The CDC praised Chicago's handling of the measles outbreak at the Pilsen migrant shelter, noting that the outcome could have been much more severe.
 - The new Narcan vending initiative provides expanded access to lifesaving overdose prevention resources.
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Public Health Fact

- Regular handwashing with soap and water remains one of the most effective methods for preventing many common infections.
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