

# COMMUNITY UPDATE



January 2022

## COVID-19 and Vaccine Update

**COVID-19 situational update.** COVID-19 cases are surpassing pandemic highs and putting further strain on frontline providers. Like all health systems, Advocate Aurora Health has never been more challenged than in the last two years fighting the COVID-19 virus as our inpatient numbers are at an all-time high and national staffing shortages exacerbate the situation. Across our system, we've hit the highest count overall with more than 1,600 COVID inpatients.

January 7	System	Illinois	Wisconsin
In-house cases	1,627	1,018	609
One week change	+27.9%	+24.4%	+34.1%

\*Note the numbers are fluid. For the most updated information on active/fatal cases, visit the IL Dept of Public Health and WI Dept of Health Service

Beds are very tight, and the situation is complicated by workforce shortages impacting health care providers across the nation. It's getting harder. That's why we've delayed some elective procedures when the situation requires it and temporarily paused some urgent care sites in Milwaukee. Despite the challenges, we have added flexibility as an integrated health system to move around resources like staff, equipment, and supplies, when and where needed. We're monitoring our staffing situation constantly and remain committed to delivering the best care to our patients and communities. It's important go to the right place to get the right level of care and to use our LiveWell Symptom Checker app to know where you should go. Urgent and emergent services will continue to be available 24 hours a day, and it is critical that patients seek care when needed for things like broken bones, convulsions or seizures, difficulty breathing, dizziness, loss of consciousness.

**COVID-19 Testing:** The high demand for COVID-19 testing in our urgent/immediate care centers is reducing access and increasing wait times. To help maintain access to urgent care and reduce low acuity Emergency Department visits, we're directing individuals seeking COVID-19 testing to community-based testing sites if they're not experiencing symptoms and/or are not seeking treatment by a clinician. Patients with symptoms who are seen in the office, at an urgent care site or by video visit who are in need of COVID-19 testing may continue to be tested. Testing remains vital to curbing the spread of this virus. Please share these websites with people who are simply seeking a COVID-19 test: [Illinois](#) | [Wisconsin](#).

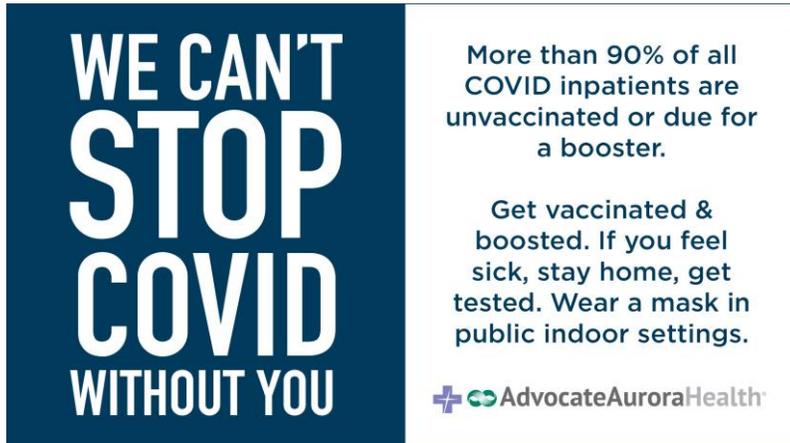
**No Visitor Policy.** The rapid increase in patient volumes due to COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses combined with limited space availability has made it difficult to manage a safe environment for our patients, team members and visitors. To help ensure safety for everyone, visitors are not allowed for inpatients or outpatients during their stay on our hospital campuses. The no visitor policy is also in effect in our emergency departments. Some exceptions include pediatric patients, individuals who need assistance with care or decision-making and end of life situations. The full policy is at [aah.org/visitors](http://aah.org/visitors).

**Vaccine Booster Guidelines.** The CDC and FDA amended the emergency use authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine including:

- Shortening the time between the completion of primary vaccination of the Pfizer vaccine and a booster dose to at least five months.
  - Allowing for a third primary series dose for certain immunocompromised children five to 11 years old.
  - Expanding the use of a single booster dose for children 12 to 17 years old 5 months after their initial series.
- These offerings are available. Appointments can be scheduled via [LiveWell app](#), [aah.org/vaccine](http://aah.org/vaccine) or 866-443-2584. Parents or guardians can make appointments via proxy access.

# Advocate Aurora Health Updates

Our public COVID-19 plea in support of our team members. We placed full page ads across our markets encouraging people to get vaccinated, boosted and follow public safety measures.



**WE CAN'T STOP COVID WITHOUT YOU**

More than 90% of all COVID inpatients are unvaccinated or due for a booster.

Get vaccinated & boosted. If you feel sick, stay home, get tested. Wear a mask in public indoor settings.



We are continuing to reinforce this plea at every turn. [Read more.](#)

**Feeling sick? Know where to go.** Get the care you need by evaluating your symptoms and choosing the method of care that best aligns with your needs. If you're experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, the flu or the common cold, get started with [a virtual visit today](#). Choosing the right setting for care can save you both time and money. Learn where to go when it comes to immediate and emergency care: [Illinois](#) / [Wisconsin](#).

## News Your Communities Can Use

**Help Us Help People Live Well.** With our wide range of careers, leading benefits, and opportunities for learning and advancement, you'll not only fulfill that passion, you'll thrive and grow every day at Advocate Aurora. We each have a voice, and we're empowered to use it to innovate and change the future of health care for our patients, communities and each other. [Start exploring job opportunities!](#)



[Taking extra steps to ensure safe care](#)



[Guiding people through the pandemic and flu season](#)



**Help Center**

[Providing help on how to start video visits, use our LiveWell app and more](#)



[Making it easy for families to manage their health all in one place](#)



[Keeping people informed to help them live well](#)