



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

ISRAEL ROCHA, JR.
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 25, 2022

Employee Recognition

At the end of this month, after a thirty-year career with Cook County Health, **Dr. Connie Mennella** will be retiring from her role as Chair of Correctional Health. Driven by her desire to help the underserved, Dr. Mennella, a native Chicagoan and Northwestern University Medical School graduate, came to work for CCH's Cermak Health Services in 1991 after completing a residency in Internal Medicine. Dr. Mennella started at Cermak as a Primary Care physician and subsequently became the head of Cermak's Department of Correctional Health in 2014. In her leadership role, Dr. Mennella has been dedicated to addressing the health conditions seen disproportionately in the incarcerated such as mental illness, substance use disorders and poorly controlled chronic illnesses. Her leadership was instrumental during the COVID-19 pandemic; the Cermak team's mitigation efforts were recognized as a best practice by the CDC. Dr. Mennella's tireless work and dedication have been recognized by her peers and leaders in the medical community. She earned the 34th "Human Rights Award" from the National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression, the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group "Medicine Award" in 2018 and Cook County Health's "Doctor of the Year" award in 2017. Cook County Health is exceptionally grateful to Dr. Mennella for the compassion and expertise she has provided to her patients and team during her tenure.

Dr. Suja Mathew, Chair, Department of Medicine, will be departing CCH after more than 20 years of service to the health system. Dr. Mathew joined CCH in 2000 and was appointed Chair of the Department of Medicine in 2015. She also served as Director of the Internal Medicine Residency program from 2008-2016. Dr. Mathew has committed her career to advancing health equity, providing compassionate health care, and mentoring the next generation of physicians. Thank you to Dr. Mathew for your tremendous work.

The **Cook County Department of Public Health** recently achieved recertification as a local health department by the State of Illinois. CCDPH's Community Needs Assessment and Health Plan was also approved as part of certification. As a certified local health department, CCDPH serves as the public health authority for suburban Cook County. CCDPH strives to prevent the spread of other communicable diseases, enforce public health laws and regulations, analyze health data, address emerging health threats, and promote the health and wellbeing of its communities. Congratulations to the entire CCDPH team for this achievement.

Activities and Announcements

COVID-19 Update

After several weeks of significant increases, inpatient admissions for COVID have continued to decrease as have cases at the jail.

While indoor mask mandates will be lifted in most public spaces per the Cook County, Chicago and Illinois health departments, healthcare facilities will continue to require masking.

Cook County Health continues to offer COVID vaccination to employees, patients and the community. CCH has administered more than 989,000 vaccine doses. The reopening of three mass vaccination sites in Matteson, Forest Park and Des Plaines, coupled with the distribution of \$100 gift cards resulted in a substantial increase in vaccine distribution in just a four-week period.

Both CCH and CCDPH continue to offer vaccines, including booster shots, in the community. A full list of locations, dates and times can be found [here](#).

IMPACT 2023 Focus Areas 1 and 5

CCH Strategic Plan 2023-2026

CCH has kicked-off the development of its 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. A number of employee and community town hall meetings will begin next week and an online feedback tool will be launched to ensure that Cook County residents and staff can provide input into the process. More information will be available on the CCH website next week.

Black History Month

On Tuesday, February 22, 2022, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, CEO Israel Rocha, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Claudia Fegan, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer Shannon Andrews, CCH physicians and others participated in a Facebook Live event to celebrate Black History Month. The panel discussed the importance of representation in health care, the impact of COVID on the African American community, mental health and more. The event can be viewed on CCH's YouTube channel. In addition to the panel discussion, CCH interviewed a number of staff about the importance of Black History Month. These videos can be found on CCH's social media channels. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Fegan was featured in a BHM video and profile that ran in the Chicago Sun-Times and was interviewed about the important role Provident Hospital has played in the medical field.

IMPACT 2023 Focus Area 5

US Navy Officials Visit



On February 17, 2022, officials from the US Navy visited Cook County Health in preparation to launch a new program to educate and train Navy medical personnel in Stroger Hospital's trauma unit to ensure the force remains medically ready.

IMPACT 2023 Focus Area 1 and 2

Food As Medicine

As access to healthy food remains a great need for our patients and communities, the Fresh Truck partnership between Cook County Health (CCH) and the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) continues. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic required CCH and GCFD to develop and implement revised protocols for the Fresh Truck distributions that allow for appropriate screenings and social distancing to protect patients, as well as CCH and GCFD staff and volunteers. These revised protocols are in place until further notice.

Through mid-February 2022, CCH's Fresh Truck partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) resulted in 372 visits to CCH health centers – Arlington Heights, Austin, Blue Island, the CORE Center, Cottage Grove, Englewood, Logan Square, North Riverside, Provident/Sengstacke, Prieto, and Robbins.

Collectively, the Fresh Truck distributions have resulted in the provision of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as some shelf stable items during the COVID-19 pandemic, to an estimated 41,369 households, representing 136,506 individuals, totaling more than 935,550 pounds of food. Most of the individuals benefiting from the Fresh Truck screened positive for food insecurity at a CCH health center visit.

The Greater Chicago Food Depository's Fresh Food Truck visits for the month of March include the following ACHN Health Centers.

- March 3 – **Prieto Health Center** – 2424 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60623
- March 8 – **Provident Hospital/Sengstacke Health Center** – 500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- March 17 – **Arlington Heights** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- March 18 – **CORE Center** – 2020 W. Harrison Street, Chicago, IL 60612
- March 24 – **Blue Island Health Center** – 12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

IMPACT 2023 Objective 5.1c

Community Affairs

Community Advisory Councils

During the First Quarter of 2022, topic presentations include Patient Experience, the Cook County HIV Integrated Programs (CCHIP), and Social Work. In addition, updates on Cook County Health, Covid-19 Vaccination and Community Outreach are provided. Each clinic also does an update on its operations at the meeting,

We have started recruiting members for the Belmont Cragin Advisory Council, which will be launched in the second quarter of the year. A notice on the advisory councils was included in the latest CCH Community Newsletter which was sent on February 18.

In addition, as part of the Strategic Planning Process, Mr. Israel Rocha will hold a joint community advisory council meeting on Thursday, March 3, at 12:00pm.

Upcoming CAC meeting dates, including the 2022 schedule:

Robbins: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: March 8, June 14, September 13, December 13
13450 S. Kedzie Road, Robbins, IL 60472

Arlington Heights: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: March 15, May 24, August 23, November 29
3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

North Riverside: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: March 16, June 15, September 14, December 14
1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546

Englewood: Thursday at 1:00 PM - March 17, June 16, September 15, December 15
1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621

Cottage Grove: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: January 25, April 26, July 26, October 25
1645 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411

Provident Hospital/Sengstacke Health Center:
Wednesday at 9:00 AM: January 28 (Friday), April 13, July 13, October 12
500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609

Blue Island: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: February 16, May 18, August 17, November 16
12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

IMPACT 2023 Focus Area 5

Community Events

As in person event participation begins to resume, Cook County Health and CountyCare will be present at events to promote the health system and the Medicaid program. Events in the month of March include the following:

- March 1 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry's Community Co-Op** which takes place at the Apostolic Faith Church located at 3823 S. Indiana in Chicago. The event is being co-hosted by Alderwoman Pat Dowell, State Representative Lamont Robinson, State Senator Mattie Hunter and Bishop Horace Smith. Besides doing promotion for Provident Hospital's medical services and CountyCare Medicaid enrollment, CCH HIV CHIP staff will conduct HIV testing. We will promote the HRSA Healthy Start Program.
- March 1 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Project Hood's Black History Month Free Breakfast & More Popup** which takes place at the New Beginnings church located at 6620 S. King Drive in Chicago.
- March 16 CountyCare promotion at the **Roseland Hospital Vaccine Clinics** which takes place at the hospital located at 45 W. 111th Street in Chicago.
- March 26 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Englewood Community Health & Resource Fair** which is hosted by BCBS and Volunteers of America and takes place at the Kennedy King College gymnasium located at 6301 S. Halsted Street in Chicago.
- March 30 CountyCare promotion at the **Roseland Hospital Vaccine Clinics** which takes place at the hospital located at 45 W. 111th Street in Chicago.

Community Newsletter, media and social media reports are attached

Legislative Update

Local

- On January 12 CCH appeared before the Cook County Health & Hospitals Committee to provide a COVID-19 and Contact Tracing Update as well as a Quarterly Report on Behavioral Health services provided by CCH by the Departments of Behavioral Health & Psychiatry, Cermak, JTDC and CCDPH.

State

- The Governor delivered his State of the State and Budget Address on February 2. The legislature had planned to return to Springfield that week, but cancelled due to the snowstorm that presented dangerous travel conditions throughout Illinois.

House and Senate leaders have said that they intend to stick with their original schedule for committee and final bill passage deadlines, with April 8 as the last day of the spring session.

- Highlights from the Governor's State of the State and Budget Address:
 - \$1.7B surplus for FY2023 – first projected surplus in over two decades
 - Creation of a new Chief Behavioral Health Officer, who will report to the Governor and coordinate services across state agencies
 - New initiatives and funding to support health care workforce including:
 - Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Work Force Program (PATH) which will provide \$25M to community colleges to support recruitment and training of high-demand health care positions, with a focus on recruiting first generation college students and persons of color
 - Increased funding for Nurse Education Scholarship Program, grants to nursing schools, nurse education fellowships
 - \$180M to preserve and grow the health care workforce, with a focus on safety net providers and providers in underserved areas of the state, through reinvestment of MCO risk corridor program
 - Waiving annual licensure fees for ~470,000 health care workers in FY2023
- Cook County Health has two primary legislative priorities in the Spring 2022 session:
 - [SB3695](#) (Sen. Jacqueline Collins) / [HB4642](#) (Rep. Robyn Gabel) – Amends the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to ensure that HIPAA protected health information is not subject to public records requests.

Status: An amendment was filed to address concerns raised by stakeholders including the Office of the Attorney General and clarifies that the bill only applies to HIPAA covered entities and information protected by HIPAA. SB3695 was heard by the Senate Executive Committee and passed out unanimously. Jeff McCutchan presented testimony on behalf of CCH. SB3695 awaits action by the full Senate.

A decision was made to only move the Senate bill, given the volume of bills being considered in the House.

- [SB3734](#) (Sen. Mattie Hunter) / [HB4645](#) (Rep. LaToya Greenwood) – Creates the Equity and Representation in Health Care Act, which authorizes a new loan repayment and scholarship program to promote greater diversity among health care providers when it comes to race, ethnicity, and other underrepresented demographics. This Act will also build and strengthen the workforce at community-based provider locations that serve a high-proportion of Medicaid and uninsured patients, specifically at FQHCs, FQHC look-alikes, and provider locations operated by CCH, including Cermak Health

Services. CCH co-leads this effort with the Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA), which represents FQHCs statewide.

Status: SB3734 was assigned to Senate Appropriations – Health, which does not currently have a posted meeting date.

HB4645 was assigned to the House Health Care Availability and Access Committee where CCH family physician Dr. Whitney Lyn testified in support of the bill and Kathy Chan answered technical questions from the committee members. HB4645 passed 12-0-0, with an agreement that an amendment would be brought back to committee to address questions and clean up technical errors. CCH is working with IPHCA and IDPH on amended language.

Other bills of interest CCH supports include:

- [HB4437](#) (Rep. Delia Ramirez) – Expands Medicaid to adults 19-54 years who have income at or below 138% FPL, regardless of immigration status. Healthy Illinois leads this effort.

Status: Assigned to Appropriations – Human Services.

- Healthy Illinois successfully advocated for coverage for immigrant adults 65+ years, which began December 2020, and coverage for those 55-64 years, which will begin no later than May 2022.

- [SB3632](#) (Sen. Doris Turner) / [HB4264](#) (Rep. Greg Harris) - Getting To Zero Omnibus, which includes a \$15M appropriations request that will support increased access to and uptake of PrEP, keep more people living with HIV in care, and continue funding for supportive services. This is an initiative of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Status: SB3632 assigned to Appropriations – Health; HB4264 assigned to Appropriations – Human Services.

- At the February 17 meeting of the Medicaid Advisory Committee’s Public Education Subcommittee, HFS shared that they expect to release communications resources that can be used by providers, MCOs, and other stakeholders to encourage Medicaid enrollees to update their addresses, in anticipation of a wind-down of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) and the restarting of Medicaid redeterminations. The federal PHE is currently scheduled to expire mid-April 2022, however, there is speculation that the PHE will be renewed at least one more time this calendar year.

HFS also anticipates that immigrants 55-64 years of age will be able to enroll before the end of May 2022 in the expanded Health Benefits for Immigrants program, which was authorized in the Spring 2021 state legislative session. The [Health Benefits for Immigrants Seniors](#) program currently in place for those 65 years and older has more than 9500 active enrollees, with nearly 70% living in Cook County.

Federal

- **Appropriations** – February saw bipartisan, bicameral progress toward resolution of the outstanding issues on FY 2022 appropriations. The Democratic and Republican leaders agreed to a framework and gave the subcommittees their revised top-line numbers, charging them with drafting the components of an omnibus bill to fund the government through the rest of the fiscal year. To give themselves the time to do that, a third CR was passed by the House on February 8, by the Senate on February 17 and signed by the President on February 18, before the second CR expired at midnight. This current stop-gap measure runs through March 11.

The Administration has begun to circulate a proposal for about \$30 billion in additional emergency supplemental spending. While details are scarce, it includes \$17.9 billion for vaccines and treatments, \$4.9 billion for testing, \$3 billion to cover COVID-19 treatment for the uninsured, and \$3.7 billion for next-gen vaccine research. Hospital organizations and other provider groups have expressed disappointment that this

new request does not appear to replenish the flexible Provider Relief Fund (PRF), nor do the public health funds appear to be targeted to local public health departments.

Along with America's Essential Hospitals and other organizations, the County is advocating that any new COVID-19 emergency supplemental appropriation include additional PRF funding and flexibility, for an orderly, and a gradual phase down of the enhanced FMAP after the end of the Public Health Emergency.

- **FY 2022 Budget and Reconciliation** – Discussions between the White House and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) are reported to be on hold for the time being. Meanwhile, Senate Democratic leaders are encouraging Senate Committee Chairs to formally markup bills with elements to the Build Back Better package that Sen. Manchin could support. These then could be repackaged into a new reconciliation that could pass the Senate with only Democratic votes. The outlook for this strategy is uncertain with a crowded Senate calendar and looming midterm elections.
- The County continues to discuss what may be possible through another legislative vehicle or a slimmed down BBB for its priorities, including:
 - **Medicaid Reentry Act:** This provision would permit Medicaid to reimburse for services provided to Cook County Jail inmates during the 30 days prior to their release.
 - **Public Health Infrastructure:** Funding to support core public health infrastructure activities to strengthen the public health system through grants to state, territorial, local, or Tribal health departments, including direct funding for large county public health departments.
 - **Maternal and Child Health:** The “Momnibus” provisions to require states to cover pregnant women for a full twelve months postpartum and make investments to reduce inequities in maternal health outcomes and strengthen the maternal health workforce.
 - **Safety-Net Hospital Infrastructure:** Grants for construction or modernization projects to increase capacity and update safety-net hospitals and other medical facilities
- **Medicare Cuts** – Hospital organizations are already calling on Congress to extend the delays enacted in early December. The legislation delayed the 2 percent cut to Medicare rates through March 2022 and a separate 4 percent Medicare cut totaling about \$36 billion to 2023.
- **Biden Administration** – In late January the Biden Administration confirmed that it had spent almost \$7 billion in PRF for providers to purchase COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics. HHS argued that this was appropriate because the vaccines and therapeutics purchased were given to providers at no cost. Together with the Trump Administration spending \$10 billion from PRF on Operation Warp Speed, nearly ten percent of the PRF was not allocated directly to hospitals and other providers.

On January 31, the FDA approved Moderna's Spikevax, while also retaining the vaccine's emergency use authorization status. Moderna is the second COVID-19 vaccine to get full FDA approval.

On February 8, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Administration's chief medical advisor, announced that the U.S. is exiting the “full-blown” pandemic phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Faucik pointed to vaccinations, medical treatments, and prior infection, as factors that would alter the situation in the coming months. He expressed the hope that all COVID-19 restrictions would be dropped in the coming months, including mandatory masking. He did, however, warn that local health departments might need to bring back some restrictions to address regional outbreaks.

On February 11, the FDA issued an EUA for a new monoclonal antibody for the treatment of COVID-19 that is effective against the omicron variant. The EUA for bebtelovimab is for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients with COVID, and who are at high risk for progression to severe

COVID-19, and for whom other FDA approved or authorized treatment options approved are not clinically appropriate or accessible.

On February 17, CMS issued a request for information (RFI) asking for input on how to increase health equity and improve reimbursement in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Programs, including how to provide consistent coverage options for eligible individuals, both during and after the COVID-19 PHE. CMS aims to improve participation and reimbursement for providers that have traditionally had low participation rates in Medicaid and CHIP.

Media Dashboard



Insights and Activity Report

January 24 – February 17, 2022



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Earned Media Dashboard: January 24 – February 17, 2022



Total Media Placements

544



Total Reach

984.2 Million People



Total Media Value

\$9.1 Million

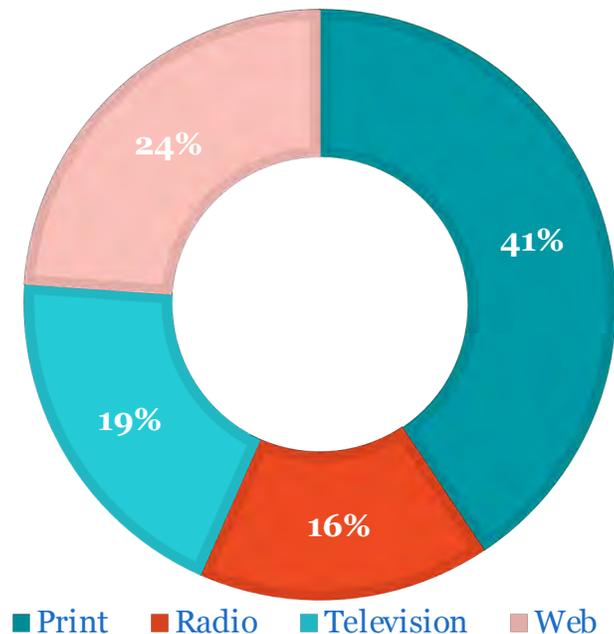
Top 5 Local Media Outlets

1. *WBBM Radio*
2. *Chicago Tribune*
3. *ABC 7 Chicago*
4. *Daily Herald*
5. *Fox 32 Chicago*



Media Dashboard: January 24 – February 17, 2022

Media Outlet Type



Most Common Topics

1. The COVID vaccine and kids
2. Provident Hospital and Dr. Daniel Hale Williams
3. Winter safety
4. Vaccine incentives
5. Mask mandate

Recent Cook County Health COVID-19 Media Coverage

18,809 Media Hits on COVID-19 since February 2020



Pfizer asks FDA to allow COVID-19 vaccine for kids under 5



Cook County Health Offers \$100 Visa Gift Card For Those Who Get COVID-19 Vaccine At Its Sites Through Sunday



Mask-optional policies questioned as children and teens lead in new Illinois COVID-19 cases



Accuracy of at-home COVID tests: Exposure to cold should not affect results, experts say



Treatment aimed at preventing COVID-19 for those at high risk now available at some Illinois hospitals



How treating long-haul COVID-19 is affecting health care resources



Distribuye Illinois pruebas caseras de Covid a las comunidades más vulnerables



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Social Media Report

January 24 – February 18, 2022



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Social Media Summary

January – February Activity

During January 24 – February 17, the communications team posted content on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn for Cook County Health.

Posts included content such as COVID-19, interviews with local media, recognition for physicians and the hospital, and health tips.

Facebook – 60 posts

<https://www.facebook.com/Cookcountyhhs/>

Instagram – 46 posts (includes stories and IGTV)

<https://www.instagram.com/cookcountyhealth/>

Twitter – 57

<https://twitter.com/CookCtyHealth>

LinkedIn – 21 posts

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/cook-county-health/>

Social Media Summary

As of February 17

Twitter

- Impressions: **24.2K** (up **12.5%**)
- Profile visits: **5.9K** (up **31.6%**)
- Mentions: **117**
- Followers: **4,416** (up **24**)

LinkedIn

- Impressions: **29.3K** (up **4%**)
- Page Views: **1.4K** (up **23%**)
- Followers: **7.5K** (up **164**)

Facebook

- Total impressions: **682K** (up **142%**)
- Post engagement: **9.7K** (up **73%**)
- Page views: **1.98K** (up **45%**)
- Page followers: **7,584** (up **67**)

Instagram

- Impressions: **61.3K** (up **122%**)
- Reach: **33.5K** (up **248%**)
- Profile visits: **552**
- Followers: **2,713** (up **25**)



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

SYSTEM NEWS

February 2022

Letter from the CEO

Dear Cook County Health Friends and Partners,

This February, Cook County Health is proud to recognize Black History Month. It is a time for us to reflect on and honor our past and look to the future as to how we as a health care institution can be a force for positive change.

A number of the nation's most renowned African American health care providers have served at Cook County Health institutions. Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, the founder of Provident Hospital, performed the first open heart surgery there while establishing a training school for Black physicians and nurses; Emma Reynolds, who worked with Dr. Hale Williams to open Provident and was enrolled in the hospital's inaugural nursing class; Dr. Austin Maurice Curtis, who was mentored by Dr. Hale Williams and went on to become the first African American surgeon at Cook County Hospital; and Dr. Leonidas Berry, a gastroenterologist who co-created the Eder-Berry Gastroscope, an instrument used to obtain tissue samples of the stomach.



They are just a few of the people whose legacies live on in what we do here at Cook County Health, ensuring access to high-quality health care for anyone who needs it, regardless of race or ability to pay. This history underscores the dedication to equity that is at the core of Cook County Health's 185-year-old mission. Today, that mission is carried on by a new generation of health care leaders. Learn more about a few of the providers serving our diverse patient population and what representation in health care means to them further down in this newsletter.

As we look to the future, we must continue to work to reduce the barriers and structural racism that have resulted in health disparities in the Black community, including the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has borne a particularly high toll on African Americans. At the system-level, these efforts are being driven by Cook County Health's newly-established Center for Health Equity and Innovation under the leadership of Shannon Andrews, the health system's inaugural Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer.

Please join us on Tuesday, February 22 as we hold a Facebook Live Event to discuss Black History Month with a number of Cook County Health providers and community partners. We will also

discuss COVID-19, vaccines and reducing hesitancy within the Black Community. You can find more details about the event below.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Israel Rocha, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Israel Rocha, Jr.
CEO

Cook County Health to Hold Virtual Town Hall to Celebrate Black History Month

COMMUNITY FORUM

Celebrating Black History Month

A Conversation with African American Leaders in Medicine

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Watch via [Cook County Health's Facebook Live](#)



Moderated by
Dr. Claudia M. Fegan, Chief Medical Officer

OPENING REMARKS BY



Toni Preckwinkle
Cook County Board President



Isreal Rocha
Chief Executive Officer



Shannon Andrews
Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer

PANELISTS



Dr. Whitney Lyn
Attending Physician VII-SC,
Family Medicine



Dr. Temitope O. Oyedele
Attending Physician VII,
Infectious Disease



Bridgette Poston, LCSW
Psychiatric Social Worker
Cottage Grove Health Center



Bishop Barry L. Tidwell
Pastor/Teacher/Visionary of
The Rain or Shine Missionary
Baptist Church, Chicago



**COOK COUNTY
HEALTH**

Cook County Health Staff Reflects on Black History

Month, Representation in Medicine



We asked several Cook County Health team members to discuss what Black History Month means to them, what inspires them, and about the importance of representation in medicine.

Check out a few of their stories by clicking the links below. Additional stories are on our social media pages.

[Errick Christian, Medical Researcher](#)

[Tracy Everett, Emergency Department Nurse](#)

[Dr. Temitope Oyedele, Infectious Disease Physician](#)

Dr. Claudia Fegan, Chief Medical Officer, Cook County Health, also spoke with the American Heart Association about the legacy of Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, a pioneering surgeon and the founder of Provident Hospital. **[Click here to read the article.](#)**

The Latest on COVID-19 with Cook County Health





COVID-19 Booster Shot Information

Cook County Health's mass vaccination sites completed a scheduled one-month run on February 13, having administered nearly 15,000 vaccines – 35 percent of which were first doses.

The sites opened in January amidst the omicron surge to respond to the increased need for vaccine access.

“We are pleased to see such a positive response during the month-long re-opening of our large-scale community vaccination sites,” said Israel Rocha, Cook County Health CEO. “During this winter’s surge, we saw an influx of people looking to get a primary vaccine or booster shot at doctors’ offices and pharmacies. These locations were inundated and many people were faced with weeks-long wait times. By opening the mass sites, which offered walk-in availability, we were able to increase access to vaccination and meet a lot of the pent-up demand we were seeing in the community.”

Cook County Health will continue to administer the COVID-19 vaccine at its community health centers, hospitals and through pop-up vaccination events. CCH’s community health centers are also distributing free high-quality KN95 masks for all, regardless of vaccination status.

More information can be found at myshotcookcounty.com or printing the fliers below.

COOK COUNTY HEALTH

GET YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE WITH COOK COUNTY HEALTH!

Free KN95 Masks!*

AGE
5+

For additional community assistance to make an appointment visit myshotcookcounty.com or call 833-308-1988

BOOSTERS
AGE
12+

Most sites offer:

<p>ARLINGTON HEIGHTS HEALTH CENTER 1330 N. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS RD., SUITE 300 ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL MONDAY-SATURDAY: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>AUSTIN HEALTH CENTER 4820 W. CHICAGO AVE CHICAGO, IL MONDAY-SATURDAY: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>BELMONT CRAGIN HEALTH CENTER 3347 W. FULLERTON AVE. CHICAGO, IL MONDAY-SATURDAY: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>BLUE ISLAND HEALTH CENTER 1270 S. WESTERN AVE. BLUE ISLAND, IL MONDAY-SATURDAY: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>COTTAGE GROVE HEALTH CENTER 1645 S. COTTAGE GROVE AVE. FORD HEIGHTS, IL MONDAY-SATURDAY: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>ENGLEWOOD HEALTH CENTER 133 W. 89TH ST. CHICAGO, IL MONDAY-SATURDAY: 7AM-6PM EVERY 3RD & 4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>MORTON EAST HEALTH CENTER 2423 S. AUSTIN BLVD. CICERO, IL MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8AM-6PM</p>	<p>NORTH RIVERSIDE HEALTH CENTER 1880 S. HARLEM AVE., SUITE A NORTH RIVERSIDE, IL MONDAY-SATURDAY: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>PRIETO HEALTH CENTER 2423 S. PULASKI RD. CHICAGO, IL MONDAY-SATURDAY: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>PROVIDENT HOSPITAL 308 E. 30TH ST., 6TH FLOOR CHICAGO, IL MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:30AM-6PM</p> <p>ROBBINS HEALTH CENTER 13450 S. KEDZIE AVE. ROBBINS, IL MONDAY, TUESDAY, FRIDAY: 8AM-6PM WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY: 8AM-6PM EVERY 1ST & 3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH: 8AM-4PM</p> <p>RUTH M. ROTHSTEIN CORE CENTER 2620 W. HARRISON ST. CHICAGO, IL MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY: 8:30AM-6PM TUESDAY: 8:30AM-5:30PM</p> <p>STROGER HOSPITAL CAFETERIA 1920 W. OGDEN AVE. CHICAGO, IL MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:30AM-6PM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #0070c0;">Clinic hours and vaccine availability are subject to change. *For all, regardless of vaccination status</p>
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COOK COUNTY HEALTH

¡VACÚNESE CONTRA EL COVID-19 EN COOK COUNTY HEALTH!

¡Mascarillas KN95 gratis!*

EDAD
5+

Para ubicaciones adicionales en la comunidad o para hacer una cita, visite myshotcookcounty.com o llame al 833-308-1988

VACUNAS DE REFORZO
EDAD
12+

La mayoría de los sitios ofrecen:

<p>CENTRO DE SALUD DE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS 1330 N. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS RD., SUITE 300 ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL LUNES - SÁBADO: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>CENTRO DE SALUD DE AUSTIN 4820 W. CHICAGO AVE. CHICAGO, IL LUNES - SÁBADO: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>CENTRO DE SALUD DE BELMONT CRAGIN 3347 W. FULLERTON AVE. CHICAGO, IL LUNES - SÁBADO: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>CENTRO DE SALUD DE BLUE ISLAND 1270 S. WESTERN AVE. BLUE ISLAND, IL LUNES - SÁBADO: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>CENTRO DE SALUD DE COTTAGE GROVE 1645 S. COTTAGE GROVE AVE. FORD HEIGHTS, IL LUNES - SÁBADO: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>CENTRO DE SALUD DE ENGLEWOOD 133 W. 89TH ST. CHICAGO, IL LUNES - SÁBADO: 7AM-6PM EL PRIMER Y CUARTO SÁBADO DEL MES: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>CENTRO DE SALUD DE MORTON EAST 2423 S. AUSTIN BLVD. CICERO, IL LUNES - VIERNES: 8AM-6PM</p>	<p>CENTRO DE SALUD DE NORTH RIVERSIDE 1880 S. HARLEM AVE., SUITE A NORTH RIVERSIDE, IL LUNES - SÁBADO: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>CENTRO DE SALUD DE PRIETO 2423 S. PULASKI RD. CHICAGO, IL LUNES - SÁBADO: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>HOSPITAL PROVIDENT 308 E. 30TH ST., 6TH FLOOR CHICAGO, IL LUNES - VIERNES: 8:30AM-6PM</p> <p>CENTRO DE SALUD DE ROBBINS 13450 S. KEDZIE AVE. ROBBINS, IL LUNES, MARTES, VIERNES: 8AM-6PM MIÉRCOLES, JUEVES: 8AM-6PM CADA PRIMER Y TERCER SÁBADO DEL MES: 8AM-6PM</p> <p>CENTRO CORE RUTH M. ROTHSTEIN 2620 W. HARRISON ST. CHICAGO, IL LUNES, MIÉRCOLES, JUEVES, VIERNES: 8:30AM-6PM MARTES: 8:30AM-5:30PM</p> <p>HOSPITAL STROGER, CAFETERIA 1920 W. OGDEN AVE. CHICAGO, IL LUNES - VIERNES: 8:30AM-6PM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #0070c0;">Los horarios de la clínica y la disponibilidad de vacunas están sujetos a cambios. *Para todos, independientemente del estado de vacunación</p>
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Keep Up to Date with Cook County Health

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, keeping on top of the latest information is

critical. Cook County Health provides the latest information as it relates to the health system, COVID-19 vaccination events, health education, and more on its social media channels:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

Save the Date: CCH Strategic Planning Town Halls

Cook County Health has begun its Strategic Planning Process for FY23-FY25. We look forward to getting feedback from the community on the health system's perceived strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities.

We will be engaging with stakeholders to assess the health system's current state and map out the road ahead through online questionnaires, meetings and virtual forums.

Please save the date for Cook County Health's upcoming community strategic planning town halls:

- Tuesday, March 1 • 6 – 7 PM (Spanish)
- Wednesday, March 2 • 6 – 7 PM
- Thursday, March 3 • 8 – 9 AM

More information about how to join the virtual town halls and the strategic planning deck will be shared soon. We look forward to your input!

Updates to CCH's Strategic Planning process can be found in the [Governance Section](#) of the CCH Website. You can read about previous strategic plans by clicking on the links, [Impact 2023](#) and [Impact 2020](#).

If you would like to share input outside of the town hall events or ask a question, please send an email to StrategicPlan@cookcountyhhs.org.



Cook County Health Creating New Belmont-Cragin Advisory Council

Cook County Health is establishing a Community Advisory Council for our new Belmont-Cragin Health Center!

Community Advisory Councils are comprised of local community leaders and patients who help keep health centers in touch with the neighborhoods they serve and provide guidance on community needs.

Each council has between 10 to 15 members and holds virtual quarterly meetings where they share input with CCH leaders and receive updates from the health system.



CCH has established Community Advisory Councils for our health centers in Arlington Heights, Blue Island, Cottage Grove, Englewood, North Riverside and Robbins and at Provident Hospital/Sengstacke Health Center.

We welcome your participation! If you would like to join a Community Advisory Council please submit an application through the application link **on CCH's community relations webpage** or by emailing Marcelino Garcia, Director of Community Affairs at **mgarcia6@cookcountyhhs.org**.

Cook County Health in the News

Chicago Tribune



ABC 7 CHICAGO

Daily Herald

Suburban Chicago's Information Source

AP Associated Press

Chicago Tribune: **Treatment aimed at preventing COVID-19 for those at high risk now available at some Illinois hospitals**

Daily Herald: **How treating long-haul COVID-19 is affecting health care resources**

ABC 7 Chicago: **Accuracy of at-home COVID tests: Exposure to cold should not affect results, experts say**

Associated Press: **Omicron surge is undermining care for other health problems**

Visit our website at [cookcountyhealth.org](https://www.cookcountyhealth.org)

If you would like to invite a representative from CCH to attend a community event, please send an email to events@cookcountyhhs.org.

To provide feedback on CCH Community News, update your contact information, or unsubscribe, please email Marcelino Garcia, Director of Community Affairs, at mgarcia6@cookcountyhhs.org.