EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

EAST CHICAGO STRONGER TOGETHER

INVESTING IN OUR KIDS – AND OUR FUTURE

As our children have found their way back into the classroom, I am challenging each one of us to become a partner in their education. There are so many ways to enrich a child, making learning easier and more rewarding for them in the process.

Volunteer to read to a child — in your neighborhood or in a neighborhood that has fewer adult mentors. Just as valuable is listening to a child read, especially for those who find reading particularly challenging or don't have the confidence to read out loud.

What about taking the skills you used in a career to mentor children for the jobs of tomorrow. Those who can mentor children in real life careers such as science, technology, engineering and math — known today as STEM — are in high demand.

Just look at the success of our Science in the Parks program, where students get to be a scientist for the day, thanks to Ivy Tech and other program partners. See Page 3 for details.



Mayor Anthony Copeland hands out books to students at Carrie Gosch Elementary School.
[Steve Segura photo]

If you paint, dance, play an instrument or sing, your talents are just as valuable for children aching to find a creative outlet.

If you have an hour to dedicate to a child in our city, we can find a way to partner for the betterment of our kids.

And as you consider your gift to the leaders of tomorrow, please join me in wishing our students the very best in the upcoming academic year.

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago

DO YOUR PART – GET THE SHOT!

State stats show East Chicago residents are lagging when it comes to COVID-19 vaccines. So far, four out of five eligible residents are unvaccinated while the number of new COVID cases continues to rise.

If you haven't been vaccinated, East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland asks that you get the shot — unless cautioned otherwise by your physician.

Eligible Residents
21,050

Fully Vaccinated
41.3% as of Sept. 13

Visit **ourshot.in.gov** to schedule yours!



VACCINES *Save Lives*

East Chicago COVID-19 numbers are on the move again – in the wrong direction.

Following cautious exuberance in June when numbers trended lower, Health Department Director Diana Garcia-Burns said a mutation of the virus – known as Delta – is causing an uptick in cases with the latest strain more contagious in younger individuals than was the virus we came to know in 2020.

What residents are missing is the need for more of the population to get vaccinated.

"Everyone should get a vaccine, but 60 percent of the population isn't listening," Garcia-Burns said. "We are seeing vaccine refusers in other parts of the country say – with their dying breaths – they wish they had gotten the shot when they had the chance. I don't want that to be our residents. Until all of us get the shot, we are going to see people die decades before their time because they never thought this virus would get them."

41.3%

Vaccination rate in East Chicago

Determined by vaccinated persons over city population

54%

Vaccination rate in Indiana

Determined by vaccinated persons over state population

.17%

Positivity rate in East Chicago

Determined by positive cases September 6-13) over population



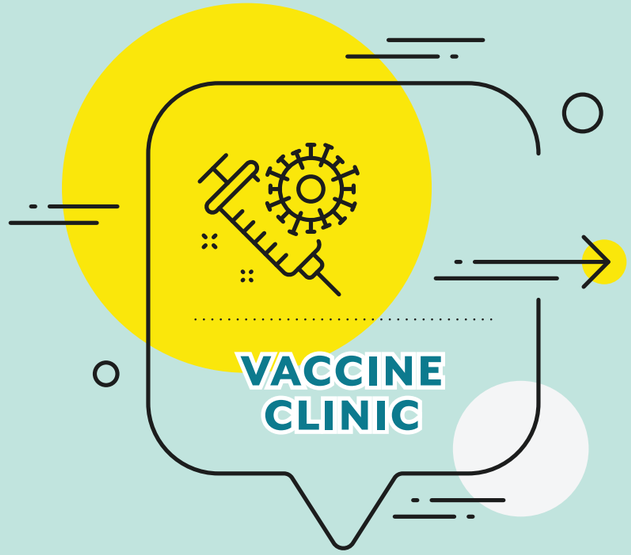
KIDS & VACCINES

Parents and guardians are encouraged to vaccinate children – ages 12 and older – against COVID-19.

The vaccine works much like other vaccines your child or teen may have had. In a COVID-19 infection, the virus invades and multiplies inside the body. The vaccine stops this by teaching the immune system to recognize and make antibodies to fight the virus.

Individuals who receive the vaccine are less likely to get COVID-19. If infected, they are less likely to become seriously ill. The Pfizer vaccine is available for children 12 and older at the East Chicago Health Department.

VIGILANT VACCINATORS: Did you know? About 203 million people (61.1 percent) have received at least one dose and more than 172.2 million people (51.9 percent) have gotten both doses.



TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
9-11:45 A.M. AND 1-4 P.M.

SECOND & FOURTH SATURDAYS
8 AM.-NOON

EAST CHICAGO HEALTH DEPARTMENT

100 W. Chicago Avenue

The East Chicago Health Department is administering the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, which are available to all Indiana residents 12 years and older with parent or guardian present. No appointment necessary, but highly recommended.

INFO: Please call the Nursing Division at (219) 391-8258 for availability.

HOMEBOUND PROGRAM

The East Chicago Health Department will provide home vaccination visits for those individuals who are homebound. Please call the Nursing Division at (219) 391-8258 to see if you qualify and schedule an appointment.

POP-UP EVENTS

The East Chicago Health Department will be hosting pop-up vaccinations sites at local venues, including churches, parks, laundry mats, grocery stores and bars. Here's what's next:

SEPTEMBER 30

IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
410 East Columbus Drive

COVID-19 vaccinations will be administered from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please visit the East Chicago Health Department online at **eastchicago.com** for the latest updates.

COVID-19 TESTING

EAST CHICAGO HEALTH DEPARTMENT
100 W. Chicago Avenue

No ID or license required. Get results in two to seven business days. Please note: Vaccinations are first come, first served. Online appointments are not given priority. Please remain in line.

INFO: A complete list of vaccination clinics and testing sites is available at **ourshot.in.gov.**



DELTA DOMINATES: Based on an analysis of specimens collected in the two weeks ending Aug. 21, the CDC estimates the delta variant accounts for more than 99 percent of all U.S. COVID-19 cases.

SCIENCE IN THE PARK







SCIENTISTS FOR A DAY: East Chicago students grades 1-6 were treated to a starter course in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) at Washington Park this summer while immersed in the science of nature all around them. Parks and Recreation Director Vanessa Hernandez Orange said the pilot program, led by partner Ivy Tech Community College, has inspired additional courses that will be held at other parks throughout the city. "Students experience being a scientist for a day – engaging in challenging science experiments, completing engineering activities and having fun with robotics," Spark Consulting Group President Angie Williams said. Partners in summer STEM include Ivy Tech Community College Lake County Campus, the City of East Chicago, School City of East Chicago, Spark Consulting Group and the Foundations of East Chicago. [Steve Segura photos]



KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS

Herlinda Soriano was the young mother of three boys — the youngest just an infant — when she spotted an ad from East Chicago police looking for relief school crossing guards at a time when she desperately needed a job.

The year: 1980. She filled in and became a permanent full-time guard a year later. Soriano has been a much-recognized figure, safely crossing children to and from school for more than 40 years. She couldn't imagine it any other way.

"From the first day, I loved this job," Soriano said. "I don't think of it like a job anymore, though. It's my opportunity to interact with students and their parents, working to keep them safe. I couldn't imagine my life without it."

Police Chief Hector Rosario said the department relies on 30 guards to keep kids safe to and from school.

"Crossing guards are a vital component of our department," Rosario said. "We value each and every one of them. Herlinda is a shining example of the best of what we do."



[SAFELY SHARING THE ROAD]

School days bring congestion: School buses are picking up their passengers, kids on bikes are hurrying to get to school before the bell rings, harried parents are trying to drop their kids off before work. It's never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present – especially before and after school:

- Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign
- In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection

FARMERS MARKET

Juicy tomatoes, sweet peppers, crisp cucumbers, summer squash — and more — are available by local farmers selling their organic produce and eggs right here in East Chicago. Lake County Eats Local accepts SNAP. COVID-19 rules will be strictly enforced.

When: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, September 25
Where: 2301 East Columbus Drive (Public Safety Building)
Info: lakecountyeatslocal.org

BASKETBALL CAMP

Introduce your child – Grades 1 through 6 – to basketball. COVID-19 precautions will be in place. Masks are required.

When: September 28-29
Grades 1-3: 4-5:30 p.m.
Grades 4-6: 5:30-7 p.m.
Where: Heritage Hall, 4506 Tod Avenue
Info: Call Parks & Recreation at (219) 391-8474 to register.

CURBSIDE MARKET

The East Chicago Curbside Market, which distributes organic produce grown right here in East Chicago along with food donated by Catholic Charities and the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana.

When: 1-3:30 p.m. Thursdays. Lineup starts at 12:15 p.m. – distribution at 1:30 p.m.
Where: Roundabout outside the park office, 1615-142nd
Info: Call Parks & Recreation at (219) 391-8474.

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