



August 10, 2022

Special Announcement

BORN THIS WAY/ FOUNDATION

MAHA has been selected in the inaugural cohort of Born This Way Foundation's **Kindness in Community Fund** recipients!

Born This Way Foundation, co-founded and led by Lady Gaga and her mother, Cynthia Germanotta, supports youth mental health and works with young people to build a kinder and braver world.



Through this generous funding, we will aim to:

- Enhance access to affirming, culturally sensitive, and multilingual services for LGBTQIA+ AAPI youth
- Decrease stigma associated with LGBTQIA+ AAPI youth
- Decrease the stigma associated with mental health in our community
- Provide safe and affirming spaces for youth
- Promote awareness of mental health in LGBTQIA+ AAPI youth through social media

[Read more about Born This Way Foundation here!](#)

Upcoming Events



Instagram Live!

- Thursday, August 11th from 11:30 AM to 12 PM
- Location: Virtual through Instagram [@scy_chicago](https://www.instagram.com/scy_chicago)

BPNC Summer Playstreets

School Bash

- Friday, August 12th from 10 AM to 1 PM
- Location: Columbia Explorers
- Address: 4520 S Kedzie Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632

Let's Explore!

- Friday, August 19th from 10 AM to 1 PM
- Location: Nathan Davis Elementary
- Address: 3014 W 39th Pl, Chicago, IL 60632
- ***This is the last Playstreet event, make sure to come!***

Vaccination Event

- Sunday, August 21st from 10:00 AM - 1 PM
- Location: MAHA Aurora Office
- Address: 1720 N Randall Road, Aurora, IL
- **Registration optional (walk-ins welcome):** call 312-225-8708 or [here](#)

Community Health Screening

- Saturday, August 27th @ 8:00am
- Location: MAHA Chinatown Office
- Address: 230 W. Cermak Rd 2nd Fl Chicago, IL 60616

Contact info@maha-us.org if you would like more info on any event!



Monkeypox Declared a Public Health Emergency in Illinois

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker on Monday declared monkeypox a public health emergency, classifying the state as a "disaster area" in regards to the disease.

[Read more](#)
www.nbcchicago.com

As of August 2nd, 520 monkeypox virus (MPV) cases have been reported in the state of Illinois. Governor Pritzker has **declared MPV a public health emergency**, and with such declaration allows Illinois to more easily secure MPV vaccines. While current vaccine supplies are low, Chicago Department of Public Health expects to increase supply to ensure all who want the vaccine can access it.

Some **symptoms to watch out for include:** swollen lymph nodes, fever, aches, and rashes on the face and body. Reminder that anyone is at risk, MPV does not target nor discriminate.

MPV transmission occurs primarily from close physical contact with MPV sores, items that have been contaminated with fluids or sores, or through respiratory droplets. At the moment, vaccine eligibility is limited to those with (1) close physical contact with someone diagnosed with MPV in the last 14 days or (2) a sexual partner diagnosed with MPV in the last 14 days. With assistance from Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), Illinois Department of Public Health can expand vaccine and testing capacities.



National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month! Are you up to date with your immunization? MAHA regularly holds vaccination events and all are welcome to receive Influenza (flu) vaccinations, Hepatitis A & B vaccinations, and COVID-19 vaccines (including boosters)! Learn more about vaccines, vaccine myths, and how to sign up for these events [here!](#)



Critics say 'monkeypox' is a racist name

Nearly seven weeks after the World Health Organization said it will change the name of the monkeypox disease, agreeing with scientists who called it "discriminatory and stigmatizing," the controversial label doesn't seem to be going anywhere.

[Read more
www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)

Navigator Q&A: Official Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP)

While the Official Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP) is still scheduled to begin on November 1st, many Illinoisians are still eligible to receive a subsidized health insurance plan by qualifying for the Marketplace's Special Enrollment Period (SEP). Beyond specific life events, such as losing employer-based coverage or adding a new family member, residents may also qualify based on the income guidelines determined by the SEP. These guidelines can be found in the chart on the right:

If you or a loved one can get covered under this program or you would like to know more, please contact [Frank Li](#) or [Andrew Piotrowski](#), or call us at **312-225-8659**

MAHA offers enrollment services in **English, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Spanish.**

OEP Guidelines:

Household Size	Annual Household Income
1	\$19,320
2	\$26,130
3	\$32,940
4	\$39,750
5	\$46,560

Charlotte Wong moved from Hong Kong to Chicago in 2019 to attend Northwestern University where she is currently a rising senior studying social policy, global health, and data science.

This summer she has been working as an intern for the Region 8 COVID-19 vaccine education and outreach program at MAHA and has enjoyed getting to know community members directly through her work. Charlotte believes in the importance of accessibility to health information. At MAHA, she works on creating educational and outreach materials that are both culturally and linguistically competent to ensure access among minority communities. After graduation, she hopes to obtain her Master's in Public Health and continue to develop a career in public health, working at the city, county, or community level.



In between her studies and internship, Charlotte is active and loves exploring the city. She likes to play frisbee, swim, or go boxing. She also attends classical music concerts with her friends, longboards around campus, or reads on the train as she commutes around the city looking for delicious restaurants.

Midwest Asian Health Association
[Visit our Site](#)

