Long-Duration Winter Weather Threat

January 31, 2022
3:11 PM

Tuesday, February 1 to Thursday, February 3, 2022

Key Messages

➔ Two rounds of winter weather are expected to impact part of our area this week

- **Round 1:** Tuesday night - Wednesday AM
- **Round 2:** [Lower Confidence] Wednesday Night - Thursday. This may set up more across central IL.

Snow intensity should briefly diminish between the two rounds

➔ Confidence in **significant snowfall totals (over 7”)** from **Round 1** is increasing, especially for areas near and south of a Pontiac - Kankakee - Valparaiso line

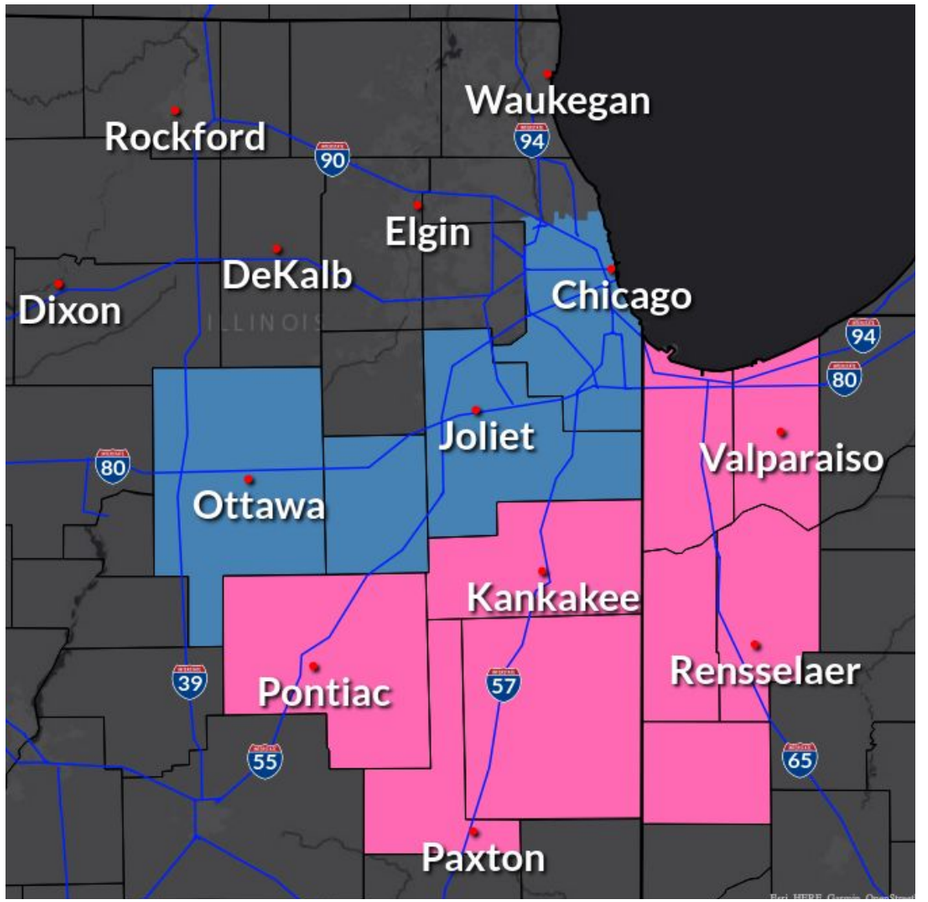
➔ Amounts expected to decrease as you head north and west

NEW Important Updates

➔ **Winter Storm Warnings** have been issued for parts of the area

Next Scheduled Briefing

➔ By 6 AM CST on 2/1



Winter Storm Warnings (Pink)
Winter Storm Watches (Blue)

Round 1: Tuesday Night - Wednesday AM

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Confidence in Significant Snow Totals Increasing

Timing:
Rain will develop Tuesday afternoon, change to snow after sunset, and taper towards noon on Wednesday.

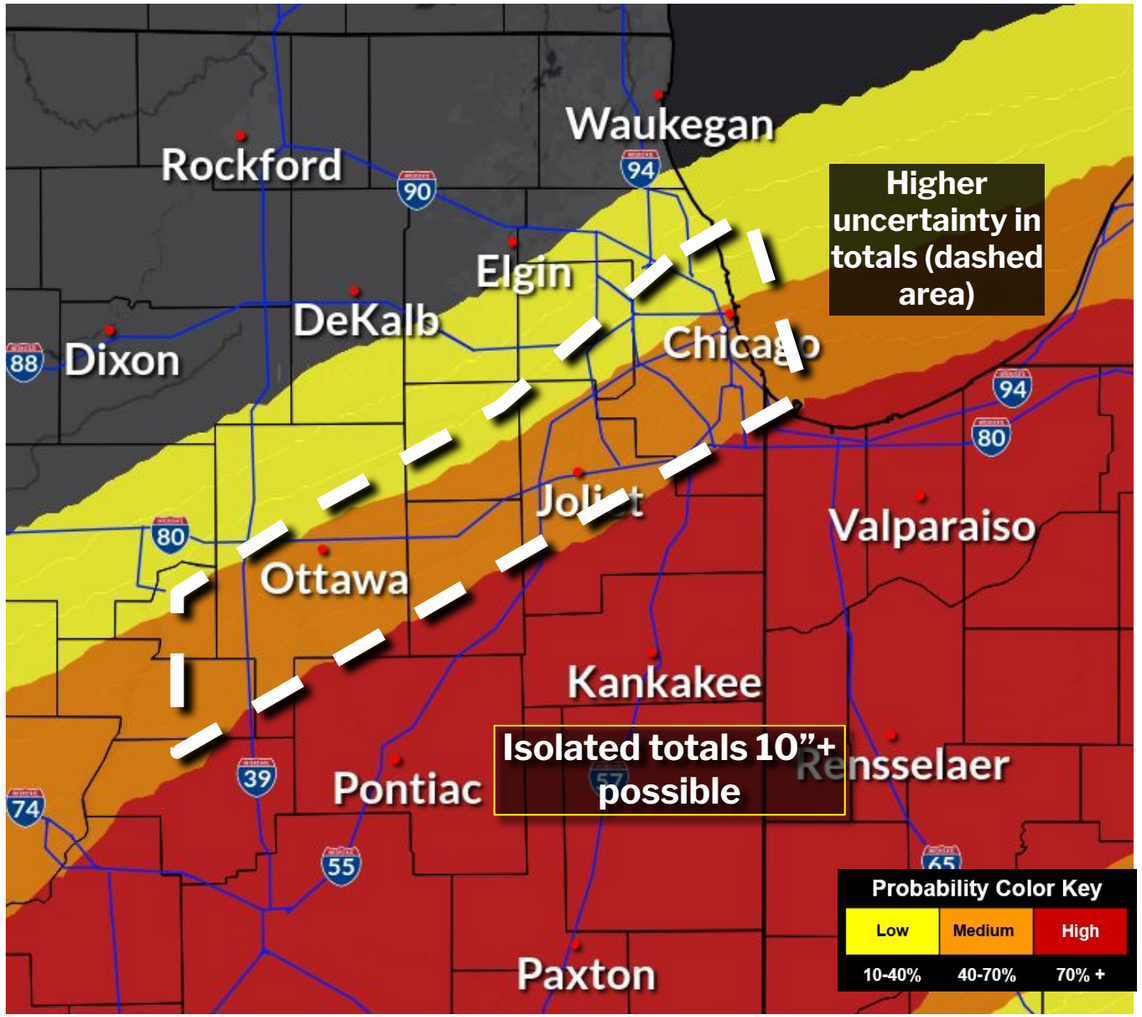
Snow Rates:
Steady between 0.5 and 0.75”/hr. **Rates >1”/hr possible ~ 4 - 10 AM.**

Temperatures and snow “type”:
Upper 20s to lower 30s leading to a wetter/heavier snow (ratios around 10:1)

Snow Totals:
Confidence in snow totals > 6” is highest in the red-shaded area.

What are the lingering uncertainties?
Snow gradient near an Ottawa - Joliet - Chicago line.

Chance for > 6” of snow



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National Weather Service
Chicago, Illinois

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Round 2: Wednesday night to Thursday Mid-day

Storm track remains uncertain!

Heaviest snow could set up near/south of Kankakee River Valley.

Snow Rates:

~0.5”/hr. Locally up to 1”/hr. Additional snow totals >4-5” possible (in red shared area)

Temperatures and snow “type”:

Upper teens to low 20s, with snow ratios near 11-13:1

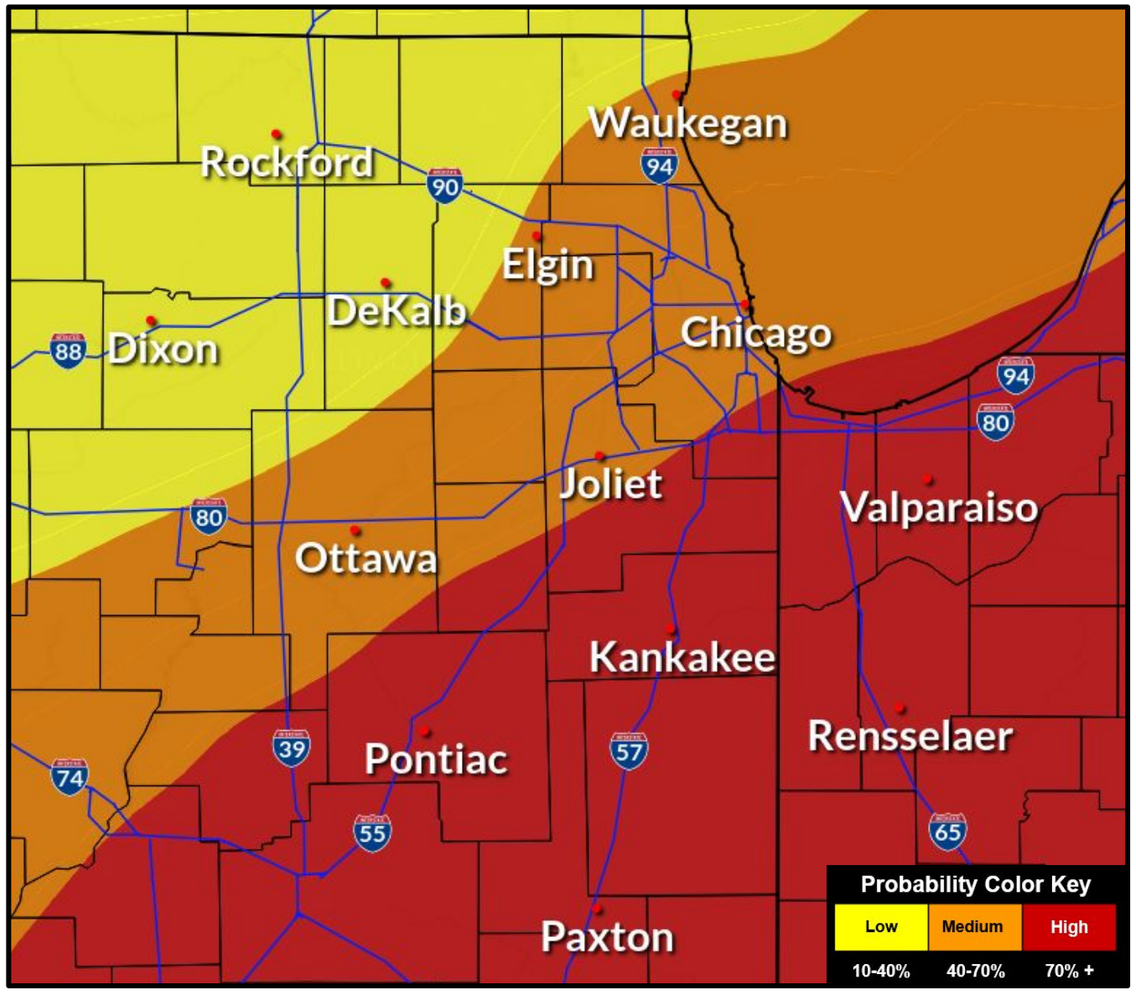
Some Uncertainty North:

Sharp cut-off again along northwest side - *will be tighter than shown on map.*

What can go wrong in our forecast?

Path of 2nd wave may track further southeast than currently expected, and miss our area entirely.

Chance of > 4” of snow



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Additional Considerations

Additional Notes:

- ➔ Low-intensity snow will “bridge the gap” between the two rounds of snow, with rates up to 0.25”/hr.
- ➔ Gusty northeast winds of 25 to 30 mph will lead to pockets of blowing snow particularly Thursday afternoon even though snow won’t be overly powdery.
- ➔ Modest lake enhancement may occur in Cook county, IL, but set-up is not as favorable as previous winter storms.



Photo: Kik Gunnar Zinj

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Additional Resources

Additional Resources:

[Winter Weather Safety and Preparedness]
[Winter Weather Liaison Webpage]
[Graphical Hazardous Weather Outlook]
[NWS Chicago Headline Criteria]

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Five Reminders for Winter Weather Forecasting

