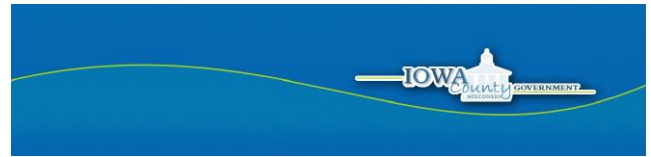


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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN

COVID 19 Case Update and a Message to Keep up Protective Measures

Iowa County – The Iowa County Health Department announces one additional lab confirmed cases of COVID 19 in an Iowa County resident. This brings the total number of positive cases to 15. The recent case is an individual between the ages of 18 and 25 who is isolated at home. Iowa County Health Department has contact with all confirmed cases and reaches out to those who may have had close contact to each confirmed case. The Health Department assists in actively monitoring their health while they are under quarantine.

All social interaction has some level of risk for contracting COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself and others is to continue maintaining your physical distance from others, stay away from large groups, stay home when you are sick, wash your hands, and please wear a cloth face covering. People need to know the risks and balance those with the benefits to make the best decision for their families. But in all cases, people should understand their personal responsibility to not unknowingly spread infection to someone else.

We know that people are venturing back out into the community and we want to reiterate that the protective measures listed above remain critical. “We know it’s been a long haul and that people want to move on to “normal” but we must move ahead slowly and safely”, says Debbie Siegenthaler, Iowa County Health Department Director. COVID-19 doesn't spread itself. People spread it. We don't have a cure or a vaccine yet. Our best tool is isolation for those we know are sick and physically distancing ourselves from others. Each of us represents an opportunity to interrupt the transmission of this virus. “Cases in Iowa County have ticked up this week and it reminds us that it is critical to continue to be vigilant with our prevention measures”, added Siegenthaler.

A critical message to reinforce is that this virus is very efficient at finding people to infect. As a result, anytime people come together, the virus has a chance to spread. A question we have been getting is planning for summer events, including large gatherings such as weddings or graduations. At this time, large gatherings are advised against. Public health experts agree that large gatherings of people in sustained, close contact greatly increases the risk for spread of the virus among those who attend the events and to the communities these individuals return to after the event. The communal nature of such events makes it especially challenging to accommodate the physical distancing and sanitation recommendations required to slow the spread of disease.

The Iowa County Health Department recommends you not engage in public or private gatherings of people indoors of more than 10 people and outdoors of more than 25 people. This recommendation will change as we move forward and monitor criteria to include (but not limited to) such things as a sustained downward trajectory of positive cases as a percent of total tests, robust health system capacity, and adequate management of outbreaks. As we progress, the recommended maximum size of gatherings will also increase. In terms of planning events for this summer or fall, the best guidance is to *proceed with caution*. Begin with asking how you will ensure accommodate physical distancing and sanitation recommendations required to slow the spread of disease. Also

consider attendees who are high risk, such as grandparents or those with chronic medical conditions. They should not be asked to choose between putting their health at risk or missing an important memory. Wherever possible, we urge event organizers to host virtual or other non-contact events that can build the same sense of community and celebration.

Recently added resources on the Iowa County website.

<https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>

Business Toolkit

Reopening Guidance

Reduce Risk of Exposure and Transmission

Additional resources:

CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

Case Update

15 Positive Test Results in Iowa County
1,062 Negative Test Results in Iowa County
11 Recovered
17,707 Positive Test Results in Wisconsin
233,588 Negative Test Results in Wisconsin
2,499 (14%) Hospitalizations
568 Deaths in Wisconsin

For a broader picture of the number of cases and additional detail see

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm>

Important Sources of Information

- **211 Wisconsin** is an easy and helpful resource for COVID 19 questions. Simply call 211 from your phone <https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/>
- For localized information:

Please monitor the following Social Media sites:

Iowa County Public Health on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/iowacountyhealthdepartment/>

Upland Hills Health on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/UplandHillsHealthHospital/>

Iowa County Emergency Management on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/ICEMWI>

Iowa County Emergency Management on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/icemwi/>

Monitor the following websites:

Iowa County COVID 19 <https://www.iowacounty.org/>

Upland Hills Health <https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information/>

WI Department of Health Services (DHS) <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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