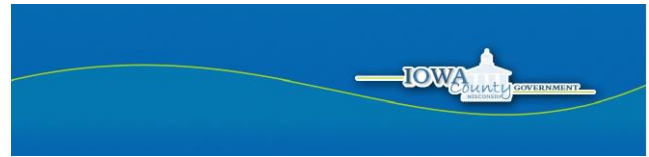


## IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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[www.iowacounty.org](http://www.iowacounty.org)

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**March 24, 2020 5:50pm**

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For Immediate Release

### **Iowa County Health Department**

*Director/Health Officer Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN*

### **COVID-19 Update Case Number Update in Iowa County**

**Iowa County** – Iowa County Health Department announces that the current number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Iowa County is now three (3). All three cases are young people ages 24-26 and are at home under self-isolation. None of the cases are hospitalized. We have determined that one case did have contact with a known positive case of COVID 19.

The Iowa County Health Department wants to remind residents that we expect to see an increase in cases in the coming days and weeks. Although there are 3 cases of confirmed COVID-19 in Iowa County as of 5:00 pm, March 24, we should assume there are undiagnosed cases of COVID-19 in our community. We are learning more every day about this virus and it is becoming clearer that people are likely unknowingly transmitting the virus to others even if they are not exhibiting symptoms. This highlights the critical importance that people do their part in the **#Safer at Home** Order issued today by Governor Evers.

Iowa County Public Health will post updated COVID-19 test counts and results for Iowa County residents on its website (<https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>) each day starting today Tuesday, March 24, 2020. These results will be updated daily at approximately 4:00 pm.

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#### **Current Status**

- Iowa County positive cases: 3
- Iowa County samples submitted for testing: Approximately 67 county-wide
- Iowa County percent of tests completed: Approximately 80%
- Wisconsin positive cases: 457 (32 counties)
- Wisconsin deaths: 5
- High-Risk populations: 60 years and older, underlying medical conditions

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#### **What does #SaferAtHome mean to me and my family?**

[Gov. Evers Directs DHS to Issue Safer at Home Order](#) — March 24, 2020

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- We know that it has been difficult and that the social distancing we are asking for has disrupted the lives of people. Issuing a #SaferAtHome order isn't something the State of Wisconsin thought it would have to do, and it's not something taken lightly. The bottom line is that everyone needs to start taking this pandemic seriously. People across our state

are still out and about and unnecessarily putting our friends, our neighbors, and our communities at risk. Please #StayHome and help us save lives.

- Safer at Home means that all individuals present within the State of Wisconsin are ordered to stay at home or at their place of residence, with exceptions outlined below. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces other than their home or residence, they must at all times as reasonably possible maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet from any other person consistent with Social Distancing Requirements as defined below, except that they do not need to maintain social distancing between family members in a single living unit or household members.
- People may leave their homes or residences only for the following, which are defined in the Order:
  - Essential Activities
  - Essential Governmental Functions
  - To operate Essential Businesses and Operations
  - To perform non-essential Minimum Basic Operations
  - Essential Travel
  - Special Situations
- Social Distancing Requirements includes maintaining social distancing of six (6) feet between people; washing hands with soap and water for at least 15-20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer; covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands); regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces; not shaking hands; and following all other public health recommendations issued by DHS and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.
- Outdoor activity, including but not limited to visiting public and state parks, walking, biking, hiking, and running, is allowed and encouraged provided individuals comply with social distancing requirements—it's good exercise and it's good for everyone's mental health. Individuals may not engage in team or contact sports such as by way of example and without limitation, basketball, ultimate frisbee, soccer, or football, as these activities do not comply with Social Distancing Requirements. Playgrounds are closed.
- Travel is prohibited unless Essential, and all travel must comply with social distancing requirements. Essential Travel:
  - Any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Activities, Special Situations, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Businesses and Operations, or Minimum Basic Operations.
  - Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.
  - Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, or any other related services.
  - Travel to return to a place of residence from outside the jurisdiction. e. Travel required by law enforcement or court order, including to transport children pursuant to a custody agreement.
  - Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside Wisconsin
    - In the exceptional circumstance that a business is not listed in this Order as an Essential Business or Operations but believes that it should be included in that designation, the business should consult the information

page on the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) website, here: [www.wedc.org/essentialbusiness](http://www.wedc.org/essentialbusiness)

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## Announcements

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- **Self-Care:** residents who are not critically ill, should stay home and manage their symptoms.
- **Upland Hills Health Hospital and Clinics:** [Temporary Changes at UHH Family Medicine Clinics](#) [New appointment procedures...](#) [Clinic closings](#)
  - **Effective 3/25-** No visitors for hospital patients, with exceptions for labor & delivery support, parent/guardian of minor patient, and end-of-life.
- **Community Donations:** Please bring your new, unused PPE to the Iowa County Health & Human Services building between the hours of 8am and 8pm. These items will be used to keep our frontline health care workers safe!

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