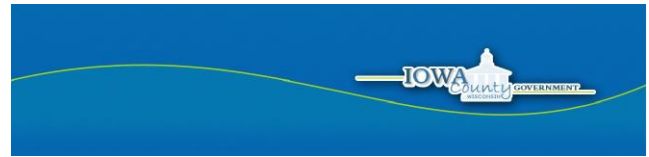


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Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN

COVID-19 Update *Confirmed Case in Iowa County*

Iowa County – Iowa County Health Department announces that there is one (1) confirmed case of COVID-19 in Iowa County. This individual is a 26 year old female with recent travel to Dane County who is not hospitalized. The individual has been home and under self-quarantine since returning to Iowa County and has had no known contact with a COVID 19 case.

“We are in frequent contact with this individual to monitor their symptoms and ensure they are receiving support to be able to isolate at home,” said Debbie Siegenthaler, Iowa County Health Officer.

Iowa County Public Health is aggressively monitoring this outbreak and investigating potential cases in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). These actions include:

- Identifying and contacting anyone who has been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19. These individuals are asked to quarantine themselves for 14 days from their exposure and will be monitored for fever and respiratory symptoms
- Determining when a person can be released from isolation
- Providing guidance to clinicians regarding testing
- Preparing Iowa County for community spread of COVID-19

We are working with our local, state, and federal partners to deal quickly and effectively when people are diagnosed with COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have been around people have been infected with the coronavirus.

Although this is the first diagnosed case of COVID-19 in Iowa County, it is very likely that there are other people in our community with the illness who have not been diagnosed, and may not be tested. “The vast majority of people who have COVID-19 will get better on their own at home,” said Siegenthaler. “Most people will NOT receive a test, so it is vital that each of us practice common sense measures to avoid getting sick or spreading the virus.” These measures include:

- Frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water
- Cover coughs and sneezes

- Avoid touching your face
- Stay home when sick
- Practice social distancing (at least 6 feet away from other people)
- Staying at home and only going out for essential activities
- Clean and disinfect all frequently-touch surfaces

If you have been in contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, you should do the following:

1. Monitor yourself for symptoms for 14 days (fever greater than 100.4 degrees and/or cough)
2. Maintain social distancing (6 feet from other people)

If you have or develop symptoms (fever over 100.4 degrees and/or cough):

1. Monitor your symptoms
2. Isolate yourself at home
3. Maintain social distancing within your home of at least 6 feet between people
4. If your symptoms worsen (difficulty breathing or other severe symptoms) call you healthcare provider
5. You must stay home and socially distance yourself (6 feet) from other people until you have no fever for 72 hours (without the aid of medication), **AND**
6. Other symptoms have improved
7. **AND**
8. Seven (7) days have passed since your symptoms first appeared

All people who may have had contact with the person who has confirmed COVID-19 will be contacted directly by the Iowa County Health Department.

“Iowa County Health Department is ready to deal with an increased number of cases in our community. We will continue to work with DHS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and our local partners to make sure our community remains safe and healthy,” said Debbie Siegenthaler, Iowa County Health Officer.

Statement from our important partner Upland Hills Health in Dodgeville:

In response to the announcement that Iowa County confirmed its first case of COVID-19, President and CEO of Upland Hills Health in Dodgeville expressed confidence in hospital staff and the planning that the organization has made to prepare for this pandemic.

“We believed this day would come,” remarked Schnedler, “which is why we have been working tirelessly in recent weeks to make dramatic changes to services and clinic procedures. All of these precautions are being taken to protect members of our community from potential exposure, and to protect and prepare our staff to manage COVID-19 cases. I have a great deal of confidence in our ability as an organization to respond, and in our staff’s ability to provide extraordinary care as we battle this pandemic.”

This is a rapidly evolving situation. For the latest information, visit the [CDC's website](#) or the [DHS website](#).

For the latest information about COVID-19 in Iowa County please visit
<https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>

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