

IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

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COVID 19 Update, Recent Increase in Cases

Iowa County – The Health Department announces two additional lab confirmed case of COVID 19 in Iowa County residents. This brings the total number of positive cases to 27. The most recent cases are individuals between the ages of 15 and 25. The new cases are close contacts of two different persons with COVID 19 (in and outside of Iowa County) and both are currently isolating at home. The 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.

“Nine cases have been reported in approximately one week, which is a concerning uptick in case numbers”, says Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department. “The increase in Iowa County cases, combined with the significant increase in cases in neighbor counties should heighten everyone’s awareness”.

We look carefully at the data our case investigations reveal to identify concerning trends or information. On June 18, Iowa County had a case count of 18 and today, June 26, the positive case count is 27 cases. The ages of these cases range from persons in their teens to age 60. Four of the cases have been asymptomatic while five have exhibited mild to moderate symptoms, none have been hospitalized. Similarly, four of the cases cannot identify how they became infected, and five are close contacts to positive COVID 19 individuals (in and outside of Iowa County). One case is associated with a facility outbreak in a neighbor county. Recent cases have occurred in multiple zip codes across the county and are not located in one single city or village. An important point to take away is that this virus is circulating widely in our county. We are experiencing an uptick in cases just as our neighbor counties are. Community spread is happening locally and everywhere around us.

The Health Department is urging residents to be aware and vigilant. If/when you venture out to get gas or groceries or go to work, you must assume you may come into contact with a person or a high touch surface (door handle, shopping cart etc) that has coronavirus. We urge residents to limit exposure to large groups of people for a sustained duration. Keep your social circles small. Stay home if you are sick. Practice diligence with social distancing and hand hygiene and please wear a cloth face covering if you are out among people. Wearing a cloth face covering is an important step we can all take to protect others from our germs. It is an act of kindness to your neighbors and is strongly recommended. We would be sincerely heartened to see everyone follow this recommendation. We ask you to consider your personal responsibility to not unknowingly spread infection to someone else. Additionally, if you are high risk (60 years and older or have a chronic medical condition or compromised immune status) please take extra precautions to reduce your exposure.

The Iowa County Health Department currently recommends residents not engage in public or private gatherings of people indoors of more than 10 people and outdoors of more than 25 people. In terms of planning your weekends or future summer events, the best guidance is to *proceed with caution*. Begin with asking how many you plan to gather with, how you plan to ensure physical distancing and sanitation and other protective measure

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. See the Iowa County website for [Guidance on Gatherings](#)

New cases will continue to be reflected on our Iowa County Health Department Facebook page each day (Monday through Friday). The State of Wisconsin [DHS website](#), will continue to be updated each afternoon with county specific numbers. Going forward, we will not be conveying each positive case through a press release unless we are experiencing rapid or concerning changes in our metrics. All positive cases will continue to be reported to the state and followed up on as they have been. We have developed, through our Iowa County COVID 19 Dashboard, a multi-level way to monitor the picture in our county. Be sure to check out the COVID 19 Dashboard on our website. Check out the DHS website for more information <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases-map.htm>

Case Update

Iowa County

27 Positives
2,238 Negatives
16 Recovered

Wisconsin

26,747 Positives
507,168 Negatives
3,351 Hospitalized
766 Deaths

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/>
- **Recently added /updated resources on the Iowa County website.** <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>
 - Mass Gathering Guidance
 - Business Toolkit
 - Reopening Guidance
 - Reduce Risk of Exposure and Transmission
- **Additional resources:**
CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

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/>
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>