

IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

303 W. Chapel Street
Suite 2200
Dodgeville, WI 53533-1314

Phone: (608) 930-9870
Fax: (608) 937-0501



www.iowacounty.org

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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN

COVID 19 Update: Cases Continue to Increase

Iowa County – The Health Department announces the current COVID 19 confirmed case count in Iowa County is 37. Our most recent cases represent the full age spectrum including individuals in their 20s, those age 60 and older as well as age 18 and younger. 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.

“The steady increase of cases in Iowa County is a concern we all must pay attention to”, says Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department. Summer is a time of gathering but we are all aware that this summer of 2020 is a different situation. We continue to urge everyone to use good sense when making decisions. Keep your social circles small. Practice diligence with social distancing and hand hygiene and please wear a cloth face covering if you are out among people. Please do not host large parties or gatherings as it adds to this virus’s opportunity to spread. While most of us will do fine and recover, please keep in mind those who are vulnerable or who may have a bad outcome if they get COVID 19. We all play a critical role in keeping friends, neighbors, loved ones and vulnerable residents safe and healthy.

Iowa County Dashboard Metrics: *What's new from last week?*

Epidemiology: The metric remains green, however, our case positivity rate continues to notch up each week. Our case rate has notably increased significantly over the past few weeks. We are averaging slightly above one new case each day with 15 positives in the last 14 days. The Outbreak metric changed from red to yellow.

Healthcare Status: Testing rate remains green with an average of near 49 tests being done each day.

Public Health Status: Community spread metric remains red as 46% of cases over the last 14 days have no known exposure to coronavirus. Our contact tracing and lab reporting timeliness metric remains green. Successful containment requires several components. Lab results must be reported to the Health Department in a timely manner. The Health Department must be able to reach positive cases in a timely manner. Success additionally requires community members have the necessary contact with public health.

Emergency Management: Remains green

Iowa County status has been elevated to a HIGH activity level <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm>
Diligence is as important now as ever in following recommendations to physically distance, wash hands often, clean and disinfect high touch surfaces, stay home if ill, wear a face covering and avoid large groups.

Check out this week’s COVID 19 Dashboard at <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>

Regional metrics – Resource highlighting regional status is located at the following website
<https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/data#metrics>

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 additional county-specific data <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases-map.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/>
- **Resources on the Iowa County website.**
<https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>
 - Mass Gathering Guidance
- **Frequently Asked Questions:**
CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

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>

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