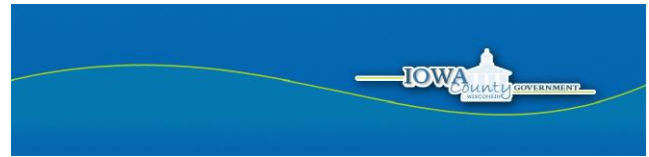


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For Immediate Release

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 41. Our three recent cases include individuals in their 20s and 40s. 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 and our neighbor counties continues to be a concern”, says Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department. “On June 18, Iowa County had a case count of 18 and today, in just over three weeks’ time, the positive case count is 41, more than doubling”, added Siegenthaler. Cases have occurred in multiple zip codes across the county and are not located in one single city or village. To see mapped cases by county, visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases-map.htm> Keep in mind that if cases are less than 5 in a zip code, they are not mapped in order to protect confidentiality.

The Health Department continues to urge good sense when making decisions. Keep your social circles small. Practice consistency and 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. Likewise, limit exposure to large groups of people for a sustained duration and please stay home if you are sick. While most of us will do fine and recover, keep in mind those who are vulnerable as they are at increased risk of 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. 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.

We also want to make a specific plea to residents to 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.

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 summer events, the best guidance is to *use caution*. 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](#)

Iowa County status remains at 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) and on our county website. The State of Wisconsin [DHS website](#), will continue to be updated each afternoon with county specific numbers. We will put out a media release if 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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