

RESOLUTION NO. 21-1121

RESOLUTION TO COMMEND AND SUPPORT THE IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

THE HONORABLE IOWA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WHEREAS, Influenza pandemics have occurred three times in the previous century, and history and science predicted the emergence of another pandemic¹; and

WHEREAS, A pandemic can cause severe illness, death and disruption throughout the country and the world, and outbreaks can occur in many different locations all at the same time^{1,2}; and

WHEREAS, In December, 2019, a novel strain of coronavirus known as COVID-19 was detected, and COVID-19 has continued to spread throughout the world, including to the United States, the State of Wisconsin, and Iowa County; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and on March 12, 2020 the Governor of the State of Wisconsin declared a Health Emergency in the State^{1,3}; and

WHEREAS, The Delta variant, a new strain of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, was first detected in India in late 2020. The Delta variant was named on May 31, 2021 and has spread to over 163 countries by 24 August 2021. The World Health Organization identified that the Delta variant has become the dominant strain globally¹¹; and

WHEREAS the pandemic continues to impact the globe. As of September 29, 2021, the number of people infected with COVID-19 has reached 233,629,636 worldwide, of whom 210,446,694 have recovered. The death toll is 4,780,844.^{Wik} In the United States, as of 9/29/21, the seven day average of daily new cases was 106,395, with a total of 43,289,203 total cases reported⁴ As of 9/29/21, Iowa County's number COVID-19 cases totals 2423, with 15 deaths⁵; and

WHEREAS, Responding to a pandemic requires coordinated action at all levels of government, including the federal government, state governments, and local governments as well as all sectors of society, including businesses, schools, faith-based and community organizations, families and individuals; and

WHEREAS, History and science support fundamental principles of preventing, mitigating and reducing disease transmission^{2,7,8}; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa County Health Department follows and implements recommendations based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Wisconsin Department of Health Services; and

WHEREAS, Iowa County (the "County") has been working to protect the health and well-being of its residents and prevent the spread of COVID-19 through sound principles of prevention and

mitigation including, testing individuals for presence of coronavirus disease, isolation of positive cases, quarantine of close contacts of positive cases, vaccination, recommendation for hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection, and mask wearing (per CDC and DHS guidance); and

WHEREAS, *Iowa County has experienced a successful comprehensive pandemic response to date, accomplished in partnership with dozens of key stakeholders across the private and public sector; and*

WHEREAS, *a key area of this local successful response includes vaccination rates which place Iowa County 3rd in the State in the percentage of adults age 18+ who have completed the vaccine series (73.6% as of 10/1/21) and 6th in the State in the percentage of all persons who have received at least one dose of the vaccine series (63.4% as of 10/1/21) ¹⁰; and*

WHEREAS, *several key dashboard metrics show evidence of increase in disease transmission with the third wave, including*

- *Number of new cases of COVID-19 in the County has been increased from an average of .14 new cases per day on June 18, 2021 to an average of 9 new cases per day on October 1, 2021⁹*
- *Since June 2021, the percentage of positive cases in Iowa County has increased from .5% percent positive on June 18, 2021 to 6.8% on October 1, 2021⁹*
- *Outbreaks of COVID-19 in the County has increased to red status since June 2021 ⁹; and*

WHEREAS, *the pandemic response is entering its twentieth month and support of policy makers is important to maintain a robust response where response workers are supported and commended for their efforts; and*

WHEREAS, *County Board (the "Board") is in support of the county response to the pandemic, based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Wisconsin Department of Health Services in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents from the threat posed by the continued spread of COVID-19.*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board commends the people, public health workers, healthcare workers, businesses, schools, and organizations of Iowa County for doing their part to prevent, suppress, and control the continued spread of COVID-19 in our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board commends the Iowa County Health Department, Iowa County Emergency Management and the employees of Iowa County for their resilience, diligence, and initiative to prevent, suppress, and control the continued spread of COVID-19 in our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board supports the Iowa County Health Department's implementation of recommendations and actions based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Wisconsin Department of Health Services; to protect the health of Iowa County residents and responsibly minimize impacts to our community caused by COVID-19; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board believes that all people, healthcare workers, businesses, schools, organizations, and employees of Iowa County must remain vigilant and continue to do their part to abide by guidance and recommendation from appropriate agencies and authorities to continue to prevent, suppress, and control the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Respectfully submitted by the Iowa County Board of Health, Health and Human Services Committee.

Sources: information cited as of 10.4.2021:

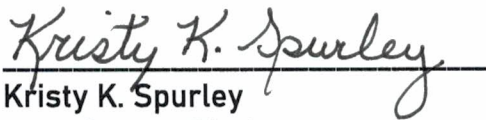
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3. [COVID-19 pandemic in Wisconsin - Wikipedia](#)
4. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/index.html>
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9. Iowa Co COVID-19: [Welcome to the Official Website of Iowa County, Willow County Specific Data](#)
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Adopted this 9th day of November, 2021.



John M. Meyers
Iowa County Chair

ATTEST:



Kristy K. Spurley
Iowa County Clerk