



Iowa County Health Department

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<https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/HealthDepartment>

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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

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Case Count at 2,132; Dashboard Resumes; High Transmission Risk Prompts Universal Masking Recommendation

Iowa County – Iowa County has seen an increase in COVID-19 cases, reporting an increase of 26 cases this past week. The Health Department reports the total number of cases is 2,132. This week's increase is down slightly from the number of cases last week when 32 cases were reported. The week prior to that there was an increase of 8 cases, the week prior was 3 and the week prior to that had an increase of two cases.

Of the cases reported over the last two weeks, the majority (66%) are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated. In the Wisconsin, surveillance data shows that upwards of 90% of cases are the Delta variant which applies to our positive cases here in Iowa County, meaning most are assumed to be the Delta variant. The Delta variant is highly infectious and is spreading more quickly than any other strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the virus that causes COVID-19.

As cases increase, we have resumed the weekly dashboard update.

Epidemiology: Our percentage of positive cases is yellow at 5.6%. The average cases reported daily metric is red at 3.8. The Outbreak metric is red.

Healthcare Status: Testing rate is green with an average of 67 tests performed daily. We encourage anyone with symptoms to contact their health care provider to be tested. Local health care partner's facility use status (represents med surge and ICU capacity) is green. Staffing status indicates the number of available staff to care for the volume of patients and is yellow. Critical supply status reflects at least fourteen days' worth of supplies. This metric is green. Our regional health care infrastructure metric represents regional hospital bed use and is yellow. Currently there are 83.6% of regional hospital beds in use. In addition, 82.4% of total regional ICU beds are in use.

Public Health Status: Community spread is 49%. Our goal is that fewer than 20% of cases have no known source of transmission. This value is a reflection of current information, some data are missing, as not all cases have been in contact with the health department. Our contact tracing efforts are 94%. This metric reflects the timely follow-up for positive cases but also the outcome of attempts to interview cases. While the HD staff reaches out to positive cases within 24-hours of receiving the case information, cases do not always respond in a timely manner. Our health department volume and staffing metric is yellow.

Emergency Management: Our emergency management partner's status is green.

A summary of this week's metrics, can be found at <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>.

Iowa County, according to the CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view> has **increased from substantial to high risk** level of community transmission for COVID-19. **The recommendation that everyone, including fully vaccinated people, wear a mask when in indoor public spaces regardless of vaccination status, remains and is very important.** Masks are recommended for people age two and older.

Key points from the [CDC's recommendations](#):

- Everyone, including fully vaccinated people, should wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of [substantial or high transmission](#).
- Everyone, including fully vaccinated people, may choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they are immunocompromised or at [increased risk for severe disease](#) from COVID-19, or if they have someone in their household who is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease or not fully vaccinated.
- Fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested 3-5 days after exposure, and should wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
- CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.

For more information visit:

- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/072821.htm>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

Iowa County recommends following DHS and CDC Guidance (see above) related to universal masking based on our transmission rate/risk level. Iowa County no longer has specific mass gathering limitations but continues to strongly recommend the use of mitigation strategies (physical distancing, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, staying home if ill and cleaning and disinfection best practice). Please visit the Iowa County COVID-19 website [Guidance for Universal Masking](#) for more information.

"Please remember that in Iowa County we still have persons that are very vulnerable to severe illness that can be caused by COVID-19. It is up to us all to help protect the overall health of our community", urges Debbie Siegenthaler, Director/Health Officer, Iowa County Health Department. "Being mindful of your daily activities can help stop transmission of any viral infection. We can all use the lessons learned in the past nineteen months to help slow the rates of transmission by protecting ourselves and others with vaccination, masking up, avoiding crowds, and washing our hands", added Siegenthaler.

If you have not yet received your vaccine, we are here to help. Please visit our website for more information and a complete vaccine clinic schedule <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19/VaccineInformation>

The Iowa County Health Department continues offering vaccine clinics each Wednesday afternoon from 2-4:30pm at the Health and Human Services Building in Dodgeville. No appointment is required. All clinics will have Moderna, Pfizer. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is limited in supply. Please call the Health Department at 608.930.9870 if you desire the Pfizer or Johnson and Johnson vaccine. This "heads up" assists in inventory management.

If you have an adolescent who would like to get vaccinated, please understand that persons under 18 must have a parent signature on the consent form and an adult (age 18 or older) must accompany them to the clinic.

Additional vaccine options include:

Upland Hills Health

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination is available at Upland Hills Health Family Medicine Clinics. Clinics are located in Mineral Point, Dodgeville, Montfort, Highland, Spring Green, Barneveld, and Mount Horeb. Business hours and clinic phone numbers are listed at www.uplandhillshealth.org/our-locations/ or you may call 608.930.8000 and ask to be transferred to the clinic of your choice.

Walgreens in Dodgeville

Currently only carrying Moderna. People can register online for an appointment but they are only doing 2-3 vaccines a day. Walk-ins are allowed as they are scheduled upon arriving.

Corner Drug in Dodgeville

NO vaccines available at this time. Anticipate offering vaccine if/when booster shots are needed.

Walmart in Dodgeville

Currently offering Moderna and Pfizer. People looking for a vaccine can schedule an appointment online or walk-in.

Important Sources of Information

- Wisconsin Department of Health Services <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- Iowa County website. <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>
- Upland Hills Health <https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19/>
- CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- 211 Wisconsin Simply call 211 from your phone <https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/>
- DHS Vaccine Data <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-data.htm#summary>
- CDC: [Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

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/>

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