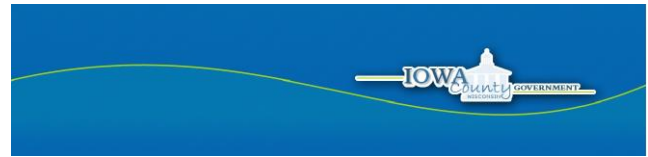**IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**
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May 4, 2020 4:15pm

For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department
Director/Health Officer Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN

Appreciation for Iowa County Businesses

Iowa County – Everyone supports a thriving community and a vibrant local economy. Our economy depends on the well-being of our friends and neighbors. It is through community collaboration that we will be able to reopen our community and local businesses and keep people as safe and healthy as possible.

COVID-19 is a contagious virus that is spread easily between people, even if an infected person doesn't show signs of being sick. We don't currently have treatments or vaccines for COVID-19, which has required us to work together to support and encourage the public to limit contact with people who they don't live with as much as possible. As we all know, people have made immense sacrifices to keep our community safe.

This approach has saved lives, protected health care workers and essential employees, and prevented hospitals from being overrun, but it is not a sustainable solution for our economy, local businesses, or our way of life in the long-term.

We want to thank Iowa County businesses for the sacrifices made and steps taken to keep employees and customers safe. We would love to hear more from businesses on the safe practices that have been employed. We want to highlight them on social media and other public facing communications. If you wish to share, please send an email (feel free to include pictures) to healthinfo@iowacounty.org

As we look to the future, we all need to do our part to get people back to work and reopen our economy in the safest way possible. Business and organizations can support this effort by:

- Allowing for staff to work from home as much as possible
- Ensuring best practices are used to help employees stay safe at work, including handwashing and physical distancing between employees and customers
- Working with your cleaning staff to make sure workspaces and frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected frequently and correctly
- Stocking supplies of tissues, hand sanitizers, and disinfecting wipes
- Posting signs about coughing/sneezing etiquette and handwashing
- Ensuring employees do not report to work if they feel sick and working with them to address financial concerns they may have that might prevent them from adhering to this
- Providing information about who employees should contact and what to do if experiencing symptoms, or if they are concerned they have come into contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19
- Providing information on who employees can contact in a secure and confidential way if they feel that their workplace is not taking the necessary precautions to ensure their safety while at work
- Creating ways that the public can safely while still adhering to best practices for staying safe and maintaining physical distancing

For more info please visit these Wisconsin DHS and CDC links
[COVID-19: Businesses, Employers, and Workers](#)
[Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)](#)
[Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#)

COVID-19 doesn't spread itself. People spread it. We don't have a cure or a vaccine yet. Our best tool is isolation for those we know are sick and physically distancing ourselves from others. Each of us represents an opportunity to interrupt the transmission of this virus. **Along with physical distancing, please continue strong everyday prevention measures.** Wash your hands often and cover your sneezes and coughs with a tissue or your elbow. **Wear a cloth face cover if you go out in public.** Cloth face covers are an additional tool to prevent people who don't have symptoms from spreading the virus. For more information and [visit the CDC website](#) for instructions on how to make your own.

Case Update

7	Positive Test Results in Iowa County
314	Negative Test Results in Iowa County
8,236	Positive Test Results in Wisconsin
80,467	Negative Test Results in Wisconsin
1,621 (20%)	Hospitalizations
340	Deaths in Wisconsin

For a broader picture of the number of cases and additional detail see
https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm

Announcements

- Testing capacity has increased in Iowa County. If you have or develop symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, difficulty breathing, chills, shortness of breath, or sore throat, contact your healthcare provider.
- [Upland Hills Health Hospital and Clinics](#):
  - *UHH Clinics are open in Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Mt. Horeb and Montfort.* Hours: 9 AM-3 PM Monday-Friday.
  - *UHH is not accepting delivery of flowers or gifts.* Residents and staff appreciate the thoughtfulness. **Donations to the COVID-19 Relief Fund** will help fund new supplies and protocols for staff and patients safely.
  - *UHH is not accepting delivery of homemade food* at Upland Hills Health or at the UHH Nursing & Rehab Center (NRC).
  - *Food donations from the community are acceptable ONLY from a licensed restaurant, food service vendor, or catering service.* Food donations must follow the restaurant & food safety requirements. Please coordinate donations through the UHH Foundation Director, Julia Oellerich 608-930-7169.

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/
- For localized information:

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-novel-coronavirus-information/
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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