IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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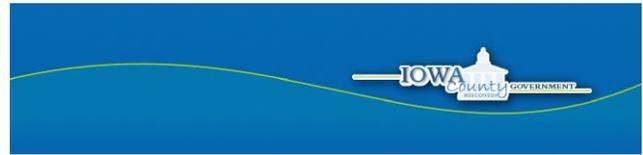
www.iowacounty.org

October 2, 2020

For Immediate Release

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

COVID 19 Update: Case Count Increases to 206, Iowa County Test Site 10.6.20

Iowa County –The Health Department announces ten additional cases bringing the current COVID-19 confirmed case count in Iowa County to 206. The recent cases are in persons in the following age ranges 0-17, 26-35, 45-55, 56-65 and 66-75 years. The Health Department has contact with lab 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.

"This week we have had 32 more cases; similar to last week's increase of 34 cases. Several cases and dozens more close contacts have involved local businesses and school districts. We are grateful to these businesses and districts who continue to be strong partners in helping us manage and respond to this pandemic," state Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department. "Everyone should assume risk is everywhere. You may feel you are comfortable assuming risk but we urge you to be part of the response in slowing the spread. We need cases to grow slower so that we can avoid a large surge in our hospitals and our public health and emergency response systems. A surge in health system capacity can happen quickly with such a fast spike in cases. Remember, that our health system response includes hospitals in urban areas such as Dane County. 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", added Debbie Siegenthaler

"We thank those in our communities who are Wearing Masks, Social Distancing, Washing Hands and avoiding large gatherings. We count on every resident to be part of the solution. Don't go to crowds and don't create crowds. Mask up, keep your small social circles outside, practice social distancing and wash your hands often. Every person and every practice is important and helps us in our goal", Siegenthaler added.

The number of individuals that have recovered is 162, meaning 44 cases are active. The number of patients recovered from COVID-19 is defined as the number of confirmed cases who are currently alive based on Wisconsin state vital records system data and have one or more of the following: 1) Documentation of resolved symptoms 2) Documentation of release from public health isolation 3) 30 days since symptom onset or diagnosis.

The Health Departments of Iowa and Lafayette County have partnered to provide a Covid-19 Community test site in our counties. Beginning Tuesday October 6 and every other Tuesday forward for the foreseeable future, from 10 am to Noon, Iowa County will host a community test site at the Health and Human Services Center located at 303 West Chapel Street in Dodgeville. For October 13 only, the Lafayette County Test site will begin a 10:30 and every other Tuesday forward for the foreseeable future they will start at 10 am at the Lafayette County Ames Road Multipurpose Building at 11974 Ames Road in Darlington. We ask that people go to COVIDconnect.com and register to be tested at one of these sites.

The Health Departments and Emergency Management Agencies of Iowa and Lafayette Counties are working hard to get COVID-19 under control in our communities. There is no cost to you to be tested at these sites. Upland Hills Hospital will continue to provide COVID testing as they have since the pandemic began. Please see the Upland Hills website for information on getting tested at their facility

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) launched new data yesterday designed to give Wisconsinites a better picture of the impact of COVID-19 in our state, what the trends in cases mean, and how to most effectively respond to this virus. In tandem with this data update, DHS also released guidance on mitigation strategies for communities. These new data dashboards detail COVID-19 disease activity and related hospital capacity. Iowa County status remains classified as HIGH activity level along with the majority of Wisconsin counties. Visit the web link below to see definitions for case indicators, additional detailed data and a map of Wisconsin noting each county and their risk level https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm

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Important Sources of Information

- o **Wisconsin Statewide and Regional metrics** DHS website
  - o WI Department of Health Services (DHS) https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm
  - o Regional metrics https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/data#metrics
  - o Activity risk level https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm
  - o County-specific data https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases-map.htm
  - o Decision Tool for Individuals and Families https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/decision.htm
- o **Resources on the Iowa County website**. https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19
  - o COVID 19 Dashboard (updated each Monday)
  - o Daily Iowa County Case Count (updated Monday-Friday)
    - o *NOTE:* New cases are reflected on the Iowa County Health Dept Facebook page each day (Monday thru Friday). The WI DHS website updates each afternoon with county numbers. We update case numbers that occur over the weekend on Monday's Case Count. Positive cases will continue to be reported to the state and followed up on as they have been.
  - o Local Data graphs
  - o School Resources and Capacity Indicators
  - o Mass Gathering Guidance (updated 9.30.2020)
  - o Get a free COVID-19 test here! https://www.publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/testing
- o **Upland Hills Health** https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19/
- o **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
  - o **Frequently Asked Questions:** CDC https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html
- o **211 Wisconsin** is an easy and helpful resource for COVID 19 questions. Simply call 211 from your phone https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/

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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