

IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

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COVID-19 Update: Case Count Increases Sharply Over Weekend to 229; Weekly Dashboard Check-in, Iowa County Test Site 10.6.20

Iowa County – The Health Department confirms over the weekend we added 23 additional cases bringing the current COVID-19 confirmed case count in Iowa County to 229. The recent cases are in persons in all age ranges with the exception of 26-35 and 66-75 years. The number of individuals that have recovered is 168, meaning there are 61 active cases. The Health Department has contact with all 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 weekend brought another sharp increase in cases in Iowa County. The Iowa County dashboard is showing continued upward trends in metrics. The average number of new cases rose to 5.57, up from an average of 3.79 last Monday. Cases are in all age ranges and across the entire county with 61 active cases. “Avoiding a large surge in our hospitals and our public health and emergency response systems must be a goal of every citizen. Local public health departments have reached capacity in several counties impacting meaningful contact tracing. In addition, parts of Wisconsin are experiencing increases in hospital admissions and/or staffing issues. All are critical in our ability to care for sick people,” stated Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department.

“The message continues to be very straight forward... YOU stop the spread, so 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 and the entire community with our goals”, Siegenthaler added. A critically important message to residents who 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.

Iowa County Test Site 10.6.20

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.

Testing is free and open to anyone (age 5+) who feels they have a need to be tested. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian with consent. Appointments are not required, but it is requested that those who wish to be tested pre-register at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>.

People should consider visiting the testing site if:

- * They have had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- * They have COVID-19 symptoms
- * They have regular exposure to a large number of people (i.e., people who work in grocery stores)
- * They work closely with high-risk populations (i.e., healthcare workers, people who work with people who are incarcerated, people who work in long-term care facilities)

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.

Iowa County Dashboard Metrics: Weekly check-in...

Epidemiology: The metric remains green; however, we continue to see an increase in positive cases, moving the metric up to 4.8%. The average cases reported daily metric continues to increase, now at 5.57, keeping this metric red. The Outbreak metric remains red, now with seven active outbreaks in Iowa County.

Healthcare Status: Testing rate remains green with another increase in number of tests performed daily, now averaging 116.5. We continue to encourage anyone with symptoms to contact his/her health care provider to be tested. Our partners in health care remain in green status.

Public Health Status: Community spread decreased some, but still in red as 51% of cases are reporting no known source in the past two weeks. Our goal is that fewer than 20% of cases have no known source of transmission. Our contact tracing efforts remain successful, as 97% of positives cases in the past two weeks have been successfully contacted within 48 hours of their positive tests.

Emergency Management: Our emergency management partners remain in green status; however, PPE demand has picked up and the supply chain is experiencing issues with gloves, gowns and N95 masks.

School Capacity Indicator Dashboard <https://www.iowacounty.org/COVID-19IowaCountySchoolGuidance>

This dashboard is updated each Monday and contains key dashboard metrics from our Iowa County COVID-19 Dashboard (above) with the addition of Iowa County's new case rate in the past two weeks. This week, the new case rate is 32.8, another increase from last week's value, 22.5 per 10,000. Also included is a breakdown of cases among school age children.

Below are changes in key areas of our local dashboard since mid-July.

<i>Date dashboard was updated</i>	<i>Percent of tests that are positive</i>	<i>Average number of cases reported per day</i>	<i>Average number of tests per day</i>	<i>Outbreaks metric</i>	<i>Percentage of cases contracted by community spread</i>
July 20	1.45%	.92	42.8	Red	46%
July 27	2.1%	.71	33.1	Red	30%
August 3	2.6%	1.0	37.7	Red	42%
August 10	3.9%	1.71	43.6	Red	38%
August 17	4.2%	2.5	60	Red	54%
August 24	3.8%	2.0	53	Red	46%
August 31	3.3%	1.5	45	Red	43%
September 8	2.0%	0.93	45.4	Red	38%
September 14	1.3%	0.64	49.7	Red	40%
September 21	2.6%	1.79	70	Red	64%
September 28	3.5%	3.79	107.5	Red	60%
October 5, 2020	4.8%	5.57	116.5	Red	51%

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) launched new data last week 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>

Important Sources of Information

- **Wisconsin Statewide and Regional metrics** [DHS website](#)
 - WI Department of Health Services (DHS) <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm>
 - Regional metrics <https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/data#metrics>
 - Activity risk level <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm>
 - County-specific data <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases-map.htm>
 - Decision Tool for Individuals and Families <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/decision.htm>
- **Resources on the Iowa County website.** <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>
 - COVID 19 Dashboard (updated each Monday)
 - Daily Iowa County Case Count (updated Monday-Friday)
 - **NOTE:** New cases are reflected on the Iowa County Health Dept Facebook page each day (Monday thru Friday). The Wisconsin DHS website updates each afternoon with county numbers. We update case numbers that occur over the weekend on the Monday Case Count. All positive cases are reported to the state and followed up on as they have been.
 - Local Data graphs
 - School Resources and Capacity Indicators
 - Mass Gathering Guidance (updated 9.8.2020)
 - Get a free COVID-19 test here! <https://www.publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/testing>
- **Upland Hills Health** <https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19/>
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
 - **Frequently Asked Questions:** CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>
- **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>

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