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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

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Case Count Increases Sharply Again Over Weekend to 300; Weekly Dashboard Check-in; Lafayette County Test Site 10.13.20

Iowa County – The Health Department confirms over the weekend we added 38 additional cases bringing the current COVID-19 confirmed case count in Iowa County to 300. The recent cases are in persons in all age ranges with the exception of 86+ years. The breakdown is as follows: 0-17 (6), 18-25 (7), 26-35 (5), 36-45 (7), 46-55 (4), 56-65 (4), 66-75 (3) and 76-85 (2). The number of individuals that have recovered is 203, meaning 97 cases are active. The Health Department contacts all positive cases. Due to the sharp increases in cases, the Health Department is experiencing delays in the time frame in which we are able to reach out to close contacts.

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 daily cases rose to 8.21, up from an average of 5.57 last Monday and 3.79 the Monday prior. Cases are in all age ranges and across the entire county. The number of active outbreaks is eleven. Outbreaks are occurring in areas of the county with the largest populations including six outbreaks in Mineral Point, four in Dodgeville and one in Barneveld. The Health Department will not list the names of businesses, organizations or events with outbreaks due to privacy concerns.

“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 or exceeded capacity in several counties which hinders meaningful contact tracing. This is a concern in Iowa County as well. As a result, we have added a metric to our dashboard assessing our capacity in available staff and case volume. Currently, the volume and speed with increase of cases is causing delays in outreach,” states Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa Co Health Department.

In addition, parts of Wisconsin are experiencing increases in hospital admissions and/or staffing concerns. This is the case in southern Wisconsin as well. Our local hospital is doing ok but is closely monitoring capacity as well as the capacity of Dane County hospitals. Regional hospital capacity and staffing status are monitoring on the DHS website <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm> This data dashboard details COVID-19 disease activity and related hospital capacity. Iowa County status remains classified as HIGH activity level. Our region is experiencing hospital bed usage at 83% and ICU bed usage at 85% and the usage of both is trending upward.

“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 vital 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 Dashboard Metrics: *Weekly check-in...*

Epidemiology: We continue to see an increase in positive cases, moving the metric up to 6.8%, changing status to yellow. The average cases reported daily metric continues to increase, now at 8.21, keeping this metric red. The Outbreak metric remains red, now with 11 active outbreaks in Iowa County.

Healthcare Status: Testing rate remains green with another increase in number of tests performed daily, now averaging 121. 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. However, we are closely monitoring hospital capacity in our region which currently has hospital bed usage at 83% and ICU bed usage at 85% and both are growing.

Public Health Status: Community spread decreased some, but still in red as 43% 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. This value is a reflection of current information, some data is missing as not all cases have been in contact with the health department. Our contact tracing efforts remain successful, as 96% of positives cases in the past two weeks have been successfully contacted within 48 hours of their positive tests. We've added an additional metric indicating the ability and availability of the health department to manage daily operations. With the continued increase in cases, this metric is yellow.

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 with the addition of the new case rate in the past two weeks. This week, the new case rate is 48.8 per 10,000, another increase from last week's value, 32.8 and 22.5 the week prior. 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	4.8%	5.57	116.5	Red	51%
October 12	6.8%	8.21	121	Red	43%

Lafayette County Test Site 10.13.20

The Health Departments of Iowa and Lafayette County have partnered to provide a Covid-19 Community test site in our counties. October 13, the Lafayette County Test site will be held from 10:30am – 12:30pm at the Lafayette

County Ames Road Multipurpose Building at 11974 Ames Road in Darlington. Next week, Tuesday, October 20, the test site will be in Iowa County from 10 am to Noon at the Health and Human Services Center located at 303 West Chapel Street in Dodgeville.

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.

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>
- **Halloween Resources:**
 - DHS: [Celebrating Halloween Safely One-Pager](#)
 - de Beaumont's [Safety Tips for Halloween 2020](#)
- **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)
 - New cases are reflected on the IC 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
 - Community 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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