IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department
Director/Health Officer
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Case Count at 521; Dashboard Update; Community testing shifts to Thursdays

Iowa County
The Health Department reports an increase of 105 cases this past week bringing the total of cases to 521. During the previous week, 65 cases were reported. Cases are in all age ranges and across the entire county. See https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/county.htm for a breakdown of the location of positive cases by census track. Iowa County status remains classified as VERY HIGH activity.

Due to the continued increase and large volume of cases, the Health Department continues to experience delays in the time frame in which we are able to reach out to close contacts. When capacity is stretched with the volume of cases, it hinders meaningful contact tracing. If you test positive, please isolate yourself and let your close contacts know to self- quarantine and consider being tested.

Iowa County Dashboard Metrics
The percentage of positive cases continues to increase, now at 8.4%, remaining yellow. The average cases reported daily are at 11.29, still in the red. The Outbreak metric remains red, with thirteen active outbreaks in Iowa County.

Testing rate remains green with an average of 133.7 tests performed daily. We encourage anyone with symptoms to contact his/her health care provider to be tested.

We modified our local health care partners metric, breaking it down further. Facility use status represents med surge and ICU capacity. This metric is currently yellow. Staffing status indicates the number of available staff to care for the volume of patients and is currently red. Critical supply status reflects at least three days worth of supplies. This metric is currently green.

Our regional health care infrastructure metric represents regional hospital bed use and is currently yellow, as 82.4% of regional hospital beds are in use. In addition, 83.5% of total regional ICU beds are in use. Regional hospital capacity and staffing status are monitored on the DHS website https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm

"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.

School Capacity Indicator Dashboard https://www.iowacounty.org/COVID-19IowaCountySchoolGuidance
This dashboard 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 66.5 per 10,000, similar to Monday's value of 66.9. Also included is a breakdown of cases among school age children, which is continuing in an upward trajectory.

Community Testing
The Health Departments of Iowa and Lafayette County have partnered to provide a Covid-19 Community test site in our counties. **Please note the testing day has moved from Tuesdays to Thursdays.**

The next test site will be in Iowa County on Thursday, November 5 from 11:00 – 1:00 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 Friday)
    - School Resources and Capacity Indicators (updated each Friday)
    - 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.

- o Local Data graphs
- o 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
  - o **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
Iowa County Emergency Management on Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/icemwi/

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