

## IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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[www.iowacounty.org](http://www.iowacounty.org)

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*For Immediate Release*

### Iowa County Health Department

*Director/Health Officer*

*Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN*

### COVID-19 Update: Case Count Increases to 130; Weekly Dashboard Check-in

**Iowa County** – The Health Department confirms that over the weekend we added two additional cases bringing the current COVID-19 confirmed case count in Iowa County to 130. The recent cases are in persons in the following age ranges: 26-35 and 66-75 years. 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.

The number of individuals that have recovered is 121, meaning there are nine active cases. The number of patients recovered from COVID-19 is defined as the number of confirmed cases who are currently alive based on 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.

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

**Epidemiology:** The metric remains green; our percentage of positive cases decreased again, now at 1.3%. The average cases reported daily metric decreased slightly but remains yellow. The Outbreak metric remains red with three active outbreaks in Iowa County.

**Healthcare Status:** Testing rate remains green with an average of 50 tests done each day in the past two weeks. We continue to encourage anyone with symptoms to contact your health care provider to be tested. Our partners in health care remain in green status.

**Public Health Status:** Community spread has increased with 40% of cases reporting no known source in the past two weeks. This metric remains red, as our goal is that fewer than 20% of cases have no known source of transmission. Our contact tracing efforts remain successful, as 90% of positive cases in the past two weeks have been successfully contacted within 48 hours of their positive test result.

**Emergency Management:** Our emergency management partners remain in green status.

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

This dashboard is updated each Monday as well and contains key dashboard metrics from our Iowa County COVID Dashboard (above) with the addition of Iowa County's new case rate in the past two weeks as well as a breakdown of cases among school age children.

"We are all aware that schools and colleges have resumed. We have seen two local school districts with positive cases identified. Fortunately, in both situations, the number of individuals identified as close contacts in the school setting was relatively small", stated Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department. We ask that residents continue to be part of the solution. Please follow the recommendations from the Health Department if you are identified as a close contact. This includes returning phone calls from the Health Department and cooperating with Health Department staff.

As far as general guidance, please 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 weekly dashboard continues to show several metrics remain steady including the percent of positive tests and average daily case numbers. Below is a table listing key metrics from our dashboard tracked since mid-July.

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

"We must remember that widespread community transmission is still occurring and risk is everywhere. Kids remaining in an in-person instruction setting requires that we continue to be vigilant", added Siegenthaler.

"Surrounding counties are seeing very high numbers which makes us very cautious. Our goal continues to be avoiding a large surge in our hospitals and our public health and emergency response systems. We still need everyone assisting in this mission. An especially 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", Siegenthaler stated.

We are all very aware the coronavirus is still here and, unfortunately, flu season is also on its way. It's not possible to definitively predict what will happen in the weeks and months to come, but the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) expects that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both be spreading in the fall and winter. It is more important than ever to plan on getting your flu shot this year.

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/local.htm>

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#### Important Sources of Information

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- **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>

Iowa County Emergency Management on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/icemwi/>

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