

## 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 149; Weekly Dashboard Check-in

**Iowa County** – The Health Department confirms over the weekend we added nine additional cases bringing the current COVID-19 confirmed case count in Iowa County to 149. The recent cases are in persons in the following age ranges 0-17, 18-25, 26-35, 46-55, 56-65 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.

“When the Health Department team reaches out to positive cases and identified close contacts, at times we meet heavy resistance. Members of our Health Department team are increasingly receiving unkind comments. This is unacceptable” stated Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department. “Being rude and uncooperative serves no one, least of all the health of the public. We are all suffering from “covid fatigue”. We ask that if you are reached out to by the Health Department, please return the phone call, follow the instructions provided and be kind. No member of our team deserves to be mistreated. Our mission is to keep people healthy, period”, added Siegenthaler.

“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 and the entire community with our goals”, Siegenthaler added.

The number of individuals that have recovered is 126, meaning there are 23 active cases. The number recovered 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; however, we had a significant increase in positive cases, moving the metric up to 2.6%. The average cases reported daily metric more than doubled, now at 1.79. The Outbreak metric remains red, with three active outbreaks in Iowa County.

**Healthcare Status:** Testing rate remains green with an average of 70 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 64% 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 100% 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 remains 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 also 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 10.5 per 10,000 which is approaching three times the rate last week (3.79). Also included is a breakdown of cases among school age children.

The weekly dashboard highlights that several metrics increased significantly this week including the percent of positive tests, average daily case numbers and percentage of community spread. Below is a table listing key metrics from our dashboard tracked 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%

"Key metrics this week continue to demonstrate that risk is everywhere. Kids remaining in an in-person instruction setting requires that we continue to be vigilant and cooperative", added Siegenthaler. "Neighboring counties are seeing very high case numbers. Our goal continues to be avoiding a large surge in our hospitals and our public health and emergency response systems but we still need every single person 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.

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>

### 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>

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

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