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 to 174

Iowa County –The Health Department announces three additional cases bringing the current COVID-19 confirmed case count in Iowa County to 174. The recent cases are in persons in the following age ranges 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.

The number of individuals that have recovered is 136, meaning 38 cases are active. The number of patients recovered from COVID-19 is defined as the number of confirmed cases who are currently alive based on Wisconsin 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

"In one week we experienced an increase of 34 cases; clearly a significant jump. This illustrates widespread community transmission and the message is, you should assume risk is everywhere. Our goal continues to be avoiding a large surge in our hospitals and our public health and emergency response systems. A surge in health system capacity can happen quickly with such a fast spike in cases. 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", stated Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department.

This spike, occurring locally, regionally and statewide is especially concerning with flu season around the corner. Our actions now to slow the spread of COVID-19 and prepare for the winter is critically important. That is why we need to continue wearing masks and practicing physical distancing. It is also why we encourage everyone to get a flu shot this year; the flu shot cannot protect you from COVID-19, but by helping protect you from the flu, it helps strengthen our COVID-19 response here in Wisconsin by preserving hospital and testing capacity. The Iowa County Health Department and Iowa County Emergency Management are busy planning for flu clinics geared for school-age children. Look for details coming through school districts. We are also making plans for a community testing site.

"As we head into the weekend, we not only urge, but 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 in our goal", Siegenthaler added.

We are so proud of the many businesses, organizations, school districts and residents who are doing their part in helping to keep the community safe. We have had a terrific response in nominations for the Safe Business Spotlight. Thank you if you have nominated and please consider nominating a business or entity. To do so, please send an email with the business name and why you feel they are assisting in reducing the spread to icem@iowacounty.org

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

Date dashboard was updated	Percent of tests that are positive	Average number of cases reported per day	Average number of tests per day	Outbreaks metric	Percentage of cases contracted by community spread
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%

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

- o **Wisconsin Statewide and Regional metrics** DHS website
    - o WI Department of Health Services (DHS) https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm
    - o Regional metrics https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/data#metrics
    - o Activity risk level https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm
    - o County-specific data https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases-map.htm
    - o Decision Tool for Individuals and Families https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/decision.htm
- o **Resources on the Iowa County website**. https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19
    - o COVID 19 Dashboard (updated each Monday)
    - o Daily Iowa County Case Count (updated Monday-Friday)
        - o *NOTE:* New cases are reflected on the Iowa County Health Dept Facebook page each day (Monday thru Friday). The WI DHS website updates each afternoon with county numbers. We update case numbers that occur over the weekend on Monday's Case Count. Positive cases will continue to be reported to the state and followed up on as they have been.
    - o Local Data graphs
    - o School Resources and Capacity Indicators
    - o Mass Gathering Guidance
    - o Get a free COVID-19 test here! https://www.publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/testing

- o Upland Hills Health https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19/
- o 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
- o **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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