



## Iowa County Health Department

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<https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/HealthDepartment>

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### Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

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### Significant Increase in Cases; Case Count and Dashboard Update; CDC Isolation and Quarantine Guidance Updated; Clinic Continue

#### Iowa County –

Iowa County has seen a significant increase of COVID-19 cases in the last two weeks. This increase has resulted in delays in our ability to call new COVID-19 cases, and we need our community's help:

- If our health department calls you, please answer the phone. We will only call once and will leave a message if we are able to with more information on where to find guidance. We will not leave your test result on the message.
- If you are sick, please STAY HOME (unless you need to seek medical care).
- If you have tested positive, please isolate for at least 5 days since your symptoms began, or, if you did not have any symptoms, 5 days from your test date. See detailed guidance below as well as at our website: <https://www.iowacounty.org/LatestGuidanceforIsolationandQuarantine>
- Notify your own close contacts.
- Notify your employer and/or school, childcare center.
- Be patient with test results, it can take up to 72 hours for a result to come back.

#### Weekly Case Totals since mid-October -Iowa County

**Note:** The numbers are positive PCR tests reported via the WI Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS). It does not include home antigen tests and is an undercount of actual cases in Iowa County.

Week of 10/11/21	56 positive cases
Week of 10/18/21	41
Week of 10/25/21	62
Week of 11/1/21	61
Week of 11/8/21	49
Week of 11/15/21	56
Week of 11/22/21	81
Week of 11/29/21	88
Week of 12/6/21	105
Week of 12/13/21	92
Week of 12/20/21	119
Week of 12/27/21	99
Week of 1/3/2022	181

Weekly snapshots recently reported included a timespan greater than just a week due to the holidays. Originally the week of the 20<sup>th</sup> was reported as 141 (12/18-12/28), but has been adjusted above to reflect the cases inside the week period. Also, the week of the 31<sup>st</sup> was reported as 258 (12/29-1/7/22) but again is adjusted above for a 7 day period.

## Iowa County Dashboard and Weekly Case Totals

The total number of cases is 3,602 (1.7.2022). This week's Iowa County COVID-19 Dashboard update (data period 12/22/21 to 1/4/22) reported the percentage of positive cases at 13.4% (a significant increase from the last reported dashboard on 12/17 when it was 10.4%). The average cases reported daily metric also increased from a daily average new case count of 15 (on 12/17) to 18.6 new cases. The entire dashboard can be found at <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>. You can also find a summary table highlighting key dashboard metrics since July 2020 on our website at <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19/IowaCountySpecificData>

## CDC Posts Updated COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Guidance

On Tuesday, January 4, the CDC posted updated COVID-19 quarantine and isolation guidance to their [website](#). The recommendations are motivated by the latest science on the severity of disease, when transmission occurs, and for how long a person is most infectious. The new quarantine and isolation guidance also reflects the societal impacts the pandemic is having on families and employers.

This guidance applies to the general population in the community, including workplaces and [K-12 schools](#). The CDC developed a [rationale and FAQs](#) to go with this guidance. It does not apply to [health care personnel](#), [correctional institutions](#), or [homeless shelters](#), and the CDC will be providing additional updates for these settings.

### Updated Isolation Recommendations (for those who have tested positive for COVID-19)

CDC has shortened the recommended length of isolation for people with COVID-19, if **asymptomatic**, from 10 days to 5 days followed by 5 days of wearing a [well-fitting mask](#) around others.

### Updated Quarantine Recommendations (for those who have been exposed to COVID-19)

People who are **unvaccinated** or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine and **have not yet received a booster dose** should:

- Quarantine for 5 days following exposure and wear a [well-fitting mask](#) when around other people for an additional 5 days.
- If a 5-day quarantine is not feasible, the exposed person must wear a [well-fitting mask](#) at all times when around other people for 10 days after exposure.

People who meet one of the following criteria do not need to quarantine after exposure to COVID-19, but should wear a [well-fitting mask](#) when around other people for 10 days:

- Have completed their primary mRNA vaccine series within the last 6 months, OR
- Have been fully vaccinated with a J&J vaccine within the last two months, OR
- Have received a booster more than two weeks prior to the exposure.

### Following an exposure to COVID-19, everyone, regardless of vaccination status:

- Should get tested for COVID-19 on day 5, if possible, after exposure.
- Quarantine immediately if any symptoms develop until they receive a negative COVID-19 test confirming symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.

## COVID-19 Omicron Variant

We know the highly contagious Omicron Variant of COVID-19 is causing a rapid increase in disease activity. The best protection against this new variant, or any variant of COVID-19, is to get fully vaccinated and get a booster shot. A layered prevention approach continues to be recommended to help slow the spread of COVID-19. People should continue to wear masks, avoid large gatherings, stay home if ill, maintain good hand hygiene, and get vaccinated. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, or were in close contact with someone with COVID-19, please get tested.

Our hospitals and health care systems are still under tremendous pressure, and they need every Wisconsinite to do their part to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Please mask up and get the COVID-19 vaccine or your booster dose if you haven't received it already.

## Iowa County COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

### **Booster Clinics at the Lands' End campus (Daycare Center)**

Sign up on our Iowa County COVID-19 website <https://www.iowacounty.org>

- ✓ Click on either Moderna or Pfizer and choose the preferred clinic date. Pfizer Boosters for 16 and 17 year olds also included.
  - If you are interested in a J&J Booster, call the ICHD at 608.930.9870.
  - Pfizer Boosters for ages 12-15 have been approved by the CDC but we are awaiting approval from DHS before we can begin giving these boosters.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine WEDNESDAY CLINICS**

Each Wednesday from 2-4:30pm at the Health and Human Services Building in Dodgeville; we offer

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses, 3<sup>rd</sup> doses for immunocompromised, 16 and 17 year old Pfizer boosters, and J&J Boosters

### **Pediatric Pfizer Clinics:**

**1/19/2022 and 2/9/2022** from 2-4:30pm at the Health and Human Services Building in Dodgeville. COVID-19 vaccines available for children ages 5-18. *Children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian OR have a note from parent AND be accompanied by a person over 18 years of age.* Call 608-930-9870 for an appointment. **Pfizer Boosters for ages 12 -15 have been approved by the CDC but we are awaiting approval from DHS before we can begin giving these boosters.**

**Childhood Immunization Clinics:** offered every Wednesday by appointment only; between 2-4:30pm at the HHS Building. Call the Health Department for an appointment 608.930.9870.

## **Community Testing**

The Iowa County Health Department continues to offer drive through COVID PCR testing **Tuesdays & Thursdays** at the Iowa County HHS Building; 303 W. Chapel St, Dodgeville, from 9:00-11:00 AM. No appointment is necessary but registration is required at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov/en-US/> Testing is free to anyone above the age of 1 year who is symptomatic or asymptomatic. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian with consent. Masks are required. If you need help registering, you can call the health department a day or 2 before you'd like to test. See <https://www.iowacounty.org/COVID-19CommunityTesting> for list of additional testing options locally.

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## **Important Sources of Information**

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- Wisconsin Department of Health Services <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- Iowa County website <https://www.iowacounty.org>
- Upland Hills Health <https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19/>
- CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- 211 Wisconsin Simply call 211 from your phone <https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/>
- DHS Vaccine Data <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-data.htm#summary>

### **New and Updated from CDC:**

- [Omicron Variant: What You Need to Know](#)
- [Quarantine and Isolation](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#)
- [Science Briefs](#)

## **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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