



## Iowa County Health Department

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

February 25, 2022

Iowa County Health Department

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Director/Health Officer

### CDC Masking Guidance Shift; COVID-19 Case Count Continues to Decrease; Dashboard Update

#### Iowa County –

CDC has announced a major change in mask guidance with "Covid-19 community level" metrics. These metrics are now based on three pieces of data in a community: new Covid-19 hospitalizations, hospital capacity and new Covid-19 cases.

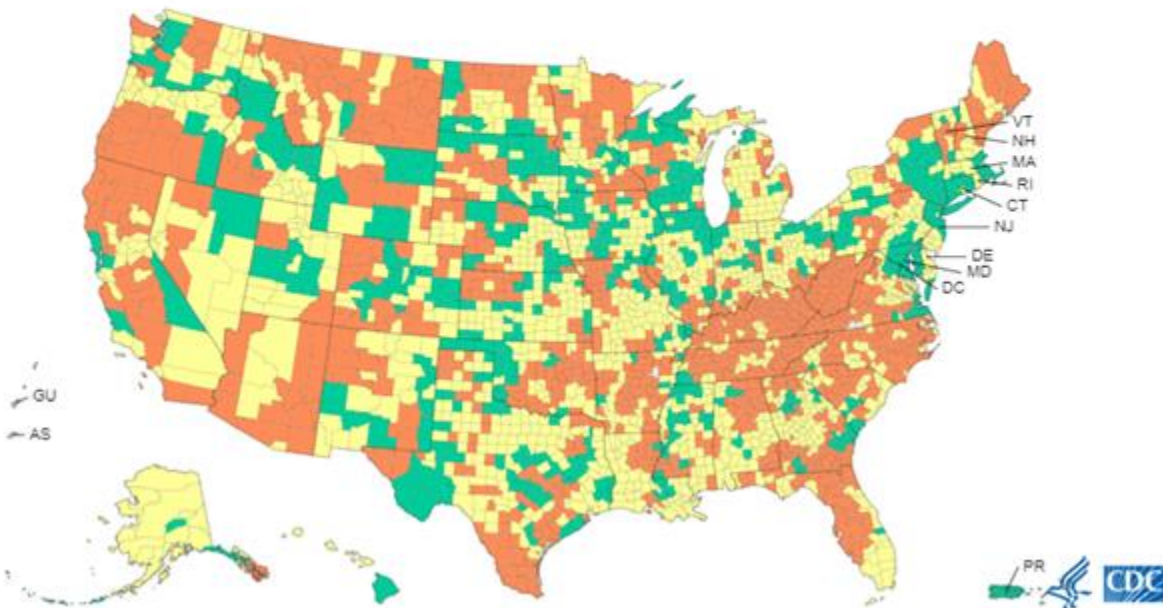
[Use and Care of Masks | CDC](#)

[COVID-19 Community Levels](#) are a tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Iowa County is designated with a LOW Community Burden level [COVID-19 by County | CDC](#)

## U.S. COVID-19 Community Levels by County

Data provided by CDC

Updated: Feb. 24, 2022



## What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

### Community Burden Levels

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li> <li><a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you are <a href="#">at high risk for severe illness</a>, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions</li> <li>Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li> <li><a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear a <a href="#">mask</a> indoors in public</li> <li>Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li> <li><a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li> <li>Additional precautions may be needed for people <a href="#">at high risk for severe illness</a></li> </ul>

People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

If you are immunocompromised, learn more about [how to protect yourself](#).

“This change in CDC guidance doesn’t mean that the pandemic is over. Rather, it signals that we have made it through the Omicron surge and are entering a new stage of the pandemic,” said Debbie Siegenthaler, Director/Health Officer, Iowa County Health Department. “An important step we can all take to continue to move forward is to stay up-to-date on our vaccines as they have proven to be highly effective in protecting you from becoming severely ill, ending up in the hospital, or dying from COVID-19.” Siegenthaler added.

“Additionally, as we move forward in this pandemic, people are encouraged to continue to wear masks if it makes them feel more comfortable or if they are at high risk according the guidance. It is also strongly encouraged that residents stay home when sick, and follow the latest isolation and quarantine guidance to prevent transmission, which can include masking recommendations. Now is the time we rely on everyone to make good decisions when it comes to their own health, and the health of their neighbors.” Siegenthaler added

**Iowa County continues the trend in decreasing newly reported COVID-19 cases** (reported through a PCR lab test). Home antigen tests are not reported through the Health Department and as a result case counts do not include antigen positive tests. Iowa County [weekly snapshot](#)

Epi curve below showing Iowa County case data over time [COVID-19: County Data | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#) as of 2/24/22. The **red line** is the seven day average which peaked in January and has significantly declined since.

### Number of reported confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases by date of symptom onset or diagnosis: Iowa County

Updated: 2/24/2022 (Total: 5,147)

The most recent two weeks are preliminary and subject to change as more data are submitted (from 2/10/2022 to 2/24/2022)

Select County:

Iowa County

Move the slider to select a date range:

1/22/2020

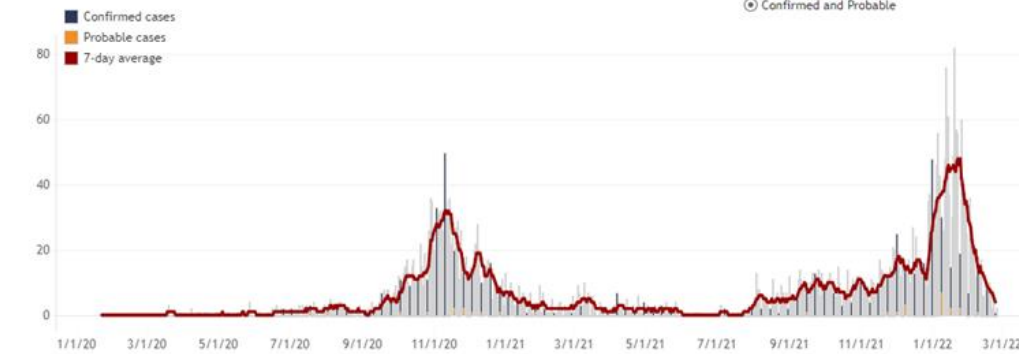
2/23/2022

Select Case Status:

☐ Confirmed

☐ Probable

☒ Confirmed and Probable



**Weekly Case Total -Iowa County** [weekly snapshot](#)

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
Week of 1/10/2022	231
Week of 1/17/2022	324
Week of 1/24/2022	344
Week 1/26-2/1/22	154
Week 2/2-2/8/22	84
Week 2/9-2/15/22	63
<b>Week 2/16-2/22/22</b>	<b>53</b>

**Total cumulative number of cases = 4,846 (2.22.22)**

**Note:** The numbers include positive PCR test results reported via the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS). Numbers do not include home antigen tests.

**DASHBOARD UPDATE:**

The Iowa County COVID-19 Dashboard update continues to show decreasing trends in disease incidence and impact. For the data period 2/9/22 to 2/22/22, the dashboard reports the percent of positive tests decreased to 8.2% (down from 10.9%) and the average new cases per day is 8 (down from 13). Local testing rate is green with an average of 101 tests performed daily (down from 122). Local health care partner's facility use status (represents med surge and ICU capacity) remains green. Staffing status remains yellow. Critical supply status remains green. Our regional health care infrastructure metric represents regional hospital bed use and remains yellow. Currently there are 84.2% (down from 86% last dashboard) of regional hospital beds in use. View hospital capacity data [COVID-19: Hospitals | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

The entire Iowa County COVID-19 dashboard can be found at <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>. Summary of metrics since July 2020 <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19/IowaCountySpecificData>.

The Iowa County Health Department wants to assure residents that if you test positive through a PCR test (through a lab), there is still a mechanism to assure each positive test result is relayed to each positive case. Instructions on what to do if you test positive are available at <https://www.iowacounty.org/LatestGuidanceforIsolationandQuarantine>. The Iowa County Health Department is a resource for anyone unable to access the internet, those seeking further guidance or answers to specific questions. Please call us with any questions at 608.930.9870.

**Iowa County Health Department COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics**

**To sign up, visit** <https://www.iowacounty.org>

MODERNA, J&J and PFIZER for age 12 and up

BOOSTERS available for anyone 12 or older who is 5 months out from initial series

**Location:** Health and Human Services Building in Dodgeville

**PEDIATRIC Pfizer Vaccine Clinics (for ages 5-11):** *Call 608.930.9870 to schedule a pediatric Pfizer appointment.*

*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.*

For more info, check our website [www.iowacounty.org](http://www.iowacounty.org) and/or follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/iowacountyhealthdepartment/>

### **Vaccination Progress**

Check out vaccine data on pages 2 and 3 of our Dashboard. Iowa County has reached 70% of residents with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. 39.5% of Iowa County residents have received an additional/booster dose. We are very proud that Iowa County is #7 in the State of Wisconsin.

**Booster dose data added** ... On February 24, DHS updated the [COVID-19 Vaccines for Wisconsin residents](#) dashboard to include booster and additional dose data. The most recent data show 32.5% of Wisconsinites have received an additional or booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

See [COVID-19: Vaccine Data | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#) for an interactive map and more detail.

### **Community Testing**

The Iowa County Health Department continues to offer drive through COVID PCR testing **Tuesdays & Thursdays (weather permitting)** at the Iowa County HHS Building; 303 W. Chapel St, Dodgeville, 9:00-11:00 AM. We will not conduct testing in extreme cold weather and will announce cancellations approximately 24 hours in advance. No appointment necessary but **registration is required**.

To register <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 two before you'd like to test.

*Additional testing options locally found at <https://www.iowacounty.org/COVID-19CommunityTesting>*

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### **Important Sources of Information**

- 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>

### **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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