



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Iowa County Health Department

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



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Serving our Communities Since 1935

2020 Annual Report

Message from the Director/Health Officer

To the Iowa County Board of Supervisors, Board of Health, Health & Human Services Committee, and Residents:

It is my pleasure to share the 2020 Annual Report of the Iowa County Health Department.

The year 2020 was an extraordinary year and an unprecedented time in public health. The path in 2020 was very challenging and our work is not yet done. The path forward requires our continued diligence—together—to ensure all have the opportunity to thrive.

In March, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic and on March 19, Iowa County reported its first case. The Iowa County Health Department implemented guidance, policies and procedures provided by the Department of Health Services and CDC to develop and implement a comprehensive response.

While the pandemic consumed the activities of the Iowa County Health Department and required many of our programs to be suspended, several programs and services continued. We are proud of the incredible work we have done to maintain essential services, respond to the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining our designation as a Level II Health Department in the State of Wisconsin.

What is clear is that the pandemic has exposed the impact of chronic underfunding of America's public health and emergency preparedness systems. Building and maintaining a public health system capable of effectively protecting and promoting health requires a significant increase in sustained funding. My hope is that a positive outcome from this pandemic is that the public health system's value will be met with commensurate funding going forward. An investment in public health is essential considering the capacity needed to respond to a whole host of emerging diseases, epidemics, pandemics, not to mention the value of prevention in chronic disease, maternal and child health, social inequity, environmental health, mental health, substance use and abuse, etc.

The pandemic response in Iowa County has been full of challenge and hardship, for residents, businesses and all of us responding. However, it has also demonstrated tremendous diligence, fortitude and generosity.

I want to express my sincere gratitude and convey how stellar Iowa County truly is. March 13 was my first official day with the Iowa County Health Department. I literally hit the ground running and met many of the amazing people I would be working so closely with throughout the pandemic on my very first day. This is not ideal in any way when you are faced with serious and intense circumstances, and quickly changing variables. Each person I met, however, quickly displayed competence and dedication. In particular, Emergency Management Director Keith Hurlbert, has been an incredible co-pilot. I am grateful for him every day. I also want to send a special thank you to Sue Matye, the immediate past Health Officer, who assisted me tremendously. There are many other response partners to thank including Amanda Gardner at Emergency Management, Uplands Hills Health who has responded expertly, along with all of our school districts, long term care facilities, public safety partners, pharmacies, funeral homes and coroner's office, Sheriff's Department, Iowa County Corp Counsel, Iowa County District Attorney, Department of Social Services and county government.

Finally, I want to commend our team at the health department. They have taken challenges and acted professionally and compassionately. There were months where encounters with the public were at times met with hostile and unkind words. There were weeks where it seemed the climbing case numbers would not end, but they kept forging ahead. We have an incredible group working for the health of Iowa County residents and it is my sincere hope they are truly appreciated as the work they have done has absolutely saved lives.

Sincerely,

Debbie Siegenthaler MSN, RN
Director/Health Officer
Iowa County Health Department
debbie.siegenthaler@iowacounty.org



Health Department Staff

Sue Matye RN, BSN Director/Health Officer
Retired March 2020/re-retired March 2021

Debbie Siegenthaler MSN, RN
Director/Health Officer

Kari Bennett RN, BSN Public Health Nurse
Ann Thompson RN, BSN Public Health Nurse
Kathy Key, Department Assistant
**Geana Shemak, Community Coordinator/
 Educator HeART Coalition**

Troy Moris, RS
Environmental Health Coordinator

Board of Health

Linda Pittz, Chair/Community Member
Bruce Paull, Vice-Chair/Elected Official
Judy Lindholm, Elected Official
Bruce Haag, Elected Official
Joan Davis, Elected Official
Tom Howard, Community Member
Sue Steudel, Community Member

Dr. Peter Mullin, Medical Advisor

Wis. Stat. § 251.03(1)

A local board of health shall consist of not more than 9 members. At least 3 of these members shall be persons who are not elected officials or employees of the governing body that establishes the local health department and who have a demonstrated interest or competence in the field of public health or community health. In appointing the members who are not elected officials or employees, a good faith effort shall be made to appoint a registered nurse and a physician. Members of the local board of health shall reflect the diversity of the community.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The Iowa County Health Department is the official agency of the County responsible for the promotion of wellness, prevention of disease and provision of a healthful environment. This is achieved through activities involving assessment of the community, policy development and evaluation of programs.



THE TEN ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Monitor health status and understand health issues facing the community.
2. Protect people from health problems and health hazards.
3. Give people information they need to make healthy choices.
4. Engage the community to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop public health policies and plans.
6. Enforce public health laws and regulations.
7. Help people receive health services.
8. Maintain a competent public health workforce.
9. Evaluate and improve programs and interventions.
10. Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health.

Our Mission

Maximizing quality of life across the lifespan

Our Vision

**Lifelong health and well-being for every person,
family and community in Iowa County.**

Our Values

Prevention and Promotion – Strategies that prevent disease and promote healthy living in healthy environments.

Collaboration and Partnership – People working together provide the best solutions.

Evidence-Based - Our practice is science based and uses best practices that improve population health status

Social Justice - We are advocates for vulnerable populations and work to empower families to assure quality of life

Health Equity – Everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthier

Compassion - We strive to provide dignified care to others



2020 Programs and Services

1. Monitor health status and understand health issues facing the community

Wis. Stat. § 251.05(3)(a)

A local health department shall...Regularly and systematically collect, assemble, analyze and make available information on the health of the community, including statistics on health status, community health needs, epidemiologic studies of health problems, other studies of health problems.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

The Iowa County Health Department collaborated with Upland Hills Health to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to address the needs identified in the Community Needs Assessment and healthy Aging in Rural Towns (HeART) Coalition Needs Assessment in 2019, which is the current CHIP. A copy of the Iowa County Improvement Plan can be found on the Iowa County Health Department website under documents.

The County Health Rankings program provides data, evidence, guidance, and examples to build awareness of the multiple factors that influence health and support community leaders working to improve health and increase health equity. To that end, all 72 counties and tribes in Wisconsin are evaluated for overall health outcomes and overall health factors.

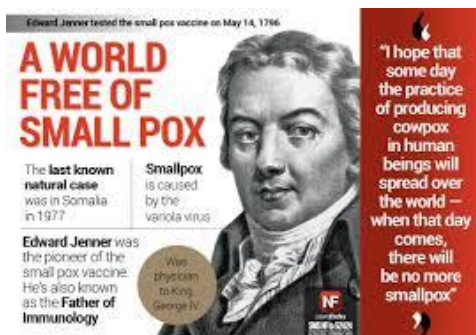
In 2020, Iowa County was ranked #10 for health outcomes and #17 for health factors. In 2019, Iowa County was 25th^h for health outcomes and 20th for health factors. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

2. Protect people from health problems and health hazards

Wis. Stat. § 252.06(3)

If a local health officer suspects or is informed of the existence of any communicable disease, the officer shall at once investigate and make or cause such examinations to be made as are necessary.

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases/Immunization Program



Appropriate administration of safe and effective vaccines is one of the most successful and cost effective public health tools for preventing disease. In 2020, 244 total immunizations (including flu) were administered to 238 individuals. As reference, in 2019, 1,186 total immunizations (including flu) were administered to 1,116 individuals.

The Health Department is a provider of the Vaccines for Children Program, which can be administered to children through age 18 years with Medicaid, Badger Care or no insurance.

In past years, with flu vaccine provided by the Wisconsin Immunization Program, nurses from the Iowa County Health Department provide influenza immunizations to school-aged children during mass vaccination clinics held at every school in Iowa County within a 30-day period during the months of October and November. Due to the pandemic, these clinics were implemented as drive through clinics. In October 2020, we held three drive through flu clinics (2 Saturdays and one Wednesday evening) at HHS for school age children: A total of 173 kids were vaccinated.



The Iowa County Health Department is an active member of the Southern Wisconsin Immunization Consortium (SWIC). The consortium's mission is promoting the use of vaccines with evidence based education and advocacy.

Communicable Disease Surveillance and Follow-up

Wisconsin State Law mandates that local health departments are the responsible agency for the surveillance and follow-up of over 70 reportable communicable diseases. Communicable diseases are tracked through a secure, confidential database between public health, private physicians, hospitals, labs and the state. This communication channel allows for prompt investigation of possible outbreaks and unusual situations. It allows for control measures to minimize further transmission of disease to others.

In 2020, the majority of our time and effort involved attempting to stop the spread of COVID-19, which resulted in 1,657 Covid-19 cases in Iowa County as of 12/31/2020.

COVID Numbers as of December 31, 2020

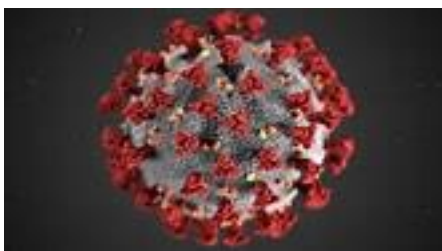
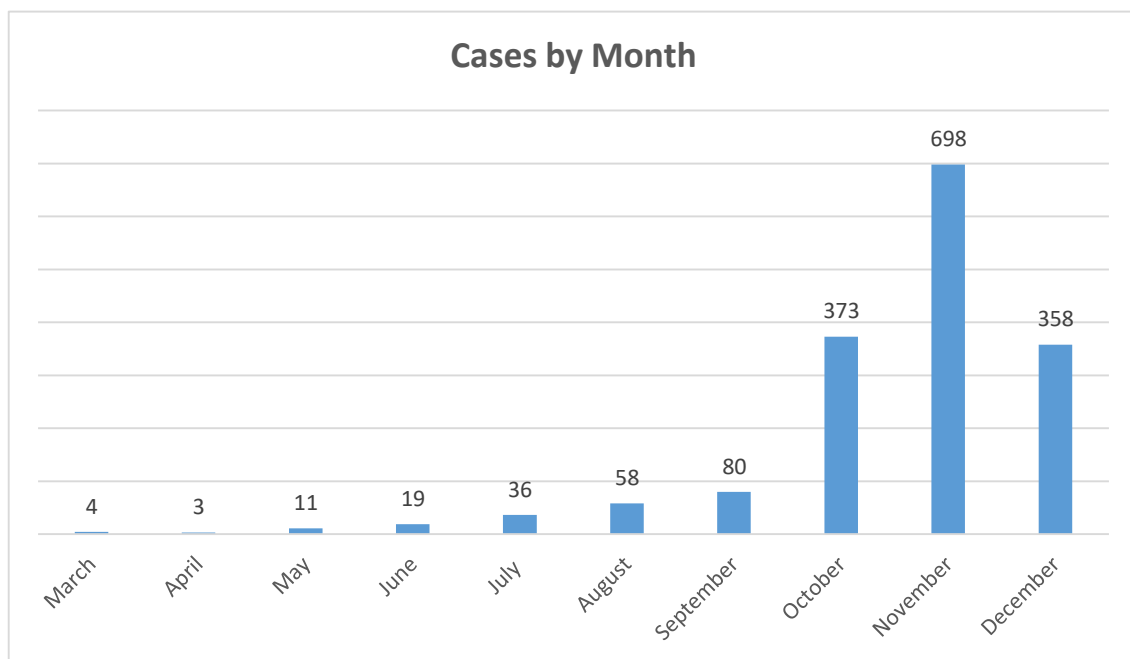
Positives: 1,657
Deaths: 10
Recovered: 1,597

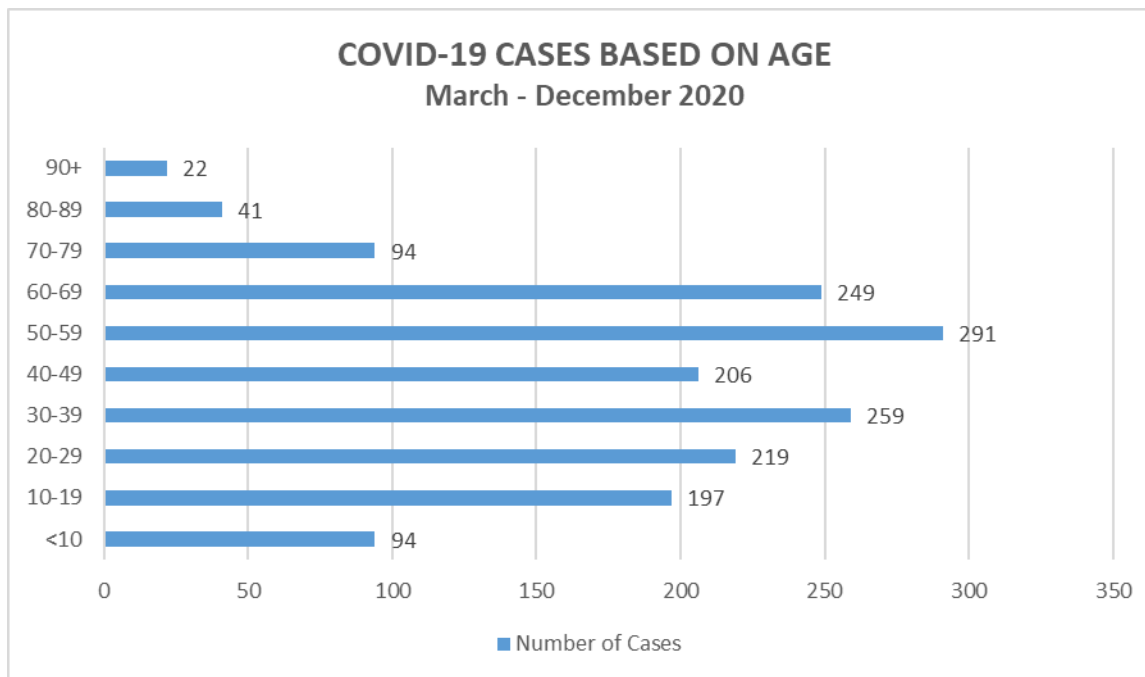
The COVID-19 Pandemic is the largest outbreak of a communicable disease that we have seen in our lifetime. Iowa County reported its first confirmed positive case in mid-March 2020.

1st Positive COVID case in Iowa County:
March 19, 2020

1st COVID death in Iowa County:
October 14, 2020

November and December were our busiest months, which included 698 cases in November (see graph below with cases by month). The age breakdown of cases ranges can be viewed on the graph on page seven.





At the outset of the pandemic, Iowa County organized quickly to respond. On March 16, 2020, the Iowa County Emergency Operations Center was officially opened, although many partner meetings and response measures had already taken place. Iowa County Emergency Management and Upland Hills Health, along with public safety agencies, the coroner’s office, funeral directors and Iowa County government were critical partners in the early days.

The Iowa County Health Department took the lead in mitigation, education, contact tracing, covid-19 testing and disease surveillance, and preparing for the rollout of new and innovative vaccines. Dozens of LTE staff were brought on to assist with contact tracing. Contact tracing is the subsequent identification, monitoring, and support of a confirmed or probable case’s close contacts who have been exposed to, and possibly infected with, the virus. A close contact is any individual within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more or had direct contact with an infected person. Contact tracing was at times very taxing on our department due to the enormous numbers of close contacts that had to be contacted, educated, quarantined, and monitored to stop the spread of the virus.

Our department assisted with coordinating who, when, and where people could be tested for COVID-19. In the beginning of the pandemic testing was difficult due to a lack of testing supplies and PPE as well as the limited amount of laboratories that were equipped to complete the analysis of the specimens. In the fall, we collaborated with Lafayette County and the Wisconsin National Guard to offer weekly testing between our counties. In addition, collaboration in the southwest region was coordinated to assure access.

COVID-19 DRIVE THRU TEST SITES

13 test sites between Iowa and Lafayette County were operated from October 6, 2020 through January 14, 2021.

Total specimens collected = 470

Community Mitigation: A critical piece of the outbreak and preventative response included implementing and messaging important mitigation strategies to key stakeholders and the public. These strategies included: physical distancing, hand hygiene, increase sanitation measures and use of cloth face coverings. With the abrupt ending of “Safer at Home” by the Supreme Court, the Iowa County Health Department created Forward Iowa County, a plan to safely move Iowa County forward in reopening. In addition, Mass Gathering Guidance was created to recommend safe gathering and reinforce important mitigation measures for businesses, organizations and residents.

Data is critical and proved a central piece to our response. A weekly dashboard with both general metrics and the school capacity indicators were assembled. These metrics were consistently communicated to the public and informed recommendations, Mass Gathering Guidance and school recommendations for virtual pivots and safer operations. See both of our weekly dashboards below reflecting status in December 2020.

Iowa County COVID-19 Disease Control Metrics



	Data from 12/9-12/22	Measure	Iowa County threshold metrics	Iowa County Status
Epidemiology	Cases	Less than 5% of tests in Iowa County are positive when averaged across a 14-day period	Green: Below 5% positivity Yellow: ≥ 5-10% positivity Red: Above 10% positivity	9.3%
	Cases	New cases below a threshold of .5 per day averaged over 14 days	Green: Below .5 cases per day averaged over a 14-day period Yellow: .5-2 cases per day averaged over a 14-day period Red: Greater than 2 cases per day averaged a recent 14-day period	14.6%
	Outbreaks	Outbreaks are identified and managed	Green: No active outbreaks Yellow: One active outbreak in a facility or employer with under 50 employees/residents Red: Two or more active outbreaks OR one active outbreak in a facility or employer with over 50 employees/residents	
Healthcare	Testing	Testing supplies and staff facilitate adequate testing for disease control and surveillance	Green: 35+ tests are performed per day, on average, in the past two weeks Yellow: 24-34 tests are performed per day, on average, in the past two weeks Red: <24 tests are performed per day, on average, in the past two weeks	157
	Healthcare Infrastructure	Upland Hills Hospital is able to handle all cases without crisis care	Facility use status: Med surg and ICU census Staffing status: Trained staff are available or able to adequately care for the volume of patients even with extension techniques. Critical supply status: There are at least 14 days worth of critical supplies.	
	Regional Healthcare Infrastructure	Regional hospital bed use	Green: <80% bed use Yellow: between 80-90% bed use Red: Greater than 90% bed use	80.5%
Public Health	Contact tracing and lab reporting timeliness	All positive cases are reported and contacted quickly to facilitate rapid isolation and quarantine for disease control	Green: Greater than 85% of all new cases are contacted within 48 hours of results becoming available Yellow: 70-85% of all new cases are contacted within 48 hours of results becoming available Red: Less than 70% of all new cases are contacted within 48 hours of results becoming available	96%
	Community spread	Community spread is and limited identified	Green: Fewer than 20% of cases in the past two weeks do not have a known route of transmission Yellow: 20-40% of cases in the past two weeks do not have a known route of transmission Red: >40% of cases in the past two weeks do not have a known route of transmission	40%
	Health Department	Iowa County Health Department has adequate staffing to handle day to day operations	Health Department answers yes to the following: Case Volume: Staff are able to manage health department operations. Staffing status: Staff are available to perform health department operations.	
EM	Isolation capacity	Capacity for supporting isolation and quarantine when appropriate	Green: Isolation and quarantine support resources are available Red: Isolation needs are not able to be met	
	Emergency management	Iowa County Emergency Management has adequate supplies and functional day to day operations	Green: Iowa County Emergency Management is in agreement that adequate pandemic-related supplies are available and day to day operations are routine or non-critical Red: Iowa County Emergency Management is lacking pandemic-related supplies or is attending to crises, disasters or other critical matters	

Updated 12/28/2020

Iowa County Indicators for School Capacity

The Iowa County Health Department, in partnership with Iowa County school districts, will consistently evaluate several identified metrics and indicators. These may evolve over time with experience and new evidenced-based practice as well as guidance from DPI, DHS, WIAA and/or CDC. The indicators shall assist in determining school capacity. All measures reported with data over a 14-day period.

Iowa County Data from 12/9 through 12/22	In-Person Learning	Reduced Capacity	Minimal Capacity
% Positive Tests Positive tests as a percentage of total tests	0-5%	5-10%	>10%
New Case Rate Number of new confirmed cases per 10,000 people	0-9 new confirmed cases	10-29 new confirmed cases	>30 new confirmed cases
Health Care Partner Status Facility use status: Med surg and ICU census Staffing status: Trained staff are available Critical supply status: At least 14 days worth of critical supplies.			
Regional Health Care Status Regional hospital bed use	Green: <80% bed use	Yellow: between 80-90% bed use	Red: Greater than 90% bed use
Public Health Status Timeliness with contact tracing and lab reporting	96%		
Health Department Capacity Health Department has adequate staffing to handle day to day operations			
Emergency Management Local EM partner has adequate infrastructure and PPE			
Community Spread Percentage of cases with no identified route of transmission	<20% of cases	20-30% of cases	>30% of cases

In-person learning: In-person instruction with protective measures
Reduced capacity: Local district hybrid or virtual options based on district plan
Minimal capacity: Local district model based on virtual and special needs learning

Iowa County Health Department will work directly with school administrators to determine district and school capacity based on the above indicators. In addition, school specific indicators based on questions answered on page two will inform district, school, grade and classroom response.

Revised 12.28.20

Communication to partners, stakeholders and the public was an additional critical element of the response. Consistent and regular communication in the form of email updates and meetings with several stakeholder groups was established early on in the response. In collaboration with Emergency Management, we hosted regular briefings with Upland Hills Health, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, school district administrators and school nurses, public safety agencies, Iowa County Corporation Counsel, Iowa County District Attorney, Sheriff's Department, pharmacies, county department heads, Board of Health and the County Board of Supervisors. Some of the topics and challenges included contact tracing, outbreak management and control, limited supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) and lab capacity, testing coordination, infection control guidelines, guidance to school districts on keeping staff and children safe, etc. Fit testing for the use of N95 masks provided by our consortium's Environmental Registered Sanitarian, to LTC facilities, school district staff and other responders. For several months, a daily email update was sent from the EOC to county board officials, the Board of Health and key stakeholders mentioned and listed above.



Iowa County Schools COVID-19 Response Protocol

Everyone plays a
role in prevention



Practice social
distancing



Wash hands
or sanitize
often



Wear a mask or
face covering

Student or staff member has **ONE** of the following
NEW symptoms

- New or worsening cough
- Temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New loss of taste or smell

Student or staff member
has **TWO** of the following
new symptoms: Chills,
headache, muscle pain,
nausea, sore throat, runny
nose/congestion, unusual
fatigue

Student or staff member
is **asymptomatic** and has
been in close contact
(within six feet for 15
minutes or more) with
someone who is COVID-
19 positive

1. Student or staff should **stay/go home from school**
2. **If student /staff becomes ill at school, they should be sent home immediately, along with any other household member in the district.**
3. **Alert the school office**
4. **Consider COVID-19 testing** through a healthcare provider or free testing site

Current information regarding free testing sites is available at Wisconsin 211

Alert the school office

While waiting for test results, remain in isolation at home

No test performed and no doctor visit	Positive test	Negative test or alterna- tive diagnosis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-isolate at home for ten days AND • Until fever-free for 24 hours AND • Until symptoms are improving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-isolate at home for ten days AND • Until fever-free for 24 hours AND • Until symptoms are improving • Health department to follow up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to school when fever-free for 24 hours AND • Symptoms are improving • If diagnosed with another illness, refer to the WI Childhood Communicable Diseases Chart, available online

A known close contact (within six feet for 15 minutes or more) **must complete a 14-day quarantine, even if a test result is negative**

Stay home until 14 days after last exposure, check temperatures twice a day and monitor for symptoms

Contact a healthcare provider if symptoms arise

Safe return to school!

Updated 9/3/20

The collaboration with our school district administrators and school nurses, established as a weekly zoom call, helped develop and sustain a consistent method of communication and trust. A whole host of topics were discussed and presented including safely reopening in the fall, and mutually agreed upon metrics and processes for considering virtual pivots. Key to this was the weekly Dashboard and School Capacity Indicators (see page 8 of this Annual Report). In addition, the school nurses and other key school staff conducted contact tracing to their districts, an invaluable asset and partnership to the Health Department.

To the left is guidance created by the team at the Health Department, adapted from DHS and CDC.

Iowa County enjoys a positive relationship with print, radio and television media partners. Regular media releases and use of social media was frequent and consistent. Iowa County was very available for inquiries and Interviews as they are a valued and key partner in the response. To the right is a Facebook post highlighting a “Safe Business Spotlight”, a terrific business being celebrated for prioritizing the safety of customers and staff.

As 2020 came to an end, our health department transitioned from testing to preparing for the rollout of several safe and effective vaccines (Pfizer & Moderna). This ray of hope finally bringing optimism that the covid-19 pandemic may diminish in 2021 or even come to an end!

Iowa County Health Department's
“Safe Business Spotlight”

The Iowa County Health Department would like to recognize Popolo Pizzeria for making the safety of their customers and staff a priority.

Offering hand tossed, wood fire cooked pizza, locally sourced meat, vegetables & cheese and nightly specials. Located in downtown Mineral Point at 20 Commerce Street.

Dine-in, Patio or Curbside Pickup

Hours 5-8 pm Wednesday – Friday & 4 – 8 Saturday and Sunday

Order on-line at www.popolomp.com

987-0480

Communicable Disease Surveillance and Follow-up

Wisconsin State Law mandates that local health departments are the responsible agency for the surveillance and follow-up of over 70 reportable communicable diseases. Communicable diseases are tracked through a secure, confidential database between public health, private physicians, hospitals, labs and the state. This communication channel allows for prompt investigation of possible outbreaks and unusual situations. It allows for control measures to minimize further transmission of disease to others.

<i>Diseases in Iowa County</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
Anaplasmosis, A. phagocytophilum	0	0	0	3	3
Arboviral Illness, West Nile Virus	1	1	1	3	1
Campylobacteriosis	14	22	14	20	13
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	0	0	0	0	3
Chlamydia Trachomatis	41	42	36	44	39
Coccidioidomycosis	0	0	0	0	1
COVID-19 (confirmed positive cases)					1,657
Coronavirus (confirmed, probable, suspect, not a case)					11,620
Cryptosporidiosis	12	9	7	6	8
E-Coli	11	6	5	7	4
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis, A.	3	2	0	1	0
Enteric – not reportable	0	0	0	0	1
Giardiasis	1	0	2	1	2
Gonorrhea	4	3	8	6	7
Haemophilus Influenzae, Invasive Disease	0	0	0	1	0
Hepatitis B	0	0	0	3	3
Hepatitis C, chronic	6	6	3	20	18
Histoplasmosis	1	2	0	1	0
Influenza					74
Influenza (Hospitalizations)	3	22	39	28	32
Legionellosis	1	0	1	1	1
Leptospirosis	2	0	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	0	1	0
Lyme Disease	11	8	4	9	10
Lyme Lab Report				38	21
Measles/Mumps/Rubella (tested)	0	0	0	1	0
Meningitis, Bacterial other	1	0	0	1	0
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children					1
Mumps					2
Mycobacterial Disease (non Tuberculosis)					2
Pertussis (tested)	64	97	64	59	
Pertussis					8
Q Fever, Unspecified	0	0	0	2	0
Rubella	1	0	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	4	8	10	3	2
Shigellosis	4	2	1	0	1
Spotted Fever Group				1	0
Streptococcal Disease, Invasive, Group A	2	1	0	2	1

Streptococcal Disease, Invasive, Group B					6
Streptococcus Pneumoniae, Invasive Disease					2
Syphilis	2	4	0	3	3
Toxoplasmosis	1	0	0	3	1
Tuberculosis				1	6
Tuberculosis, latent	1	1	3	3	2
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	4	8	1	9	12

Data Source: *Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System*

[Wis. Stat. § 251.06\(3\)\(f\)](#)

A local health officer shall: Investigate and supervise the sanitary conditions of all premises within the jurisdictional area of the local health department.

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Program is a valuable asset to our residents. Environmental Health provides programs that focus on issues like house hygiene, lead, radon, water quality and mold. The Environmental Health Coordinator continues to provide consultation and hands-on assessments for referrals in Iowa, Lafayette, Grant, Richland and Vernon counties. Below are the number of home visits and contacts made by the Environmental Health Coordinator.

Services	Iowa County				5 Counties – SW Wisconsin			
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020
Contacts	275	283	287	236	1,018	1,416	1,505	1,181
Home Visits	38	29	27	16	261	419	229	180

- **8 Iowa County children were tested for blood lead levels at WIC clinics in 2020**, compared to 161 children tested in 2019, where 59 of the blood lead tests were performed at WIC clinics in Iowa County. There is no safe level of lead in the human body. Even very low levels of lead can cause permanent brain damage and negatively affect health, especially those between 6 months and 6 years of age. Six children had blood lead levels falling in the range of 5–10 mcg/dl and were provided follow up.
- **73 animal bite investigations** were completed by the Iowa County Health Department in 2020, compared to 67 in 2019. Animal bites in 2020 occurred from 11 wild animals and 62 domestic animals. Of the 62 domestic animals, 24 had not been vaccinated for rabies.
- **48 radon kits** were distributed and **27 (56%)** were completed by residents of Iowa County, compared to 51 kits distributed and 35 returned in 2019. There were **9** tests completed with results between 4 – 10 pCi/l and **8** with results above 10 pCi/l. Follow-up letters were sent to all clients with levels above 4 pCi/l. Most scientists agree the risk of death for radon at 4 pCi/l is approximately 1 in 100. At the 4 pCi/l EPA action guideline level, radon carries approximately 1000 times the risk of death as any other EPA carcinogen.

3. Give people information they need to make healthy choices.

[Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 140.04\(1\)\(c\)](#)

Development and delivery of services to reduce the incidence or prevalence of the chronic diseases or injuries that are the leading causes of disability and premature death in the jurisdiction of the local health department

Chronic Disease Prevention

Chronic disease accounts for the greatest number of poor health conditions and increasing health care costs. 80% of older adults have at least one chronic condition and 50% have at least 2 or more. Public health nurses have co-facilitated several community based workshops and classes to help people living with a chronic disease. **“Healthy Living with Diabetes”** and **“Living Well with Chronic Disease”** help adults learn lifestyle skills to manage their disease.



“Stepping On” is a 7 week workshop that is proven to reduce falls and empower older adults. **Tai Chi** has also shown to be effective in falls prevention for the elderly.

In 2020, we continued our partnership with Lands’ End in Dodgeville to offer the **“Healthy Living with Diabetes”** class. Promotion and sign up for the 2020 classes began, however, due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold the classes.

In 2020, ICHD public nurse Kari Bennett and Janet Butteris, with Iowa County ADRC, planned a **“Stepping On”** class for the fall of 2020. We were excited to offer the class at a new site; the Mineral Point Library. Speakers had been arranged but again, the pandemic derailed our program.

Tai Chi classes began February 4 2020. Classes were held two times/week but classes ended on March 12th, due to the pandemic. Full session length is 12 weeks in total so we were happy to get in 6 weeks of Tai Chi. Outreach occurred to the participants and we learned that many were continuing with the exercises with the help of the CD they purchased through the class.

4. Engage the community to identify and solve health problems

[Wis. Stat. § 251.05\(3\)\(c\)](#)

A local health department shall...involve key policymakers and the general public in determining and developing a community health improvement plan that includes actions to implement the services and functions specified under s. 250.03(1)(L).

Healthy Aging in Rural Towns “HeART”



In 2020, the Iowa County HeART Coalition continued efforts to implement objectives and strategies despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our strategies address social isolation and included events to reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation. Due to the “safer at home” orders, our strategies have been adapted to comply with the orders.

In response to COVID-19 related needs, the coalition designed an easy-to-disseminate, printed resource card that lists local services and contact information, e.g., food and medication delivery services, fraud alerts, friendly call lines, transportation services, etc. Dissemination channels include Meals on Wheels, grocery, pharmacy and library bags and COVID-19 vaccination clinics. We also implemented a Social Isolation and Loneliness campaign, which included four ads that ran in the Shopping News. The ads included facts about social isolation and loneliness and resources to address the issue.

In addition, 400 activity bags were assembled which included a variety of resources, activities, goodies, and other items from coalition members and distributed them to Meals on Wheels participants, and assisted living and long term care residents.

We offered two Sip-n-Swipe Café’s which are self-paced app tutorials designed to instruct participants how to use their smart phones, tablets, and other electronic devices. One class was held in Arena at Grandma Mary’s and the other at the Mineral Point Library.

We have also written numerous articles printed in the “News and Views,” an insert in the Shopping News which is disseminated to over 10,000 homes throughout Iowa and Grant Counties. Articles include, Coping with the Silent Pandemic, Don’t Avoid Medical Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Meaningful Connections while Physically Distancing, and The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Older Adults in Iowa County.

The Coalition Coordinator has also developed public health messages for dissemination via social media, newspapers, Upland Hills Hospital and other outlets. Topics cover stress, helping neighbors, resilience and mental health.



Lastly, we have assembled a working group focused on Home Assessments and Modifications. We are collaborating with Habitat for Humanity, Independent Living Resources, and other agencies in the county to address the need for home improvements so older adults can remain in a safe environment and age in place.



<https://care.nursing.wisc.edu/heart/>



5. Develop Public Health Policies and Plans

Wis. Stat. § 251.05(3)(b)

Develop public health policies and procedures for the community.

Committees and Advisory Boards

The Iowa County Health Department had representation at many committee meetings, board meetings and conferences throughout 2020. These included the following:

Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB), Chair of Southern Region
Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA)
Southwest Community Action Program (SWCAP)
Community Connections Free Clinic
HeART Coalition
Iowa County Homeless Coalition
Substance Abuse Coalition
Infection Prevention Council at Upland Hills Health
Salvation Army
Traffic Safety Commission
Southwest Wisconsin Environmental Health Consortium
Southwest Wisconsin Emergency Preparedness Consortium
South Central Health Care Coalition
Southern Wisconsin Immunization Coalition
Coordinated Service Team (CST)
Aging Network (I Team)
Caregivers Support Group
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
Iowa County Caregiver Coalition
Dementia Friendly Community Coalition
Family Resource Center of Iowa County

6. Enforce Public Health Laws and Regulations

Wis. Stat. § 251.06(3)

A local health officer shall:

- (a) Administer the local health department in accordance with state statutes and rules.
- (b) Enforce state public health statutes and rules.
- (c) Enforce any regulations that the local board of health adopts and any ordinances that the relevant governing body enacts, if those regulations and ordinances are consistent with state public health statutes and rules.

In 2020, four orders of abatement were issued for unhealthy home environments with animal feces and urine, pest infestation, mold, drugs and asbestos. In addition, four orders from previous years required our ongoing work. Many of the hazards were abated without the need for legal action.

7. Help people receive health services

Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 140.04(1)(c)3

Services to prevent other diseases....Arranging screening, referral and follow-up for population groups for which these activities are recognized by the department as effective in preventing chronic diseases and injuries.



Maternal Child Health (MCH)

The Iowa County Health Department offers health assessments for families who have a newborn to supplement visits with their health care provider. These assessments include height/weight checks, information about growth and development, resources and support to help ensure babies are healthy and developing normally. In 2019, 75 visits were made with infants and families. In 2020, most of the Maternal Child Health activities were paused during the pandemic. There were no home visits or phone calls to new families. Nurses fielded a few phone calls and provided callers with information and guidance in maternal and child health care topics. Early in 2020, the Health Department had been sending letters to new families with health information but this activity was suspended. Those letters contained information on developmental milestones. (This was our MCH objective through the state). Later in the year, we provided information to UW Extension and Upland Hill Health to send letters to new parents.

WIC

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program is a nutrition, informational and supplemental food program available to eligible families with children under age five, women who are pregnant, or nursing women. A public health nurse is available during WIC Clinics to screen families for public health programs and services. In early 2020, a nurse attended the WIC clinics at the Health and Human Services building 2 times a month with a goal to provide fluoride varnish to children 6 months through 5 years. Information was also provided on maternal care, immunization, growth and development, lead, and other services in the community. The WIC clinics have become virtual, with only the WIC staff interacting with the participants. The public health nurse continues to do follow up on high lead levels as required.

Oral Health

Tooth decay is one of the most common, preventable diseases in children. The Health Department works with local schools, WIC and Head Start to promote use of fluoride varnish. A public health nurse applies fluoride varnish to the teeth of children ages 6 months to 12 years of age. In 2019, 117 fluoride varnishes were applied. In 2020, this program's activities were paused due to the pandemic. The health department still provides water testing kits for pregnant women and families with children less than one year old and subsequent follow up with water issues.

Tobacco Coalition

The Health Department is an active partner of the Southwest Alliance for Tobacco Prevention Coalition. The coalition works to create tobacco free communities in Iowa, Grant, Lafayette, Rock and Green counties. In 2020, the tobacco prevention coalition continued with virtually meetings over the entirety of the pandemic. Not 100% of meetings were attended due to conflict with COVID-19. We did education and outreach with the public and distributed bags with information on smoking cessation and prevention to participants at our COVID-19 vaccination clinics at Lands' End. Over 100 bags were distributed. E-cigarettes and "Vaping" continued as a focus for the Tobacco Coalition.

8. Maintain a competent public health workforce

Wis. Stat. § 251.06(3)(e)

A local health officer shall...Appoint all necessary subordinate personnel, assure that they meet appropriate qualifications and have supervisory power over all subordinate personnel. Any public health nurses and sanitarians hired for the local health department shall meet any qualification requirements established in rules promulgated by the department.

Limited Term Employees (LTE)

In 2020, additional Public Health Nurse joined the staff at the Iowa County Health Department as a Limited-term Employees. These LTE nurses added essential capacity with contact tracing. In addition, two Public Health Nurse Project positions were approved and added in the fall of 2020. These were essential in assisting with contact tracing as well as testing and stakeholder coordination with long term care facilities and school districts. In addition, the Iowa County Department of Social Services lent several team members to staff the EOC and assist with contact tracing efforts as well.



PHN Project Positions

Carmen Carpenter
Kaylee Litchfield

LTEs

Cara Biddick
Kelly Deterding
Sharon Friederick
Liz Heth
Shirley Marty Klostermam
Sue Matye
Carly Tibbitts
Annie Timmerman
Laurie Walker

Iowa County Social Service staff

Nohe Caygill
Janet Butteris
Marylee Oleson

Student

Daisy Riley, UW Madison School of Nursing

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The Iowa County Health Department has enjoyed a decade plus long partnership with neighboring counties to work on, train and exercise emergency preparedness plans. The consortium includes Iowa, Grant, Lafayette, Richland, Vernon and Crawford counties. In 2020, the pandemic was a challenge testing this collaboration across the consortium. Health Officers planning together, sharing creative solutions, or even sharing frustration is always helpful. The support of neighbors was critical to the response as well as fulfilling the requirements of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant.

South Central Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (SCWIHERC)

<http://www.scwiherc.org/>

Iowa County is one of 14 counties in the South Central Wisconsin HERC Region 5. The coalition is comprised of hospitals, public health, emergency management, emergency medical services and trauma. Through effective policy development and training practices, the Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition integrates individual planning capabilities from regional responders to facilitate a coordinated and collaborative response to emergencies in the region. In 2018, Iowa County Health Department became the fiscal agent for SCWIHERC. The Iowa County Health Officer continues to serve on the Advisory Board for the Coalition.

9. Evaluate and improve programs and interventions

Wis. Stat. § 251.06(3)(h)

A local health officer shall: Have charge of the local health department and perform the duties prescribed by the local board of health. The local health officer shall submit an annual report of the administration of the local health department to the local board of health.

Board of Health Meeting: May 12, 2021

10. Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health

Wis. Stat. § 250.03(1)(L)

Provide research to develop insights into and innovative solutions for health problems.



The Iowa County Health Department continues to be a provider of the National Diabetes Prevention Program, “Prevent T2” for people who are diagnosed with prediabetes or are at risk of developing diabetes. The Iowa County Health Department was the first health department in Wisconsin to offer the program. This yearlong, evidenced-based program to prevent or postpone Type 2 Diabetes focuses on healthy eating, increasing physical activity, weight loss, stress reduction and coping skills, and making lifestyle changes. In 2020, we continued our partnership with Lands’ End in Dodgeville. Promotion and sign up for the 2020 classes had begun, however, due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold the classes.



FISCAL SUMMARY

Expenses	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Personnel & Fringe	307,927	314,550	325,600	348,542	569,773
All others	35,515	30,048	49,965	59,172	76,554
*SCWIHERC	-	-	-	355,592	216,637
Total:	\$343,442	\$344,598	\$375,565	\$763,307	862,964
Revenue					
Grants	77,587	80,663	107,549	135,934	435,789
Other	20,654	21,239	12,368	10,558	1,230
*SCWIHERC	-	-	-	360,912	237,593
Total:	\$98,241	\$101,902	\$119,917	\$507,404	674,612
Tax Levy	\$245,201	\$242,696	\$255,648	\$255,903	188,352

*Iowa County Health Department is the fiscal agent for South Central Wisconsin Health Emergency Readiness Coalition (SCWIHERC).