



IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Approved May 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board of Health and HD Staff	2
Message from Health Officer	3
Mission, Vision, and Values	4
HD Organization Chart	5
Programs and Services	6
Community Health Improvement Plan	6
Communicable Disease Surveillance and Follow-up	7
COVID-19 Response	7
Other Communicable Diseases	20
Environmental Health	22
Chronic Disease Prevention	23
HeART Coalition	23
Committees and Advisory Boards	25
Public Health Laws and Regulations	25
Public Health Services	26
Public Health Workforce	27
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	27
Evidence Based Programs	28
Finances	29



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.



BOARD OF HEALTH

Linda Pittz, Chair/Community Member
Judy Lindholm, Vice-Chair/Elected Official
Joan Davis, Elected Official
Bruce Haag, Elected Official
Jeremy Meek, Elected Official
Tom Howard, Community Member
Sue Steudel, Community Member
Dr. Peter Mullin, Medical Advisor

IOWA COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

Debbie Siegenthaler, MSN, RN

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Kari Bennett, BSN, RN
Public Health Nurse
retired September 2021
Ann Thompson, BSN, RN
Public Health Nurse
Carly Tibbits, BSN, RN
Public Health Nurse
started September 2021
Carmen Carpenter, BSN, RN
Public Health Project Nurse
Geana Shemak, Ph.D., ATC
Community Coordinator/Educator
Troy Morris, RS
Environmental Health Coordinator
Kathy Key
Administrative Assistant

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.

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

The year 2021 proved to be another extraordinary and unprecedented year. The pandemic continued and evolved with new variants and surges in cases. With the pandemic lasting into a second year, like so many in our community, public health faced significant stress and strain as a result.

While the pandemic consumed the activities of the Iowa County Health Department and required many of our programs to continue to be suspended, several programs and services continued. In the midst of the pandemic, in November of 2021, we successfully achieved re-designation as a Level II Health Department in the State of Wisconsin.

A comprehensive pandemic response is very complex and requires capacity the Health Department normally does not have. 2021 saw our capacity surge far beyond the norm. We brought on dozens of additional staff to assist with vaccine administration, disease investigation, contact tracing, and community COVID-19 testing. In addition, we had over 100 volunteers step forward to offer assistance and support. The Community Health Coordinator/Educator position was extended which provided us with the capacity to deliver critical health information and guidance at a time when the information was changing every hour. Finally, we wished a happy retirement to Kari Bennett and welcomed Carly Tibbits.



This report includes a lot of information but several pandemic related activities stand out:

- COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Lands' End was a massive operation requiring the generous partnership of Land's End. We are so grateful to them and their team. This operation required the community's help. We scaled up vaccinator staff to assist, we had the incredible partnership of Emergency Management and we had dozens of community volunteers who helped us run the clinic for months. We are especially proud of the residents who helped us achieve robust vaccination rates. Iowa County has been a leader in this area.
- COVID-19 PCR drive through testing at HHS took a lot of coordination and work to stand up. We faced many challenges with testing supplies and weather but are proud of the service offered to the community. We are also grateful to all our community partners who offered testing.
- Contact tracing and disease investigation. This activity has been full of an incredible amount of challenge, stress and sheer manpower and hours. It required expertise, perseverance and grit. This work informed our data dashboard, which continued to prove a critical tool in our response.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our amazing response partners. In particular, our Emergency Management partners, Keith Hurlbert and Amanda Gardner deserve specific recognition. They have never left our side and their support has been instrumental in our successful response. Uplands Hills Health continued an expert response, 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, including the County Administrator, Board of Health and County Board of Supervisors. Thank you also to our medical advisor, Dr. Peter Mullin as well as Iowa County residents. So many contributed, supported and sacrificed for the health and safety of our county and we are grateful!

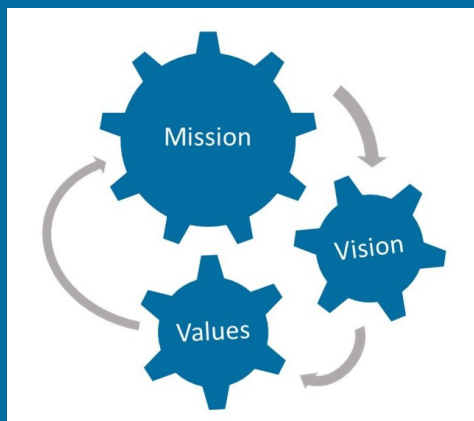
Finally, I want to commend our team at the health department. A second year provided not only more challenge, but was simultaneous to incredible fatigue and stress. This team rose to the occasion over and over and to say they are an incredible group working for the health of Iowa County residents seems such a small statement when compared to the true testament of their work. They are some of the most important heroes of this pandemic. They represent what is so special about Iowa County – the people. They are strong, resilient and brave. They give me hope for the future and our continued recovery.

Debbie Siegenthaler

Debbie Siegenthaler MS, RN
Director/Health Officer

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.



2021

MISSION & VISION

Maximizing quality of life across the lifespan

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

VALUES

Prevention and Promotion– *Providing strategies that prevent disease and promote healthy living in healthy environments. Empowering citizens to take responsibility for their health and well-being.*

Collaboration and Partnership– *Working together to provide the best solutions that address health priorities of the community and support a strong public health system.*

Evidence-Based– *Practicing science based strategies and using best practices that improve population health.*

Social Justice and Health Equity– *Promoting equal rights and opportunities and advocating wellness for everyone regardless of social, economic, or cultural factors. Fostering policies and programs that are respectful of our diverse communities, considering the social determinants of health, and incorporating practices that reduce health disparities.*

Respect– *Approaching all people with significance, understanding, compassion and dignity.*

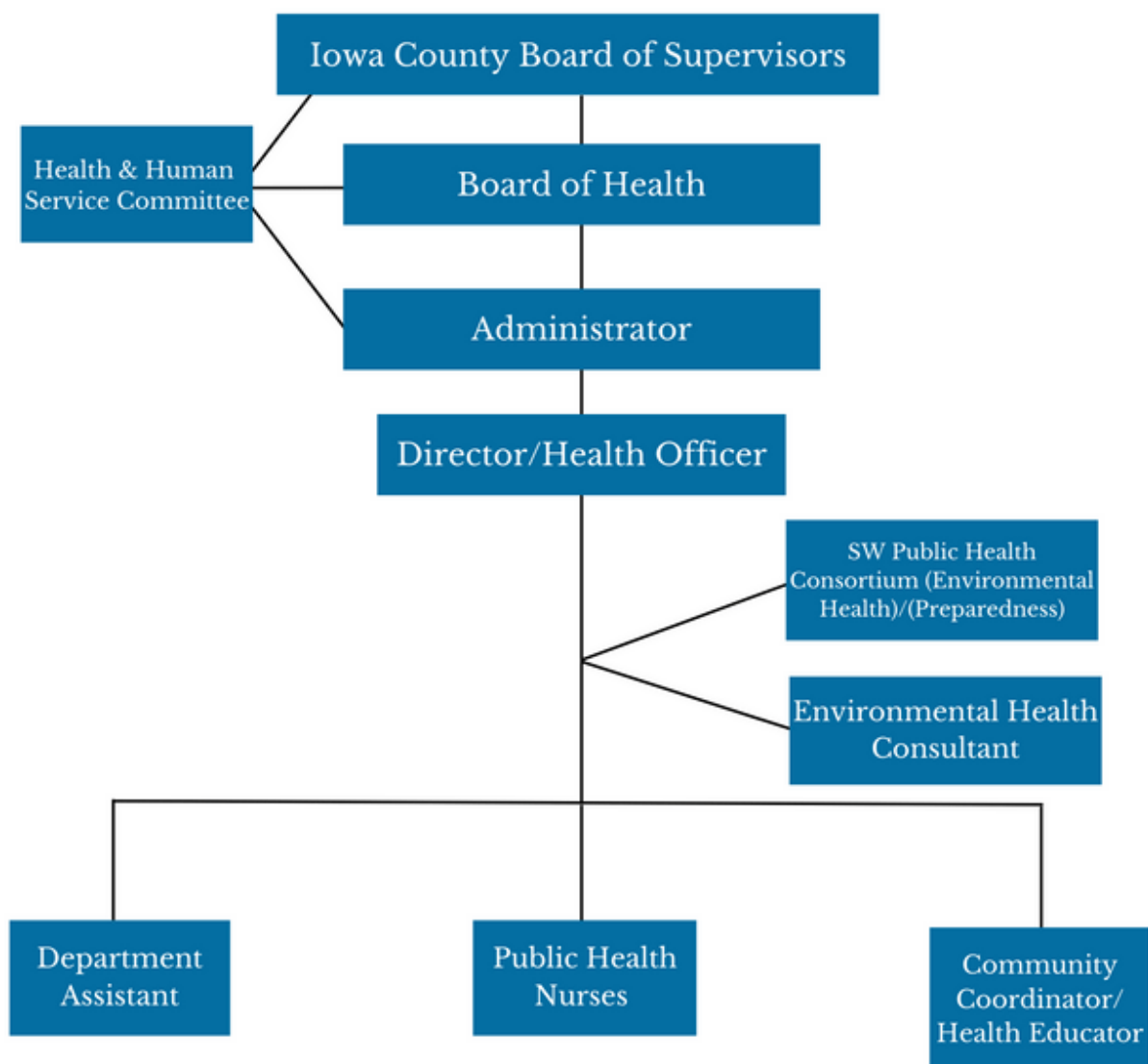
Integrity– *Practicing commitment to honesty, fairness, professionalism, and accountability in all of our decisions and actions.*

Teamwork– *Contributing, learning, supporting and energizing team members while embracing each other's differences and abilities. (updated March 2022)*



Iowa County Health Department

ORGANIZATION CHART



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 2021, Iowa County was ranked #10 for health outcomes and #17 for health factors. In 2020, Iowa County was 13th for health outcomes and 16th for health factors. Iowa County is proud that for both categories, we are ranking among the top 25% of the healthiest counties in Wisconsin.

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 2021, 700 total immunizations (including flu) were administered to 678 individuals. As reference, in 2020, 244 total immunizations (including flu) were administered to 238 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 Saturday and evening clinics in October 2020. **In 2021, we resumed school-based clinics and in October, all districts were visited and 612 doses of flu vaccine administered to Iowa County school-aged children.**



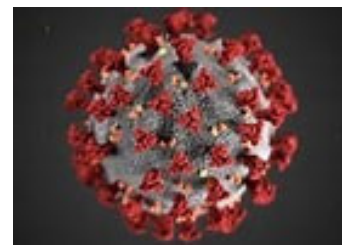
Year	No. of Vaccines* Given to Children	No. of Vaccines^ Given to Adults
2017	951	214
2018	880	206
2019	1005	181
2020	188	56
2021	640	60

*VFC includes flu vaccines ^ VFA includes flu vaccines
Does NOT include COVID-19 vaccines

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.

COVID-19 Response

In 2021, the pandemic response continued to consume the majority of our time and operations. In addition to providing testing, continuing disease investigation, and delivering guidance to our community, we were also coordinating and administering vaccinations as another tool to help decrease illness and severity of the virus.



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-19 case in Iowa County
March 19, 2020

1st COVID-19 death in Iowa County
October 14, 2020

COVID-19 Numbers as of December 31, 2021

Positives: 3,449

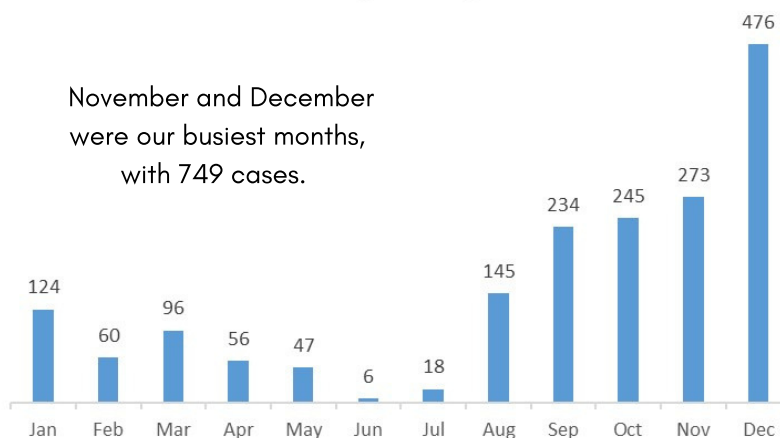
Deaths: 22

Recovered: 3,300

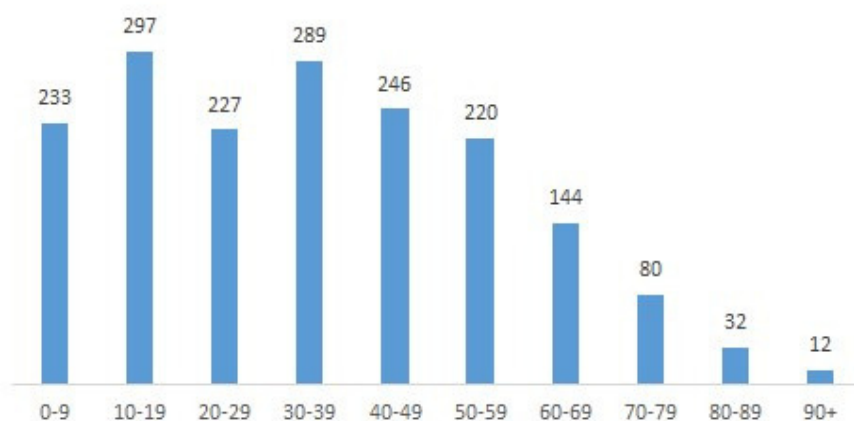
We are all aware that the pandemic began in March 2020 and Iowa County organized quickly to respond. Operations continued and got even more intense in 2021. A recap of operations beginning in March 2020 and continuing in 2021: the official opening of the Iowa County Emergency Operations Center on March 16, 2020, hundreds of partner meetings and response measures around dozens of topic areas.

COVID-19 cases surge during the Fall of 2021

November and December were our busiest months, with 749 cases.



COVID-19 Cases by Age, 2021



Our key response partner was and still is the Iowa County Emergency Management. They have been by our side since the beginning. Additional critical partners are referenced and mentioned in the following pages and include Upland Hills Health, Iowa County school districts, long term care facilities, daycares, public safety agencies, coroner's office, funeral directors and Iowa County government.

The Iowa County Health Department continued the pandemic response in 2021 with early months of 2021 being the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine clinics. This was an incredible operational undertaking...

Vaccine Rollout: Mass Vaccination Clinic

Beginning on January 7, 2021, the ICHD began administering COVID-19 vaccines at the Health and Human Services building after several months of planning, logistics and awaiting approval and direction from the FDA and CDC. The rollout began at the HHS building with the Moderna vaccine; an intentional decision based on the storage needs and availability of that particular vaccine. It quickly became evident that the vaccination operation being held at the HHS building would need to be expanded to meet the need of county residents desiring to be vaccinated, so a partnership with Lands' End was formed to allow for a mass vaccination site on the Lands' End Campus. With the mutual goal of increasing capacity and access to COVID-19 vaccine for the community, the ICHD and Lands' End were able to provide a clinic site at the Comer Activity Center that had the capacity to vaccinate up to 550 people in a 3 hour window while keeping all participants socially distanced and observed for the 15 minute post-vaccine time period. We met with representatives from Lands' End and IC Emergency Management and ultimately provided a safe and effective environment for the delivery of vaccines beginning on February 8, 2021 and continuing through June 3, 2021.

Along with the Emergency Management team, we engaged a robust team of volunteers that faithfully assisted at every mass vaccination clinic that we held in a variety of roles. Vaccine recipients were guided through the process as they approached the parking lot with instructions on parking, assistance with ambulation when needed, guidance on where to go, assistance with registration as well as guiding them through the vaccination and observation process.

As vaccine demand decreased, we closed the mass clinic site and Lands' End and moved the clinic operation back to the HHS Building on June 3, 2021.

In October 2021 with the approval of the first COVID-19 vaccine boosters, Lands' End again opened their doors to the HD and the community to accommodate the increased demands for vaccine boosters. We accepted this gracious offer and moved back to their Day Care Center to provide a second mass vaccination clinic site that continued through December 2021.



Despite months of planning by the ICHD prior to the approval of the COVID-19 vaccine, we were rationed a limited supply of vaccine from the federal government. The demand for the COVID-19 vaccine in Iowa County often exceeded the amount of vaccine that was available to us from the government. In the early days of the rollout, there were specifications made on who would be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Due to the limited vaccine supply, eligible populations were chosen by CDC/DHS guidelines based on risk assessment. Due to limited availability, some of our rollout was dictated by vaccine availability. The rollout began with the Moderna vaccine which was available in January 2021. We added the J&J vaccine as an option to our county residents in April 2021 and then added the Pfizer vaccine in May 2021.

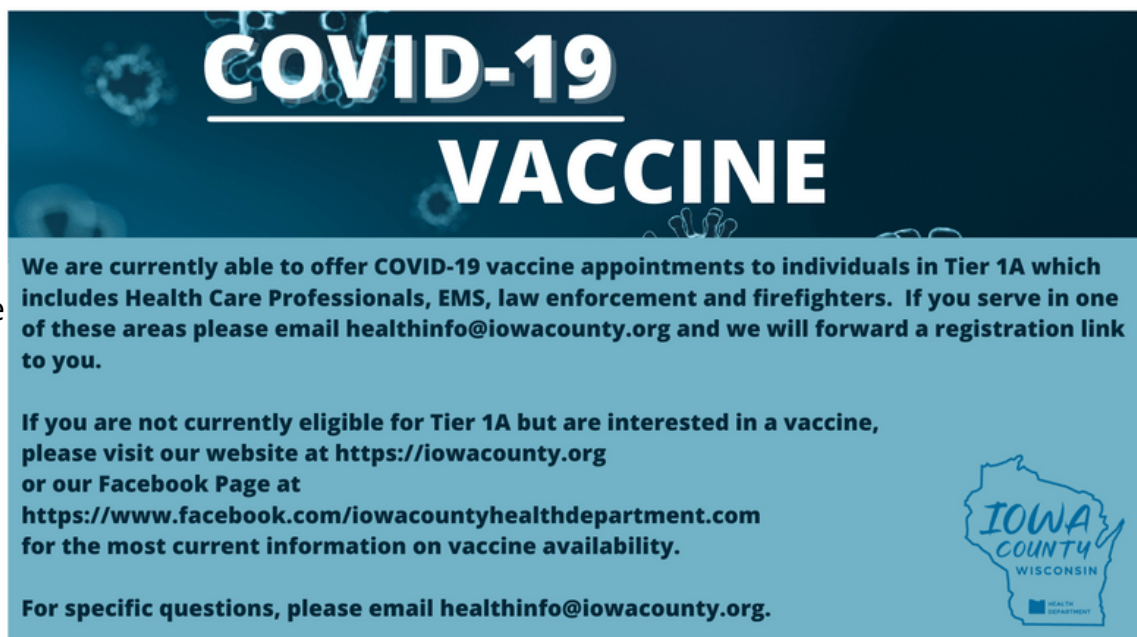
Messaging about vaccine availability and eligibility was crucial to ensure residents knew of their opportunity to get vaccinated as was the scheduling process since we had to verify those who were actually eligible to receive the vaccine in the early phases of offering the vaccine.

We invited volunteers to assist with scheduling appointments during the time that vaccines were limited but requests were plentiful. An ongoing list of those desiring the vaccine was kept from week to week for staff and volunteers to work from.

An excerpt from the January 14, 2021 press release, stressing the importance of patience and understanding as we worked tirelessly to vaccinate eligible persons...

Additionally, we understand people are eager to get immunized and have questions about when they will be able to do so. Iowa County Health Department asks for residents' patience as we first vaccinate the Phase 1A group. We will share information widely when we are authorized to start vaccinating other populations. Please keep up to date with the vaccine roll-out through press releases, the Iowa County COVID-19 website and/or the ICHD Facebook page. Please understand that the Health Department is not keeping lists of the general public wishing to receive the vaccine. Once again, we ask for your patience and understanding in this process. Our goal is to ensure everyone in Iowa County is vaccinated as soon as possible.

In addition to the mass vaccine clinics at Lands' End, the Health Department maintained a partnership with the Iowa County Jail. Throughout 2021, Health Department nurses administered vaccines at the Jail after communicating with the nurse about any staff or inmates in need of a vaccine. This communication was ongoing and in conjunction with the planned vaccine clinics at the HHS building and Lands' End.




**COVID-19
VACCINE**

We are currently able to offer COVID-19 vaccine appointments to individuals in Tier 1A which includes Health Care Professionals, EMS, law enforcement and firefighters. If you serve in one of these areas please email healthinfo@iowacounty.org and we will forward a registration link to you.

If you are not currently eligible for Tier 1A but are interested in a vaccine, please visit our website at <https://iowacounty.org> or our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/iowacountyhealthdepartment.com> for the most current information on vaccine availability.

For specific questions, please email healthinfo@iowacounty.org.



School-Based Vaccine Clinics

We kicked off school-based COVID-19 vaccine clinics in May 2021 when the Pfizer vaccine was approved for administration in the 12 and older age category. Pfizer vaccines were offered and administered to children that were 12 years and older in the school setting during the school day. To accomplish this rather large goal, the staff of ICHD partnered with school nurses and administrators to schedule clinics at schools. This process included scheduling LTE staff to serve as vaccinators, scheduling spaces within school buildings to host a clinic, developing educational tools for parents to answer FAQ's about the COVID-19 vaccination and assuring that consents were given and appropriately completed by parents/guardians. After administering the first dose of the vaccine in May, we returned in June of 2021 to administer the second dose in the Pfizer series.

Beginning in November 2021 the Pediatric Pfizer vaccines for children aged 5-11 were approved and we once again planned and implemented vaccine clinics within the school setting for this age group. The staff and LTE vaccinators followed this age group into December with their second doses of the Pfizer vaccine series.

In order to provide alternative dates for families needing to follow up with either the first or second dose of Pfizer, we provided two Saturday clinics at the Iowa County Health Department to provide additional access points for pediatric vaccination. In addition to providing COVID-19 vaccinations within the school setting, the Iowa County Health Department Staff with the assistance of our LTE staff returned to schools to administer 587 influenza vaccines in October 2021.



Booster Vaccine Clinics

Our first booster vaccine clinics were held at the Lands' End Childcare center. Due to the timeline of vaccine approvals, we offered Pfizer boosters beginning in October and Moderna boosters beginning in November. We also offered primary series and J&J boosters out of the Health Department on a different day of the week.

ICHD - 2021 SCHOOL-BASED VACCINATION CLINICS

BARNEVELD

- May - **54** COVID-19
- June - **45** COVID-19
- Oct - **57** Flu vax
- Nov - **70** COVID -19 (5-11)

DODGEVILLE

- May - **77** COVID-19
- June - **71** COVID-19
- Oct - **214** Flu vax
- Nov - **76** COVID -19 (5-11)

HIGHLAND

- May - **26** COVID-19
- Oct - **87** Flu vax
- Nov - **17** COVID -19 (5-11)
- Dec - **17** COVID-19 (5-11)

HOLLANDALE

- Nov - **40** COVID -19 (5-11)
- Dec - **35** COVID-19 (5-11)

IOWA-GRANT

- May - **26** COVID-19
- Oct - **114** Flu vax
- Nov - **76** COVID -19 (5-11)
- Dec - **71** COVID-19 (5-11)

MINERAL POINT

- May - **78** COVID-19
- June - **86** COVID-19
- Oct - **98** Flu vax
- Nov - **202** COVID -19 (5-11)

ST JOES

- May - **8** COVID-19
- June - **10** COVID-19
- Oct - **17** Flu vax

Total # COVID-19 and
Flu vaccines
administered in the
school setting: **1672**



ICHD Provides School-based COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

MAY 2021
APPROVED USE
OF PFIZER FOR
12-15 Y.O.

MAY-JUNE 2021
SCHOOL-BASED
COVID-19
CLINICS

JULY - SATURDAY
BACK-TO-SCHOOL
VACCINE CLINIC

OCT 2021
SCHOOL-
BASED
FLU
CLINICS

NOV-DEC 2021
SCHOOL-BASED
COVID-19
CLINICS

DEC. 2021
2 DAYS OF
PEDIATRIC
CLINICS OVER
SCHOOL BREAK

In May of 2021 in anticipation of the EUA for the Pfizer vaccine for 12-15 year olds, the Iowa County Health Department created a framework to provide the vaccine in school-based clinics. School nurses were contacted and it was determined that those schools desiring a school-based clinic would be placed on a schedule. The school nurses were provided with written resources to share with families including a "FAQ's" document prepared by the Health Department, Pfizer EUA documentation and consent forms to share with families. LTE staff was scheduled to provide staffing alongside the Health Department staff for these clinics. ICHD collaborated with school office staff for the physical logistics of the clinics.

PREP

513
Vaccines

587
Vaccines

668
Vaccines

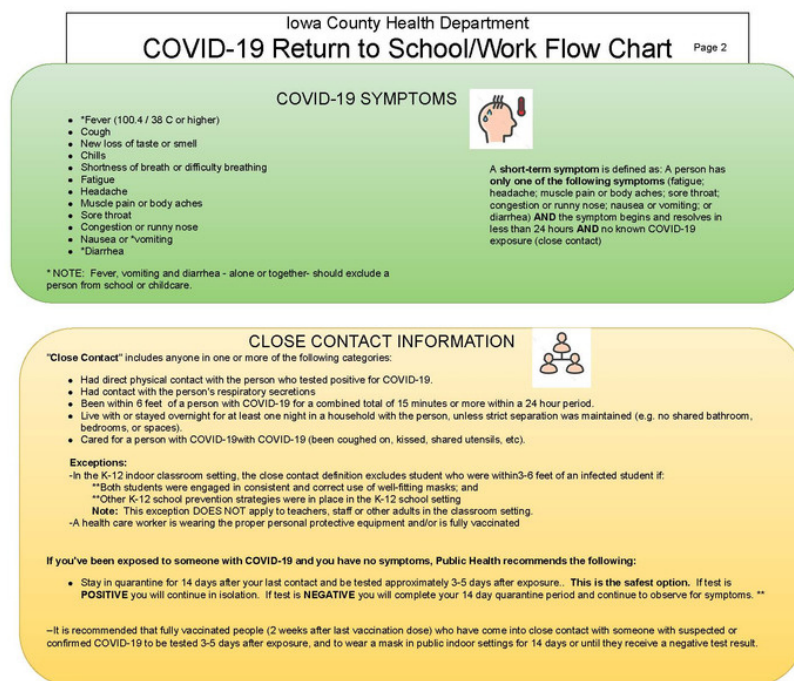
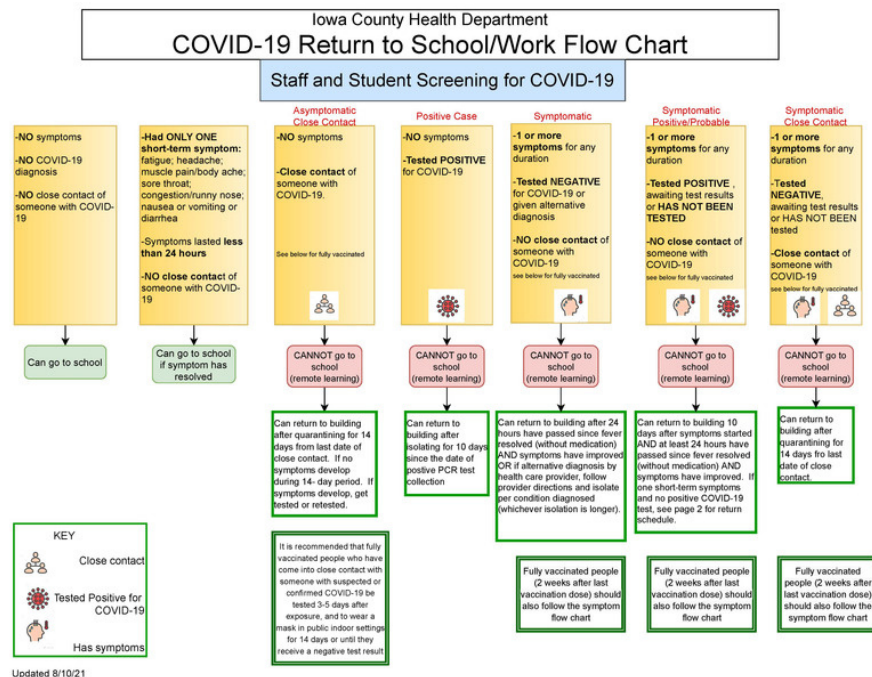
21
Vaccines

Throughout 2021 the Health Department (HD) staff maintained ongoing communication and partnerships with all schools in Iowa County. Health Department nurses hosted one to two weekly meeting(s) with all school nurses. These meetings provided a platform for the HD staff to update school nurses on COVID-19 policies and procedures as they were made available from CDC and DHS, to offer a time to collaborate on individual case questions and to plan for vaccine rollouts. It also served as a forum for school nurses to collaborate with one another. In addition, the HD nursing staff served as a daily resource for school staff, assisting them to navigate the ongoing changes that the pandemic presented.

In May of 2021, in anticipation of the EUA for the Pfizer vaccine for 12-15 year old's, the HD staff created a framework to provide school-based vaccine clinics. We again collaborated with the school nurses and office staff in each district; partnering with them to provide the vaccine to families in the school setting with the ultimate goal of improving access to the vaccine for families of school children. Health Department staff provided school nurses with informational documents to share with families. These included the Pfizer EUA document, vaccine consent form and a FAQ's document developed by the HD to aide in answering family questions proactively. All written documentation was also provided in Spanish.

Clinic planning and logistics were initiated, schools were given options for dates and times that would work for each district and a calendar of clinics was created.

LTE staff assisted the HD staff at school-based vaccine clinics in each district.



Example of a flow chart, created by the HD, adapted from DHS and the CDC.

In addition to the weekly school nurse meetings, the HD also help a weekly meeting that included both school administrators and school nurses. These "school stakeholder" meetings were facilitated by the Health Officer with additional HD staff in attendance. This platform provided school stakeholders with the most up-to-date data on COVID-19 coming from the state.

Pop-Up Vaccine Clinics

When considering transportation and other barriers to accessing the COVID-19 vaccine, the Health Department partnered with many of our communities in Iowa County to provide increased COVID-19 vaccine access in May and June of 2021. We traveled to each community twice, setting up a mobile clinic and offering Moderna, Pfizer and J&J vaccines at every clinic. We also provided evening clinics to provide increased opportunity for vaccination for the working population. Our pop-up clinics were drive-through and we partnered with Emergency Management who provided signage, cones, tents, and assisted us in choosing locations in each community. Additionally, Akshay Sukhwal, who is employed through Southwest CAP, assisted the nurses by providing education and translation services.

ICHD is on the road for PopUp Vaccine Clinics 2021

Teamwork

From May-July 2021 the staff of the ICHD organized a schedule of PopUp clinics that would provide options for residents across the county to receive the COVID-19 vaccine close to home.

Collaboration

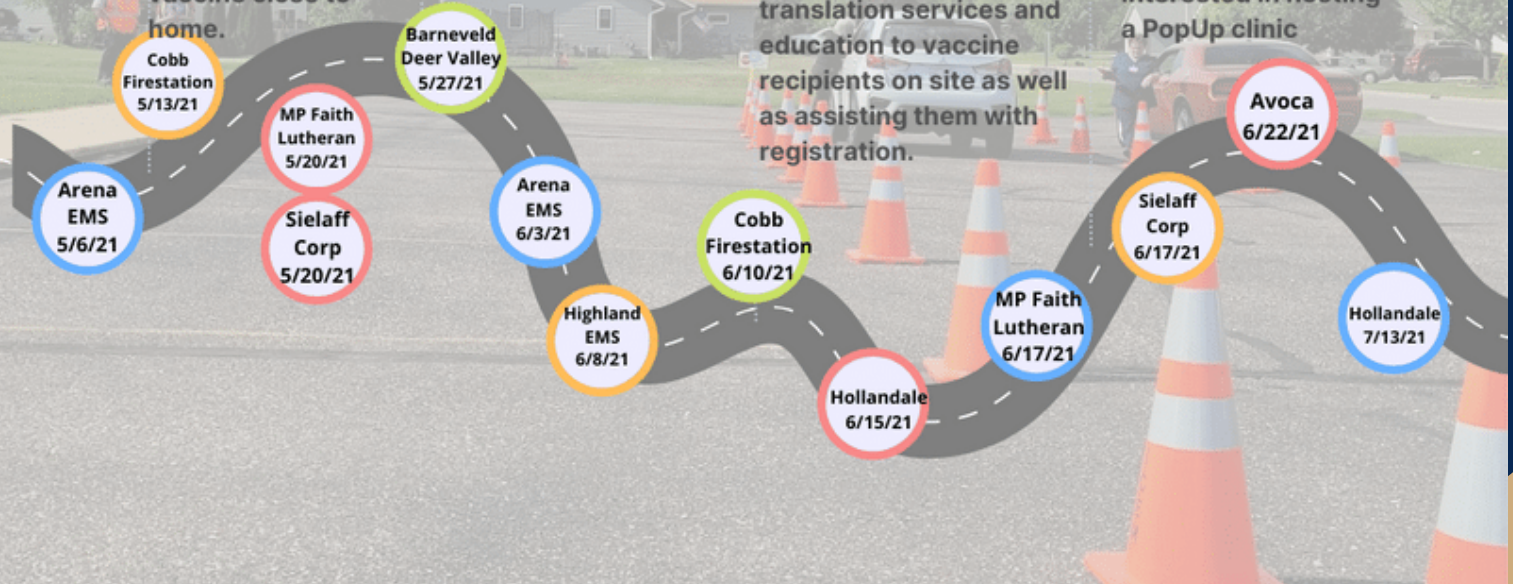
In collaboration with Emergency Mgmt and area EMS the ICHD was able to secure clinic sites with EMS presence.

Translation Services

Akshay Sukhwal (SWCAP) served Iowa County residents in a number of roles and was a vital member of the Health Dept. team. During PopUp clinics he provided translation services and education to vaccine recipients on site as well as assisting them with registration.

Partnerships

ICHD partnered with community organizations throughout the county that were interested in hosting a PopUp clinic



COVID-19 Community Testing

Our department continued to operate and assist in partner testing coordination efforts in 2021, although testing opportunities from the HD staff were limited as we focused on vaccine administration. We picked back up with drive-thru testing clinics at the HHS building in August.

COVID-19 Drive-Thru Tests

In 2021, the Iowa County Health Department provided 31 drive-thru testing clinics at the Health & Human Services building.

Total specimens collected = 1,156

Iowa County Health Department COVID-19 Testing Site-2021

The testing initiative of 2020 concluded as the vaccine rollout began in January 2021. With the surge of COVID-19 variants (Delta and Omicron) in the late summer of 2021, the testing site through the ICHD resumed as a drive-thru site at the HHS building. During the week of 10/5/21, the site expanded to two mornings each week and was staffed by the HD staff along with LTE nurses.

Jan 19 tests

Testing resumed
Aug 10 tests

Sep 124 tests

Oct 235 tests

Nov 223 tests

Dec 545 tests



Community Mitigation

Community Mitigation continued as a critical part of the response. Strategies were implemented, reinforced and messaged constantly to key stakeholders and the public and included: physical distancing, hand hygiene, increase sanitation measures, use of cloth coverings and face masks, staying home when ill, getting tested and getting vaccinated. The Mass Gathering and Mitigation Guidance created in 2021 was updated several times in 2021 to recommend safe gathering guidelines and reinforce important mitigation measures for businesses, organizations and residents.



Disease Investigation and Contact Tracing

The Iowa County Health Department made phone calls to each positive Covid-19 case in Iowa County to provide information on isolation/quarantine and guidance on contact tracing for close contacts. Most of the phone calls for positive tests and contact tracing were positive interactions. However, there were segments of the population that would challenge the guidance from the CDC and Wisconsin DHS. Some did not believe that Covid-19 was real; others were becoming tired of the social implications (isolation and quarantine timelines), mask-wearing, repeated testing, and confusing (changing) Covid-19 protocols.

The guidance on isolation/quarantine had also changed several times in the course of the year. Isolation (positive test) changed from 10 days to 5 days of isolation and then wearing a mask for another 5 days. Quarantine (close contact) changed from 14 days to 5 days in quarantine and 5 days wearing a mask or 10 days wearing a mask, based on vaccination status.

By the end of the year, home antigen testing was available to the public. The guidance was not clear on how to handle this new layer of mitigation and created even more confusion.

NEW COVID-19 ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE RECOMMENDATIONS

IF YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 (ISOLATE)

EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS.

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms have improved after 5 days, you can leave your house on day 6.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.*

IF YOU WERE EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WITH COVID-19 (QUARANTINE)

IF YOU:

- Have been boosted **OR**
- Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months **OR**
- Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months
- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.
- If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.*

IF YOU WERE EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WITH COVID-19 (QUARANTINE)

IF YOU:

- Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted **OR**
- Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted **OR**
- Are unvaccinated
- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days.
- Test on day 5 if possible.
- If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.*

Data continued to be a critical part of keeping the community and our partners updated on key metrics. The weekly dashboard with both general metrics and the school capacity indicators were consistently communicated to partners, stakeholders, and the public. These metrics informed guidance and recommendations, including the mass gathering guidance, school recommendations for virtual pivots and safer operations, and general functions and events.

See our weekly dashboards reflecting status in December 2021.

Iowa County COVID-19 Disease Control Metrics



	Data from 12/1-12/14	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	10.4%
	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	1%
	Outbreaks	Outbreaks are identified and managed in long-term care/ Assisted Living Facilities	Green: No active outbreaks Yellow: One active outbreak in a facility Red: Two or more active outbreaks	1%
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	141%
	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.	12.8%
	Regional Healthcare Infrastructure	Regional hospital bed use	Green: <80% bed use Yellow: between 80-90% bed use Red: Greater than 90% bed use	12.8%
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	86%
	Community spread	Community spread is limited and 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: 40-60% of cases in the past two weeks do not have a known route of transmission	55%
	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.	1%
EM	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 Yellow: Iowa County Emergency Management is lacking pandemic-related supplies or is attending to crises, disasters or other critical matters	1%

Updated 12/17/2021

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 12/1 through 12/14	In-Person Learning	Reduced Capacity	Minimal Capacity
% Positive Tests Positive tests as a percentage of total tests	0-5%	5-10%	10.4
New Case Rate Number of new confirmed cases per 10,000 people	0-9 new confirmed cases	10-29 new confirmed cases	87
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.			12.8%
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			
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.

Updated 12.17.21

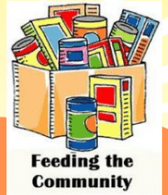
Communication to partners, stakeholders and the public continued as the pandemic required the continuation of consistent and regular communication throughout 2021 in the form of email updates and meetings with several stakeholder groups. Guidance and recommendations changed rapidly. In collaboration with Emergency Management, we continued regular briefings with Upland Hills Health, medical providers, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, school district administrators, school nurses, public safety agencies, Iowa County Corporation Counsel and District Attorney, Sheriff's Department, pharmacies, county department heads, Board of Health and the County Board of Supervisors. Topics and challenges included contact tracing, outbreak management and control, personal protective equipment (PPE), testing coordination, infection control guidelines, guidance to school districts on keeping staff and children safe, etc. Vaccination rollout and eligibility criteria. Throughout 2021, weekly email update was sent from the Health Officer to a large list of key stakeholders mentioned and listed above.



We continued to publish regular media releases and use social media to disseminate important updates and information about HD operations and the COVID-19 response. Keith Hurlbert, with Iowa County Emergency Management continues to serve as the PIO. Keith is always available for inquiries and interviews and continues to be a valued and key partner in the response while maintaining a positive relationship with print, radio and television media partners.

Community Food Drive

November 4th, 11th, and 18th



The Iowa County Health Department is hosting a food drive during the COVID-19 vaccination BOOSTER Clinics. Please bring a non-perishable food item during your scheduled appointment time. All items will be donated to the Iowa County Food Pantry.



We hosted a food drive to benefit the IC Food Pantry during our November clinics.

Building COVID-19 Resilience

For Science

The pandemic shows that when governments fail to act before and during a public health crisis health suffers.

For Action

Urge Congress to prioritize equitable vaccine distribution.

For Health

Places that enforced stay-at-home orders have lower rates of COVID-19 and fewer deaths.



NPHW
2021

www.nphw.org

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

Wednesday Sept. 1st

2:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Saturday, Sept. 4th

9:00 am to 11:00 am

@ Health and Human Services
303 W Chapel St, Dodgeville

Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J
vaccines available. No
appointment needed.

\$100 Gift Card



Various posts shared on our Facebook page throughout the year.

We got our COVID-19 vaccines to protect our friends and families.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

P-03042C (07/2021)

DHS Guidance for fully vaccinated individuals

You are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 if it has been two or more weeks since you got your second dose in a two-dose series (such as Pfizer or Moderna), or one dose of a single-dose vaccine (such as Johnson & Johnson).

Activity guidance for fully vaccinated individuals

- Visiting with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Visiting with unvaccinated people from a single household who are all at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease, indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Refraining from quarantine and testing following a known exposure, if asymptomatic.

All people including fully vaccinated in public

- Should continue to wear a well fitted masks and physical distance in public places and when around people who are at an increased risk.
- Avoid large gatherings.



Should I get vaccinated?

Talk to your doctor to make an informed decision

What is the difference between an additional dose and a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Additional Dose (3rd dose)

An "additional dose" is recommended for people who may not have received adequate protection from their initial vaccine series. For example, studies show some people who have weakened immune systems don't always build the same level of immunity after vaccination the way non-immunocompromised people do. People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised are recommended to get an additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) to increase their immune response so they have protection against COVID-19.

Booster Dose

A "booster dose" is a supplemental vaccine dose given to people when the immune response to a primary vaccine series is likely to have decreased over time. The need for and timing of a COVID-19 booster dose has not yet been established, and at this time, booster doses have not been recommended. The CDC and FDA continue to review evidence and data as it is available about whether or when booster doses for the broader U.S. public may be needed, and will update guidance as more information becomes available.

SILENT HEROES-VOLUNTEERS

Our ability to quickly and effectively provide vaccinations to our community was largely due to the help of our volunteers. On behalf of Iowa County, we recognize the tremendous work of our volunteers, the silent heroes in this pandemic.

Volunteer Hours
Worked
200+

Number of
Volunteers
39

Thank you to...

Alan Holter
Audrey Rue
Bruce Paull
Carol Anderson
Coleman
Connie Johnson
David Meudt
Diane Wilkinson
Diann Wenger
Donna Paull
Gayl Stewart
Gayle Jebbia
Jeffery Grayson

Jerry Schlimgen
June Meudt
Karen Bakken
Kathleen Murphy
Kathryn DeVoss
Linda Pittz
Linda Schaaf
Lisa Stewart
Marcia Kendall
Mary "Pat" Yanna
Mary Graham
Nancy Schmit
Olivia Jebbia

Peggy Jones
Rachel Hartline
Randy Witt
Regina Fisher
Richard Willauer
Roger Stewart
Sarah Hanson
Sarah Phillipson
Shawn Thompson
Steve Johnson
Sue Steudel
Tom DeVoss
Tom Howard

Thank  You

COVID-19 TIMELINE

January 7, 2021: ICHD had their first vaccination clinic at the HHS building.

February 4, 2021: Iowa County reaches 1,800 confirmed cases.

February 8 , 2021: ICHD opened the Lands' End Vaccination Site at the Comer Center.

April 1, 2021: ICHD provided 5,496 vaccinations.

May 18 , 2021: ICHD had their first school-based vaccination clinic.

June 18, 2021: Iowa County averaged 0.14 cases per day, the lowest average for the year.

October 14, 2021: ICHD opened a booster vaccination clinic at the Lands' End child care center.

November 9, 2021: COVID-19 vaccinations began for 5-11 year-olds.

December 2021: Documented the highest number of cases in one month with 476.

As part of a communicable disease investigation, the Health Department assures individuals receive appropriate treatment and provides health teaching on ways to prevent the further spread of diseases. The Health Department performs surveillance of reported diseases to identify patterns and trends of communicable disease occurrences. Please refer to the table for a list of reportable diseases from 2017-2021.

<i>Diseases in Iowa County</i>	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Anaplasmosis, <i>A. phagocytophilum</i>	0	0	3	1	5
Arboviral Illness, West Nile Virus	1	1	3	1	0
Campylobacteriosis	22	14	20	11	18
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	0	0	0	2	2
Chlamydia Trachomatis	42	36	44	36	41
Coccidioidomycosis	0	0	0	1	0
COVID-19 (confirmed positive cases)	--	--	--	1,657	1,828
Coronavirus (confirmed, probable, suspect, not a case)	--	--	--	11,620	7,996
Cryptosporidiosis	9	7	6	3	9
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0	0	1
E-Coli	6	5	7	2	5
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis, <i>A.</i>	2	0	1	0	0
Giardiasis	0	2	1	2	3
Gonorrhea	3	8	6	7	10
Haemophilus Influenzae, Invasive Disease	0	0	1	0	0
Hepatitis B	0	0	3	1	0
Hepatitis C, chronic	7	3	9	5	2
Histoplasmosis	2	0	1	0	0
Influenza (Hospitalizations)	22	37	18	15	0
Legionellosis	0	1	1	1	3
Leptospirosis	0	0	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	1	0	0
Lyme Disease	8	4	9	2	2
Lyme Lab Report	40	29	37	21	69

<i>Diseases in Iowa County</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>
Meningitis, Bacterial other	0	0	1	0	0
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children	--	--	--	1	0
Mumps	0	0	0	1	0
Mycobacterial Disease (non-Tuberculosis)	3	3	2	2	3
Pertussis	0	4	0	0	0
Q Fever, Unspecified	0	0	2	0	0
Rubella	0	0	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	8	10	3	2	7
Shigellosis	2	1	0	1	2
Spotted Fever Group	0	0	1	0	0
Streptococcal Disease, Invasive, Group A/Other	1	0	2	1	1
Streptococcal Disease, Invasive, Group B	3	1	0	6	2
Streptococcus Pneumoniae, Invasive Disease	2	5	0	1	1
Syphilis	0	0	1	1	0
Toxoplasmosis	0	0	3	1	0
Tuberculosis	0	0	1	1	0
Tuberculosis, latent	1	3	3	0	1
Varicella	1	2	0	0	0

Data Source: Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System

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.

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			
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021
Contacts	283	287	236	255	1,416	1,505	1,181	1,318
Home Visits	29	27	16	33	419	229	180	205

- 95 Iowa County children were tested for blood lead levels at medical clinics in 2021. 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. Two children had blood lead levels falling in the range of 5–9 mcg/dl and were provided follow-up.
- 69 animal bite investigations were completed by the Iowa County Health Department in 2021, compared to 73 in 2020. Animal bites in 2021 occurred from 6 wild animals and 63 domestic animals. Of the 63 domestic animals, 29 were not vaccinated for rabies.
- 20 radon kits were distributed and 15 (75%) were completed by residents of Iowa County, compared to 48 kits distributed and 27 returned in 2020. There were 2 tests completed with results between 4 – 8 pCi/l and 4 with results above 8 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 1,000 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

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 2021, Iowa County was ranked #10 for health outcomes and #17 for health factors. In 2020, Iowa County was 13th for health outcomes and 16th for health factors. Iowa County is proud that for both categories, we are ranking among the top 25% of the healthiest counties in Wisconsin.

4. Engage the Community to identify and solve health problems.

Wis. Stat. § 251.05(3)(c)

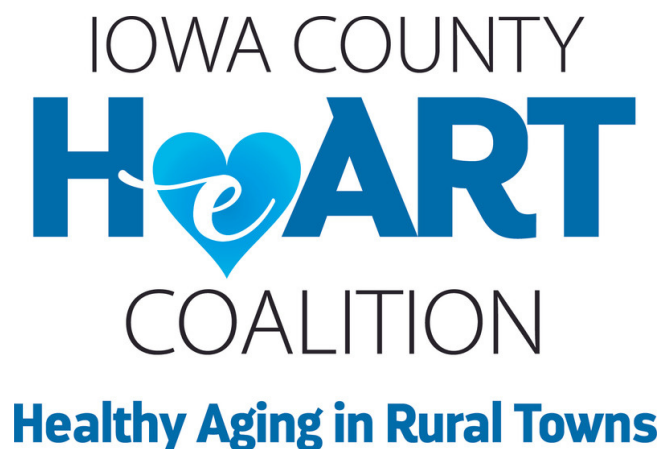
A local health department shall...involve key policymakers and the general public in determining and developing a community health improvement plan that includes actions to implement the services and functions specified under s. 250.03(1)(L).

Healthy Aging in Rural Towns "HeART" Coalition

This was the final year of the HeART grant. Although the pandemic continued to create challenges and barriers to implementing some of the planned grant objectives and strategies, the coalition found alternative methods to address aging issues in Iowa County.

We continued to implement strategies to address social isolation and loneliness including printing additional resource cards with contact information for various services and programs in the area, writing articles and flyers for the ADRC "News and Views," developing public health messages for dissemination via social media, newspapers, Upland Hills Hospital and other outlets. Topics cover stress, helping neighbors, resilience and mental health.

We offered a Sip-n-Swipe Café at the Barneveld Library. The course involves a self-paced app tutorial, designed to instruct participants how to use their smart phones, tablets, and other electronic devices. In addition, we purchased Joyful Moments Activity Cards, unique activity cards that give family members and care providers the tools to re-engage older adults in life, to complement the memory care kits for each library.



One of our focuses this year was the Home Modifications Program. The coalition provided funding so one of our members could become an Aging in Place Specialist. We collaborated 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. We completed six projects, including over \$10,000 of modifications to increase accessibility for Iowa County homeowners. Projects included: 13 new stair handrails and 6 handrail repairs, 7 total bathroom grab bar installations, 3 ADA accessible handheld showers, 26 total steps repaired including providing a ramp modification, and 1 hot water heater replaced. Habitat for Humanity donated over 174 hours of contractor time to assist with projects.

Our coalition funded the meals for the drive-thru Wellness Expo, hosted by the ADRC. The Community Coordinator attended the event and distributed meals with other host agencies. We also purchased 14 car canes (assistive devices used to get out of a vehicle) that were given as door prizes during the event. In addition, we purchased gift cards for Culver's ice cream for the first 150 attendees.

As the grant period ended, we had some residual funding so we made some purchases on items that can be used for future programs and services. Some of these items include: three temporary ramps of varying sizes to be available for residents needing modified access into their homes, grab bars of various sizes to be installed, two tablets to be used for virtual programming. We also purchased a thermal, electric meal delivery bag for the SUN program as well as over \$600 worth of emergency food.

Although we faced challenges and did not achieve all of our goals due to the pandemic, we certainly raised awareness and addressed some of the issues with healthy aging and aging in place and have developed sustainable programs and partnerships to continue the efforts despite the grant period ending.



5. Develop Public Health Policies and Procedures

Wis. Stat. § 251.05(3)(b)

Develop public health policies and procedures for the community.

Committees and Advisory Boards

The Iowa County Health Department was unable to have full and consistent representation at many committee, coalition and board meetings and conferences throughout 2021 due to the pandemic response. We look forward to resuming our many partnerships.

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.

The Iowa County Health Department issued two orders in 2021 related to environmental health concerns. We also worked on four other environmental health orders initiated in previous years. We were successful in closing out two of those in 2021.

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. At the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, most of the Maternal Child Health activities (phone calls, birth letters and home visits) were put on hold. In January 2021, the parenting newsletters (with UW-Extension and Upland Hills Health) were resumed on a monthly basis. (These are sent out to families with 1st and 2nd births occurring at Upland Hills Health). Birth letters from the Health Department were also resumed for Iowa County residents with new babies. Those letters contained health information, including developmental milestones for children (per our state MCH objective). Phone calls were made to families that were referred from local hospitals as time allowed. One prenatal home visit was made.

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. A public health nurse provides fluoride varnish to children ages 6 months through 5 years of age. Information is provided on maternal care, immunization, growth and development, lead, and other services in the community.



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 and provide referrals for dental care.

No fluoride varnish has been done in 2021, as the WIC clinics are still virtual. The Health Department continues to provide water testing kits for pregnant women and families with children less than one year old and subsequent follow up with water issues. One water test kit was given out by the Health Department in 2021 for a family with a new baby. The Health Department continues to provide free water kits to the Upland Hills Health OB Department for new families.

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 2021, the tobacco prevention coalition met with monthly virtual meetings during the pandemic. The Health Department 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 early in the year. Over 100 bags were distributed. The Tobacco Coalition is focusing on Health Equity and reducing tobacco-related health disparities. Educational information was posted on social media about the harms of E-cigarettes and smoking related to Covid-19 infections.

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)

A complex multi-month response involves complex operations far beyond the normal capacity of the Health Department. The capacity added in 2020 continued into 2021. Many Public Health Nurses joined the staff as a Limited-term Employee. These LTE nurses added essential capacity with vaccination and testing operations as well as contact tracing. In addition, two Public Health Nurse Project positions were approved and added in the fall of 2020 and continued on in 2021. These were essential in assisting with the operations noted above as 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. Also listed are our Emergency Management partners who have been absolutely essential to our operations and success.

<u>PHN Project Positions</u>	<u>LTEs</u>	<u>LTEs</u>	<u>Iowa County Social Services</u>
Carmen Carpenter	Kelly Deterding	Kathy Honerbaum	Nohe Caygill
Kaylee Litchfield	Sue Matye	Denise Hummel	Janet Butteris
	Carly Tibbits	Lynn McMahon	
	Judi Ascher	Marion Van Asseldonk	
	Elizabeth Bothfeld	Ashley Olson	<u>Emergency Management Department Staff</u>
	Cara Biddick	Debra Short	Keith Hurlbert, EM Director
	Janet Brown	Cathy Tanner	Amanda Gardner, Assistant
	Maria Felland		

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The Iowa County Health Department has enjoyed a fifteen year 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 2021, the pandemic challenges continued as did our regional collaboration across the consortium. We specifically partnered and pooled resources with Lafayette County when standing up our testing clinics. We also partnered with messaging and public education. Health Officers planning together, sharing creative solutions, or even sharing frustration is always helpful. The support of our 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. Fiscal Agent for the South Central Wisconsin Health Emergency Readiness Coalition (SCWIHERC) ended 6/30/2021.

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

The Iowa County Health Department revisits and updates its Strategic Plan twice a year, updating progress on goals and strategies of the Department in four key areas.

Improve Health Outcomes in our Jurisdiction

- Develop and evaluate department programs, policies, and procedures based on community needs.
- Focus on health equity.
- Strengthen and expand collaborative relationships and partnerships.

Workforce Development

- Maintain a professional staff that works together as a cohesive team.
- Diversify Workforce - Health Educator position.
- Plan for Environmental Health Coordinator sustainability.
- Develop a Succession Plan.

Fiscal and Performance Management

- Explore cross-jurisdictional sharing opportunities.
- Become a high functioning LHD – accreditation ready, slowly adopt PHAB standards over time based upon PHAB self-assessment results.

Communication and Community Awareness

- Continue to communicate with the public on health and consumer related issues.
- Increase visibility of health department as community resource and partner.
- Explore options to keep website and social media current and interesting.
- Focus on health literacy.

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.

Evidence Based Programs

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. 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.

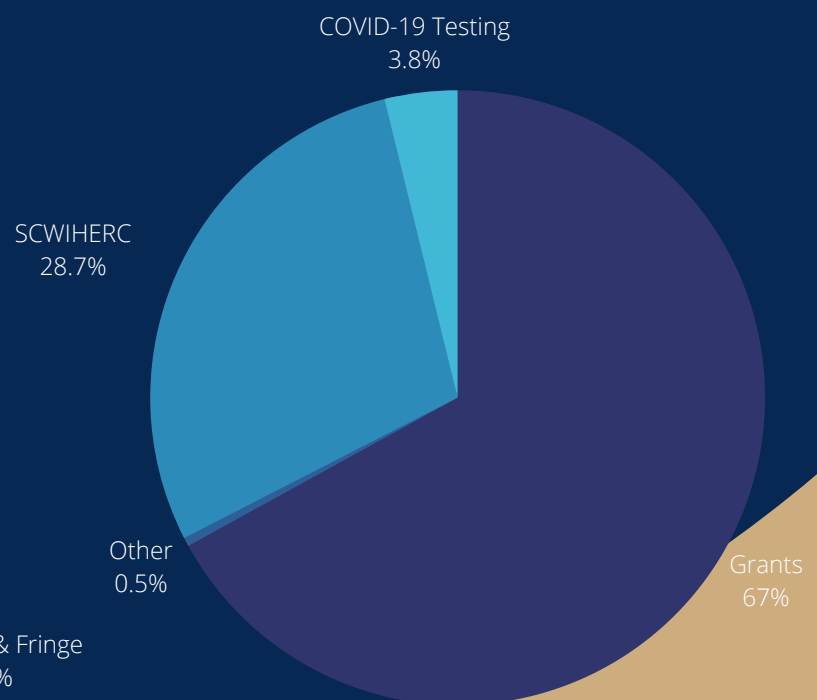
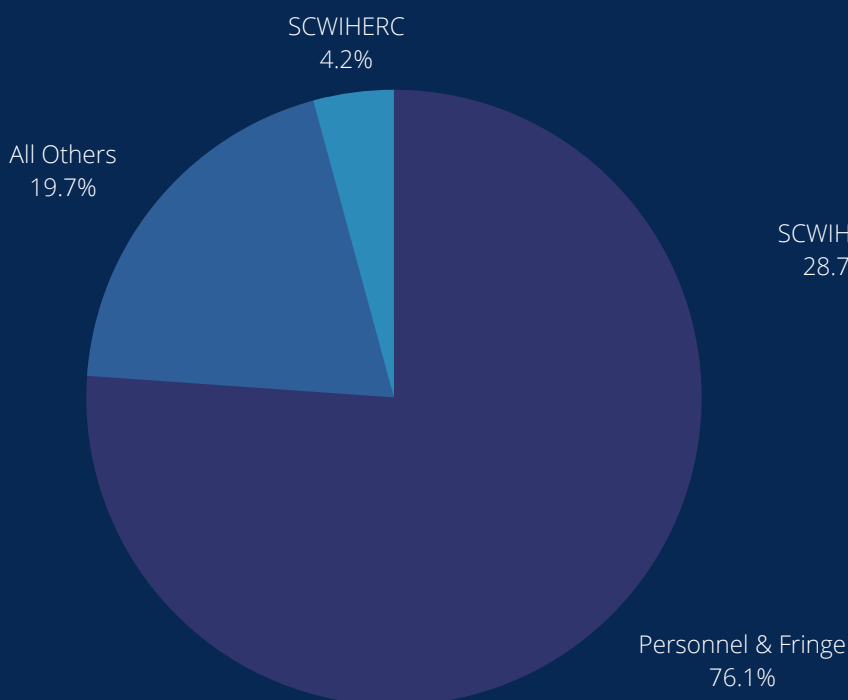


Due to the pandemic, there were no new classes for “Prevent T2” conducted in 2021. The Health Department staff will be looking at future programming in 2022. This program is now being offered through the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging.

Fiscal Summary

Expenses	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Personnel & Fringe	314,550	325,600	348,542	569,773	692,167
All others	30,048	49,965	59,172	76,554	178,733
*SCWIHERC	-	-	355,592	216,637	38,414
Total:	\$344,598	\$375,565	\$763,307	862,964	909,314
Revenue					
Grants	80,663	107,549	135,934	435,789	404,922
Other	21,239	12,368	10,558	1,230	2,772
*SCWIHERC	-	-	360,912	237,593	173,598
Covid-19 Testing					23,120
Total:	\$101,902	\$119,917	\$507,404	674,612	604,412
Tax Levy	\$242,696	\$255,648	\$255,903	188,352	304,902

*Fiscal Agent for the South Central Wisconsin Health Emergency Readiness Coalition (SCWIHERC) ended 6/30/2021.



2021 Expenditures

2021 Revenues