

Iowa County Health Department Annual Report

2022

Published May 2023



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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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.

OUR TEAM

Health Officer/Director

Debbie Siegenthaler, MSN, RN

Public Health Nurse Lead

Carly Tibbits, BSN, RN

Public Health Nurse

Leah Walrack, BSN, RN
started in September 2022

Public Health Nurse

Ann Thompson, BSN, RN
retired in September 2022

Public Health Project Nurse

Carmen Carpenter, BSN, RN

LTE Public Health Nurse

Kelly Deterding, BSN, RN

Community Coordinator/Educator

Geana Shemak, PhD, ATC

Environmental Health Coordinator

Troy Moris, RS

Administrative Assistant

Marylee Oleson
started in June 2022

Administrative Assistant

Kathy Key
retired in June 2022

Board of Health

Joan Davis, *Chair/Elected Official*

Justin O'Brien, *Vice-Chair/Elected Official*

Gerald Galle, *Elected Official*

Bruce Haag, *Elected Official*

Brenda Hlavac, *Elected Official*

Jeremy Meek, *Elected Official*

Tom Howard, *Secretary/Community Member*

Linda Pittz, *Community Member*

Sue Steudel, *Community Member*

Dr. Peter Mullin, *Medical Advisor*



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER

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

Two thousand twenty-two brought a third year of the COVID-19 pandemic response. The Omicron surge was in full swing at the start of 2022. We continued implementing key response pieces including drive thru testing, vaccine clinics at Lands' End and numerous rounds of school-based vaccine clinics all around Iowa County as well as case investigation and contact tracing. Continued communication with dozens of partners including health care systems, long-term care facilities, school districts, pharmacies, public safety, businesses as well as DHS also continued with too many challenges to list. It's obvious that a pandemic response continuing into a third year was a significant stress to the health department team and our partners. We also recognize the strain and impacts of this pandemic to our community.

A comprehensive pandemic response, even in year three, continued as a complex endeavor requiring capacity the Health Department normally does not have. 2022 saw our capacity surge continue to be at significant levels to operate dozens and dozens of vaccine and testing clinics. This surge was needed to continue to manage aspects of disease control and surveillance, as well as public messaging and education.



This year brought two retirements, signaling a near complete turnover in staff in just two years' time. We wished happy "next chapters" to Kathy Key and Ann Thompson who served Iowa County for decades. In their respective positions we welcomed Marylee Oleson and Leah Walrack.

This report represents a third consecutive annual report full of a majority of reporting specific to the pandemic response as it continued to consume the majority of our time. The first quarter of the year, our vaccine clinic location changed several times to accommodate and best meet needs and we visited our school districts multiple times in multiple rounds to offer and deliver vaccine. The home antigen test became available in August which signaled a key change in our response, allowing us to cease our drive through test site later in the year. The bivalent booster became available in September, refocusing efforts in delivering boosters to offer additional protection. It's important to note that all our testing, vaccination and response efforts were in parallel to the dedicated response our partners were also delivering. It truly takes a village!

Upon writing this, I am so proud to report that the COVID-19 vaccination effort in Iowa County has placed Iowa County #7 in the State of Wisconsin for uptake of the primary series and #5 in the state for uptake of boosters. This success represents so much hard work by so many as well as a responsive public, willing to be the critical partner we needed in order to achieve this success.

While the pandemic consumed so much of 2022, we were able to begin to resume several of our programs. With a very new staff, we spent much time and effort getting orientations completed, reviewing and organizing programs and procedures. One very large and ongoing activity was the implementation and completion of the Community Health Needs Assessment. Four priority areas were identified and 2023 will include taking the next steps of defining the Community Health Improvement Plan through four Community Action Teams.

Continuing to express my sincere gratitude to our amazing response partners won't stop. Keith Hurlbert and Amanda Gardner from Emergency Management have been a constant and they deserve recognition and praise far beyond what we can adequately convey. Uplands Hills Health continued their expert response, along with our school districts (special shout out to the school nurses), 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, Unified Counseling, and county government, including the County Administrator, Board of Health, HHS Committee and County Board of Supervisors. Thank you also to our medical advisor, Dr. Peter Mullin as well as Iowa County residents.

Finally, adequately conveying the incredible amount of time, challenge, fatigue and stress involved in these past three years is impossible. The response has required immense dedication, endurance, courage and grit. I can never sufficiently commend our team at the health department. They are the bravest, smartest and most resilient and fantastic group of humans, period. They are some of the most important heroes of this pandemic and will be sung about in the history books... my hats off to them!

Debbie Siegenthaler, MS, RN
Public Health Officer/Director



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 Core 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.

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

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.

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.





Essential Services of Public Health

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets.
2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population.
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it.
4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health.
5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health.
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health.
7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy.
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce.
9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement.
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

Assess and monitor population health

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 and epidemiologic and other studies of health problems.

Demographic Profile

Fact	Iowa County, Wisconsin
Population Estimates, July 1, 2022	23,865
Age and Sex	
Persons under 5 years, percent	5.20%
Persons under 18 years, percent	21.80%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	20.30%
Female persons, percent	49.30%
Race and Hispanic Origin	
White	96.30%
Black or African American alone	0.90%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.30%
Asian	0.80%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.10%
Two or More Races	1.60%
Hispanic or Latino	2.20%
White, not Hispanic or Latino	94.50%
Population Characteristics	
Veterans, 2017-2021	1,273
Foreign born persons, 2017-2021	1.70%
Median gross rent, 2017-2021	\$828
Building permits, 2021	138
Households, 2017-2021	9,749
Computer and Internet Use	
Households with a computer, 2017-2021	89.90%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, 2017-2021	85.20%
Education	
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2017-2021	95.80%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2017-2021	26.50%
Health	
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2017-2021	8.10%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	5.40%
Income & Poverty	
Median household income, 2017-2021	\$73,716
Per capita income in past 12 months, 2017-2021	\$36,329
Persons in poverty, percent	7.50%
Geography	
Population per square mile, 2020	31.1
Land area in square miles, 2020	762.7



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

<i>Diseases in Iowa County</i>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Anaplasmosis, A. phagocytophilum	0	3	1	5	8
Arboviral Illness, Jamestown Canyon	0	0	0	0	1
Arboviral Illness, West Nile Virus	1	3	1	0	0
Babesiosis	0	0	0	0	1
Blastomycosis	0	0	0	0	1
Campylobacteriosis	14	20	11	18	13
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	0	0	2	2	3
Chlamydia Trachomatis	36	44	36	41	29
Coccidioidomycosis	0	0	1	0	0
COVID-19 (confirmed positive cases)	--	--	1,657	1,828	2,927
Coronavirus (confirmed, probable, suspect, not a case)	--	--	11,620	7,996	--
Cryptosporidiosis	7	6	3	9	5
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0	1	0
E-Coli	5	7	2	5	9
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis, A., E. Chaffeensis	0	1	0	0	3
Giardiasis	2	1	2	3	1
Gonorrhea	8	6	7	10	3
Haemophilus Influenzae, Invasive Disease	0	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis B	0	3	1	0	2
Hepatitis C, chronic	3	9	5	2	1
Histoplasmosis	0	1	0	0	1
Influenza (Hospitalizations)	37	18	15	0	8
Legionellosis	1	1	1	3	0
Leptospirosis	0	0	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	1	0	0	0
Lyme Disease, Erythema Migrans Rash	4	9	2	2	3
Lyme Lab Report	29	37	21	69	83
Malaria	0	0	0	0	1
Meningitis, Bacterial other	0	1	0	0	0
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children	--	--	1	0	0
Mumps	0	0	1	0	0
Mycobacterial Disease (non-Tuberculosis)	3	2	2	3	3

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE



<i>Diseases in Iowa County</i>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Orthopoxvirus, Monkeypox	--	--	--	--	0
Pertussis	4	0	0	0	1
Q Fever, Unspecified	0	2	0	0	1
Rubella	0	0	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	10	3	2	7	7
Shigellosis	1	0	1	2	3
Spotted Fever Group	0	1	0	0	0
Streptococcal Disease, Invasive, Group A/Other	0	2	1	1	2
Streptococcal Disease, Invasive, Group B	1	0	6	2	1
Streptococcus Pneumoniae, Invasive Disease	5	0	1	1	2
Syphilis	0	1	1	0	1
Toxoplasmosis	0	3	1	0	2
Tuberculosis	0	1	1	0	1
Tuberculosis, latent	3	3	0	1	2
Varicella	2	0	0	0	1

Data Source: Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System

Tuberculosis

Public Health nurses administered 24 Mantoux tuberculin skin tests in 2022. One client was treated for latent tuberculosis by receiving medications administered by public health nurses over the course of 12 weeks. Another client is currently awaiting treatment due to short supply of tuberculosis medication.

Mpox

The ICHD worked with the Department of Health Services to become a regional Mpox vaccinator, advertised the tiered eligibility expansion, and provided outreach and education. The ICHD administered 38 doses of Mpox vaccine in 2022. Between June 30, 2022 and October 22, 2022, there were 86 cases of Mpox in Wisconsin. Fortunately, no cases were identified in Iowa County residents.



Immunizations

Appropriate administration of safe and effective vaccines is one of the most successful and cost effective public health tools for preventing disease. In 2022, 961 total immunizations (including flu) were administered. As reference, in 2021, 700 total immunizations (including flu) were administered. The Health Department is a provider of the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC), which can be administered to children through age 18 years with Medicaid, BadgerCare or no insurance. The Health Department is also a provider of the Vaccines for Adults Program, which allows for vaccination of our community aged 19 years and older based on specific guidelines set forth by the program. Currently, the ICHD is able to give out free Tdap vaccines regardless of insurance status.

Year	No. of Vaccines* Given to Children	No. of Vaccines* Given to Adults
2018	951	214
2019	880	206
2020	1005	181
2021	188	56
2022	640	60

* Includes flu vaccines
Does NOT include COVID-19 vaccines

Year	% of Children who are fully immunized by their 2nd birthday
2018	65%
2019	68%
2020	66%
2021	68%
2022	68%

Routine reminders are sent to parents/caregivers of children who are overdue for immunizations. Articles on the topic of immunizations and vaccine preventable illnesses are shared in various publications and via social media throughout the year.

The Health Department staff continued to provide COVID-19 vaccines throughout all of 2022.

- **January-** vaccines are offered at both the Lands' End clinic site and HHS building
- **February/March-** vaccine clinics are held at HHS building and in schools
- **September-** brought the arrival of the Bivalent booster vaccine

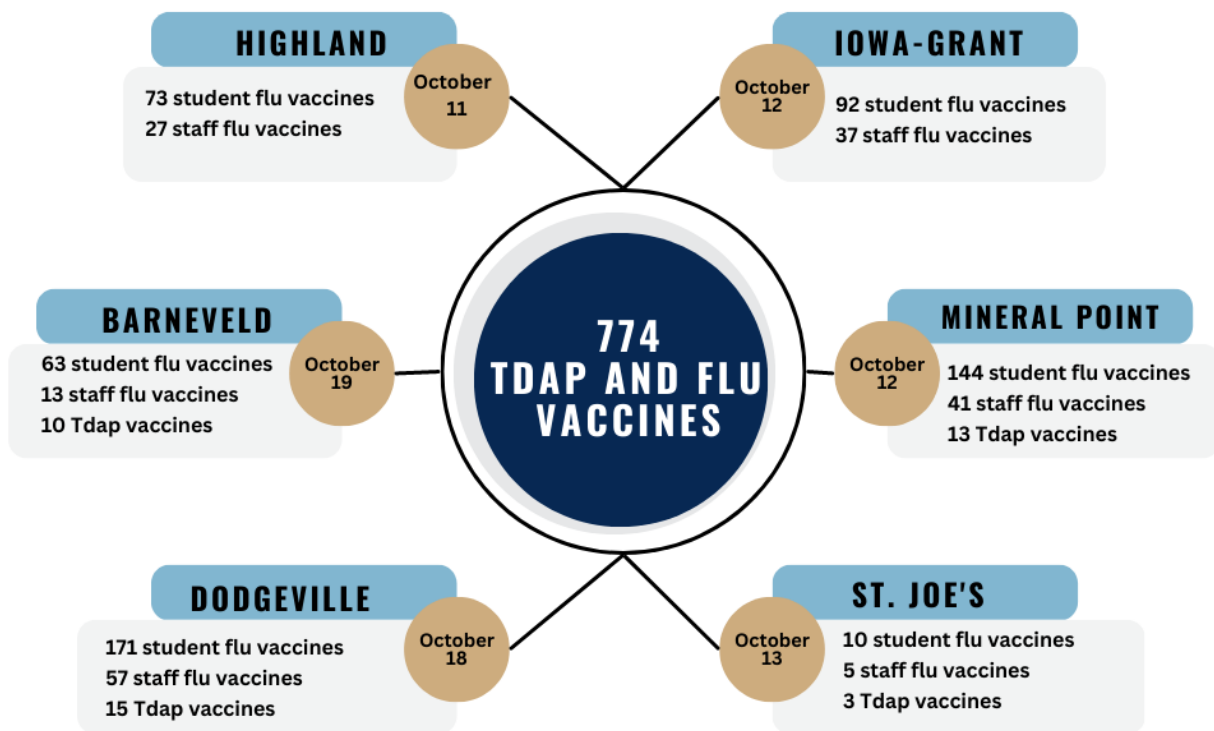
SCHOOL-BASED VACCINE CLINICS



The Iowa County Health Department continues to place a high value on our relationships with schools in our county. We continue to grow and nurture our relationships with school nurses and administrators and serve as an ongoing resource, not only to them, but also the families they serve. In 2022, we continued to have regularly scheduled Zoom meetings with the school nurses. The frequency of those meetings was based on mutual need.

In addition, we collaborated with each school to provide mass vaccination clinics within the school setting both in February of 2022 (COVID-19 boosters) and again in October of 2022 (flu vaccines). In February and March, we provided 123 vaccines to area school children and in October, we provided 733 flu vaccines to the students and staff in Iowa County schools.

2022 School-Based Mass Vaccination Clinics



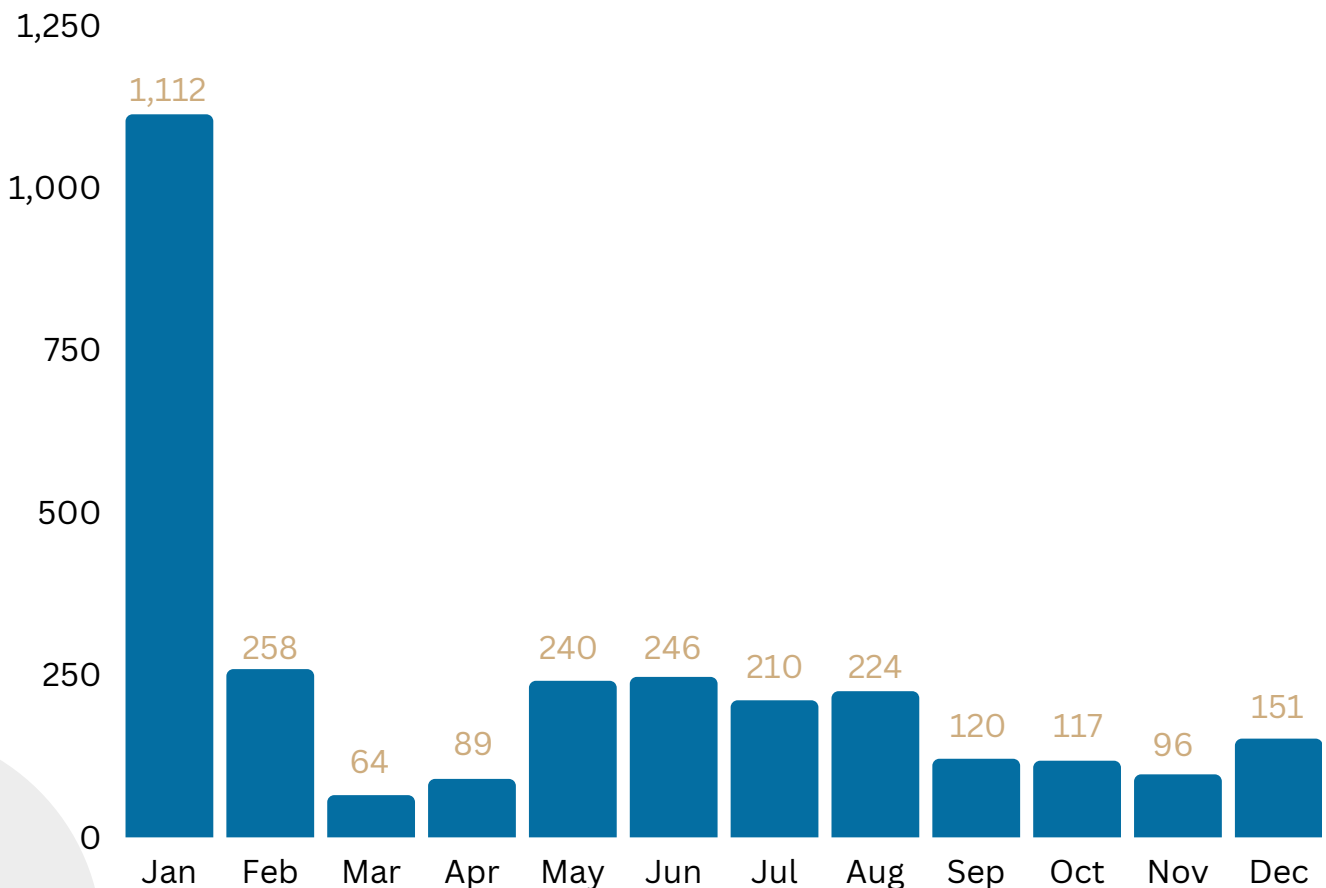
Providing Tdap and Flu vaccines to Iowa County Schools

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 Pandemic Response and Recovery

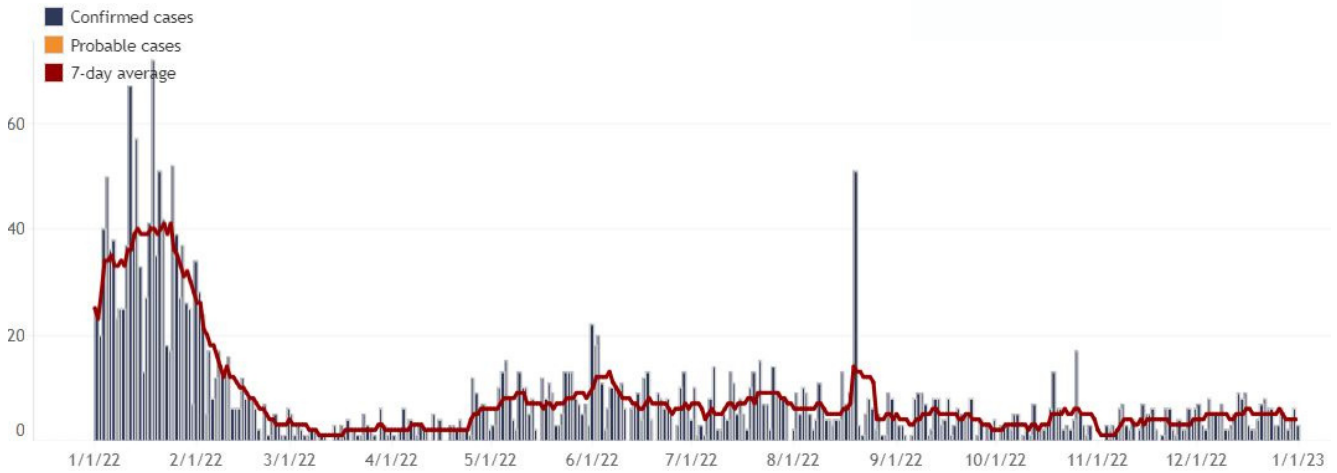
COVID-19 contact tracing of positive cases continued in January 2022 and was managed by the nurses on staff at the Health Department with the assistance of some of the LTE staff. At the close of the month of January, it was determined that universal contact tracing efforts would cease based on capacity to continue these efforts as well as the changing recommendations received from the WI DHS and CDC. We continued to provide outbreak management and contact tracing support to organizations such as long-term care facilities and daycares. The public was notified of the change in protocol and the Health Department continued to provide information to the residents of Iowa County through Facebook posts and the COVID-19 Dashboard.

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases, 2022

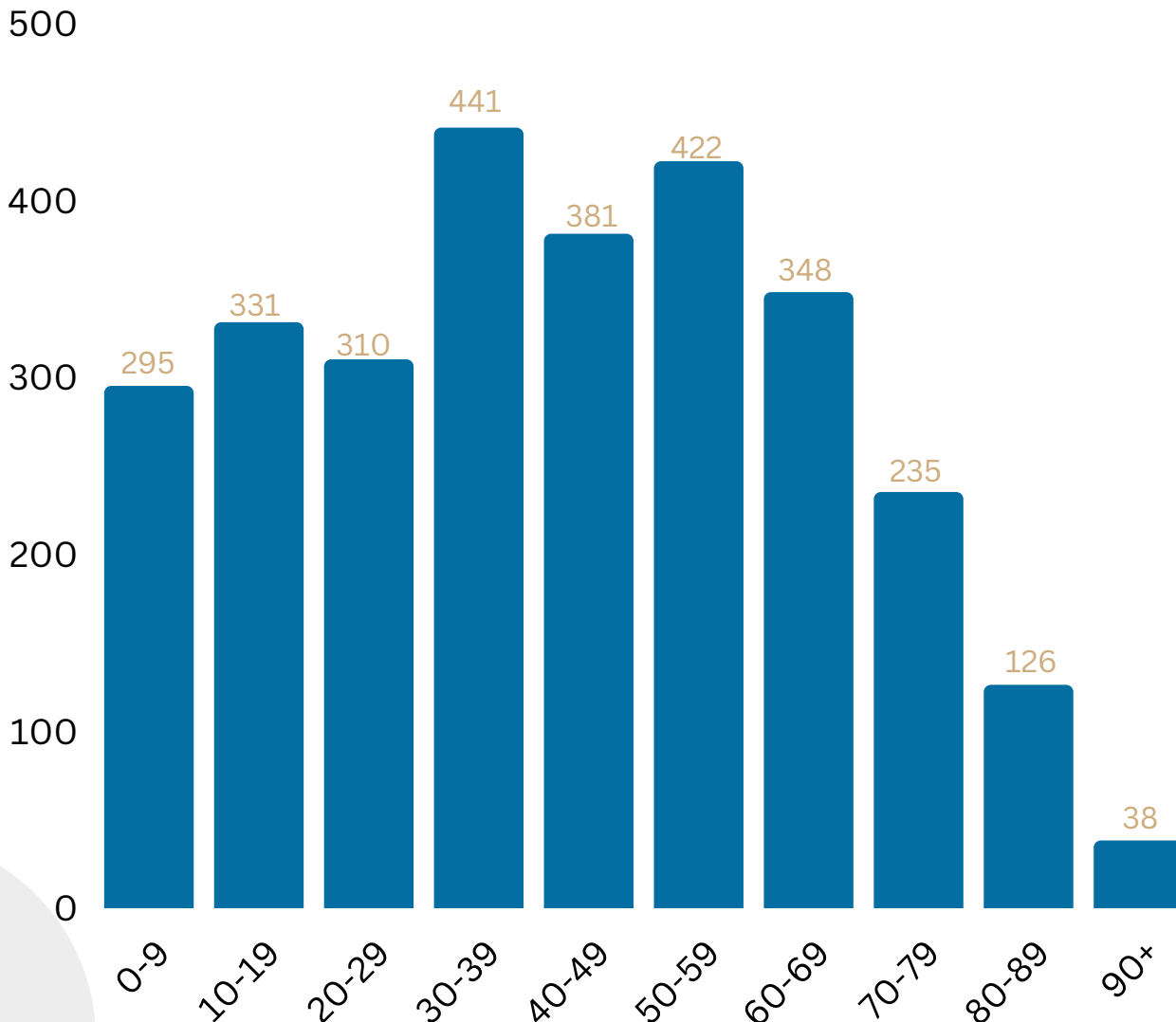


COVID-19 Epidemic Curve

(distribution of cases throughout 2022)

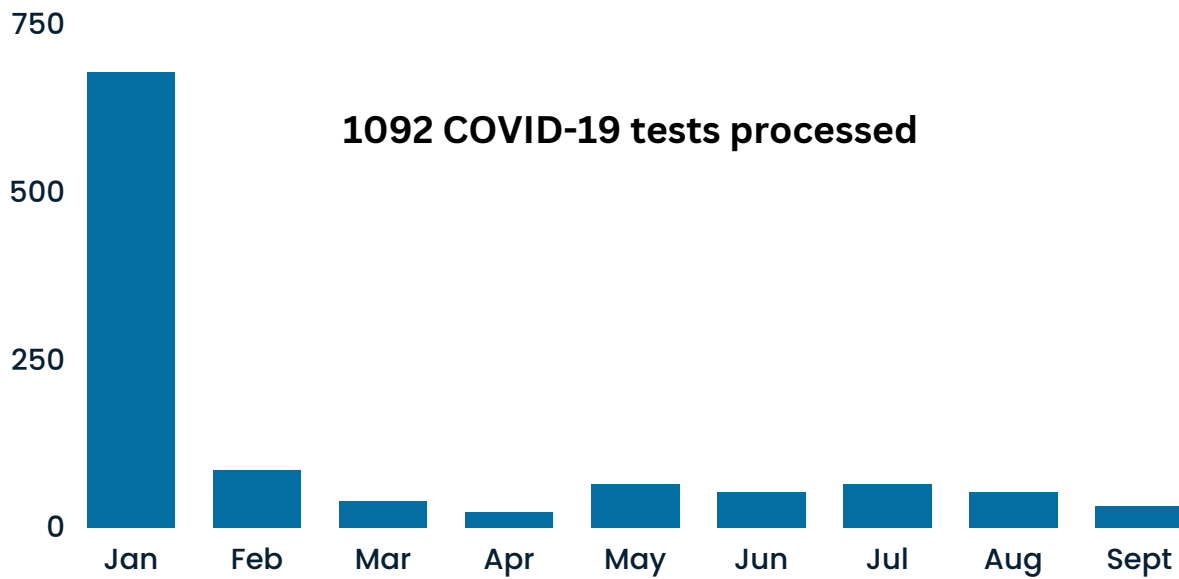


COVID-19 Cases by Age, 2022



COVID-19 Drive-thru Testing

The ICHD continued to offer drive-thru COVID-19 testing in 2022. Testing was offered twice weekly through the month of September. Beginning October 1, 2022, testing at the HHS building ceased and the promotion and distribution of at-home (antigen) tests continued.



The distribution of at-home COVID-19 antigen tests began in June 2022 during the drive-thru COVID-19 testing operation. This distribution continued through the summer months and was heavily promoted beginning in October, after the drive-thru operation ceased. These tests are available at no cost to the public.

At-home Antigen Tests



N95 Masks

The distribution of N95 masks to the public began in February 2022.

Emergency Management initially supplied 6000 masks and the ICHD and LTE staff packaged masks for the public's protection. We received an additional 1600 masks from Emergency Management later in the year.

Available inside the front door at the HHS building during normal business hours

To date - 3570 tests have been distributed and 7600 N95 masks

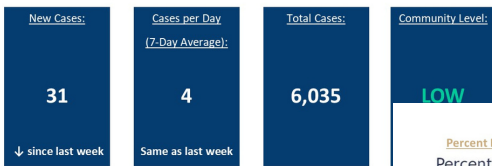


COVID-19 DATA & COMMUNICATIONS

Data continued to be a critical part of keeping the community and our partners updated on key metrics. The weekly dashboard summary was adapted as the response evolved as key metrics were used to inform the guidance and recommendations. These metrics were consistently communicated to partners, stakeholders, and the public.

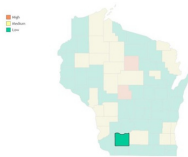
IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 Weekly Data Summary

Data From: 9/17-9/23



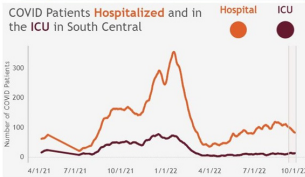
Iowa County CDC Community Level

CDC COVID-19 Community Levels
Updated 9/13/2022



- Iowa County's CDC Community Recommendations**
- Wear a mask if you have symptoms, a someone with COVID-19. Wear a mask if you choose to wear a mask at an precaution to protect yourself and others.
 - Get tested if you have symptoms.
 - Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination.
- Weekly Community Level Metrics**
- Case Rate per 100,000 population: 15
 - New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000
 - Staffed inpatient beds in use by patient

Hospitalizations in South Central HERC Region



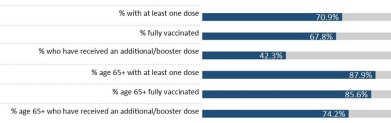
Percent Positivity for Wisconsin (Past 7 Days)

Percent Positive by Test (7-day average)



10.4%
Percent Positivity Previous week

Vaccination Data



Number of Reported COVID-19 Cases in Iowa County

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

Updated: 9/23/2022 (Time: 4:03)
Note: Only the counts are preliminary and subject to change as more data are submitted (from 9/9/2022 to 9/23/2022)

Select County: Iowa County

Select Case Status: Confirmed, Probable, Confirmed and Probable

How the slider to select a date range: 9/23/2022

Confirmed cases, Probable cases, Day average

0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200 220 240 260 280 300 320 340 360 380 400 420 440 460 480 500 520 540 560 580 600 620 640 660 680 700 720 740 760 780 800 820 840 860 880 900 920 940 960 980 1000

Iowa County Health Department COVID-19 Data Weekly Snapshot

Weeks of: 1/8-1/14

231	Vaccinated-140 Unvaccinated-91	3,833
231	Total Positives	3,745
231	Total Recovered	22
231	Total Deaths	

Visit Iowa County COVID-19 or Department of Health Services.
Recovered, and deaths are cumulative counts since 1/1/2020.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY TESTING

Iowa County Health Department- T & Th, 9:00am-10:00am
HHS Building-303 W Chapel St. Dodgeville,
<https://covidconnect2.ui.gov/#/> login

Grant County- M, W, F 8am-12pm, Lancaster
(alley behind building)

Lafayette County Health Department- 608-773-3000

Spring Green EMS- Sunday 5:30pm-6:00pm,
Winsted St., Spring Green, www.springgreenwi.com

Upland Hills Health- M-F, 7:30am-1:00pm, at
608-930-8000

Grant Regional Health Center- 608-723-2131

Walgreens-Dodgeville- 608-935-2041, (regist
www.walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/regist)

Walgreens-Platteville- 608-348-7611, (regist
www.walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/regist)

Hartig Drug- 608-348-9771

Corner Drug Hometown Pharmacy- (608) 935-
<https://register.covidconnect.ui.gov/en-US/>

Dane County Testing Options-
<https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/test>

Check county Facebook pages, webpages, and other media for changes or cancellations before arriving at testing site.

LOOKING FOR A BIVALENT BOOSTER?

COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC

INCLUDING THE UPDATED
PFIZER AND MODERNA
BOOSTER VACCINE

EVERY THURSDAY
1PM TO 4PM
HHS BUILDING
IN DODGEVILLE

Pfizer and Moderna
Bivalent Booster Vaccine

<https://www.iowacounty.org/>
or call 608-930-9870

Pediatric Pfizer Vaccine Clinic

Health and Human Services
303 W. Chapel St.
Dodgeville, WI
1:00pm-4:00pm

MAY 5TH MAY 26TH

Call the Iowa County Health Department
608-930-9870

Vaccines are for children ages 5-11. Children must be guardian OR have a note from a parent AND be older. Children will return to the following clinic

COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC

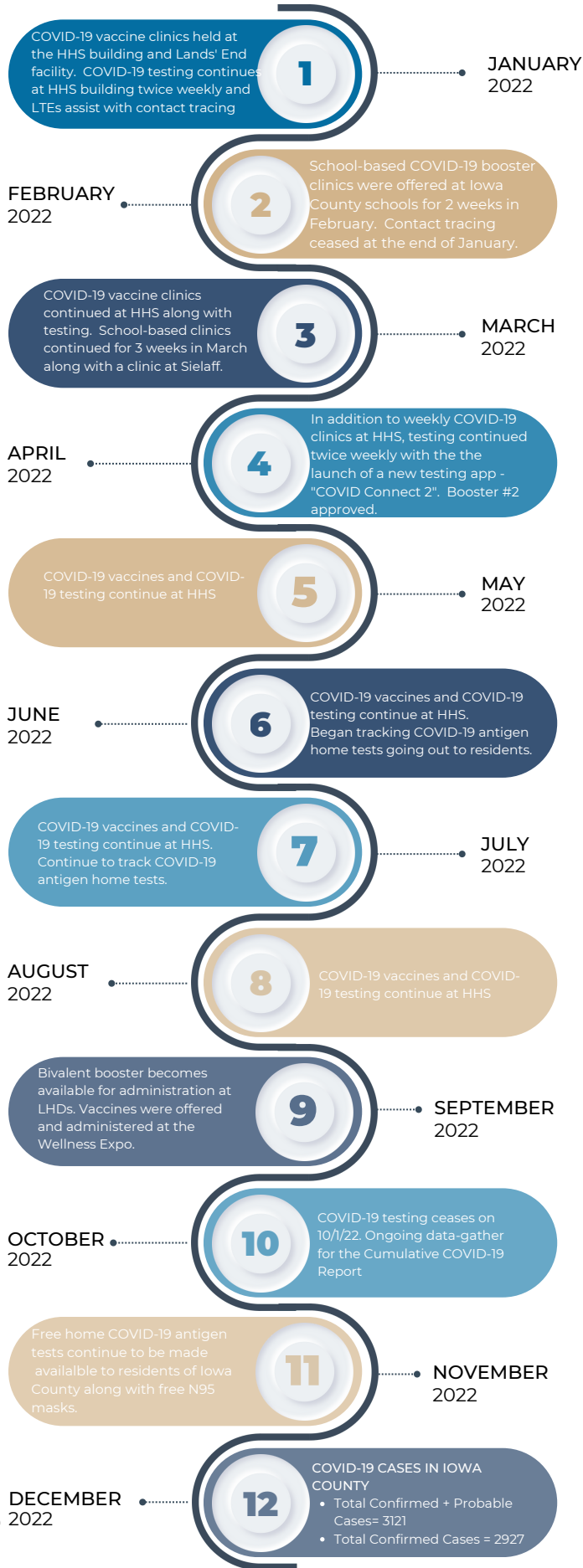
INCLUDING THE UPDATED
PFIZER AND MODERNA
BOOSTER VACCINE

EVERY THURSDAY
1PM TO 4PM
HHS BUILDING IN
DODGEVILLE
WALK-INS ONLY. NO
LONGER SCHEDULING
APPOINTMENTS

Pfizer and Moderna
Bivalent Booster Vaccine

Communication to partners, stakeholders and the public continued as the pandemic necessitated consistent and regular updates throughout 2022. Guidance and recommendations continued to evolve and much of the communications focused on testing and vaccine opportunities.

COVID-19 TIMELINE



The Environmental Health Program is a valuable asset to our residents with a 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.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<i>Contacts</i>	283	287	236	255	220
<i>Home Visits</i>	29	27	16	33	24

Childhood Lead Levels

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. 121 Iowa County children were tested for blood lead levels at medical clinics in 2022. Five children had blood lead levels in the range of 3.5-9 mcg/dl and were provided follow-up by the nursing staff. Four blood lead tests were performed by Iowa County Health Department nurses at Head Start’s classroom in Dodgeville.

Radon/Water Test Kits

Forty-eight radon kits were distributed and 58% were completed by residents of Iowa County, compared to 20 kits distributed and 15 (75%) returned in 2021. Follow-up guidance was completed for all clients with levels above 4 pCi/l. The risk of death for radon at 4pCi/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.

19 water tests were distributed and sent to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene.



Animal Bites/Rabies

The ICHD nurses provided follow-up and education on 64 animal bite investigations in 2022, compared to 69 animal bite investigations in 2021 and 73 in 2020. Animal bites occurred from 31 dogs, 17 cats, and 1 squirrel. Additionally, 15 bats were sent to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene to be tested for rabies and all came back negative or indeterminate. Of the 48 domestic animals, 24 were not vaccinated for rabies.

Communicate effectively to inform and educate

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.

Communications/Branding

Social media posts were created to increase awareness about public health events and educate the public about public health related topics. Educational posts included topics related to current events and awareness and promotional happenings.

	Childhood Vaccines	COVID-19 Vaccines
Community Connections Free Clinic 608-930-2232		Pfizer Vaccines for uninsured patients 5 years and older, call the clinic to schedule an appointment.
Health Department 608-930-9870	Free childhood vaccines for individuals 18 years and under on BadgerCare or uninsured.	5 years and older, call to schedule an appointment.
Hometown Pharmacy 608-935-3661		Moderna vaccine, 5 years and older, call to schedule an appointment.
SSM Health/Dean Clinic 608-935-3301	Call an SSM Health/Dean Clinic near you to schedule an appointment.	5 years and older, call an SSM Health/Dean Clinic near you to schedule an appointment. (Select clinics in Dodgeville, Madison, Janesville, and Baraboo will be providing the 6 months-5 years vaccine.)
Upland Hills Clinics	Call an UHH Clinic near you to schedule an appointment.	6 months and older, call an UHH clinic near you to schedule an appointment.
Walgreens Pharmacy		Moderna vaccine for 3-5 years and 12 and older, go to https://www.walgreens.com/fodcare/services , to schedule an appointment.
Walmart Pharmacy		5 years and older, go to www.walmart.com and click on pharmacy to schedule an appointment.

Childhood Immunizations
Call the Iowa County Health Department to schedule an appointment.
608-930-9870
Get caught up on missed vaccines and get any vaccines needed to be ready for the school year.
Children must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian OR have a note from a parent AND be accompanied by a person 18 years or older.
Health and Human Services
303 W. Chapel St.
Dodgeville, WI

Community: Collaboration and Resilience

HAPPY NATIONAL NURSES DAY
TODAY IS YOUR DAY!
Thank you for all your help, support, and compassion.
IOWA COUNTY WISCONSIN



Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships

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).

Chronic Disease Prevention

The Iowa County Health Department works to address chronic health conditions through its work on the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). In 2022, Upland Hills Health, the Iowa County Health Department, along with several community partners convened several meetings to plan and implement a CHNA as well as review progress collectively made on the previous CHIP.

Each three-year cycle, the CHNA provides an important opportunity to review secondary data which profiles key demographic data as well as the statistical health of Iowa County via review of national, state and local data sources. In addition, the CHNA is a critical opportunity to gather the voices of our community through primary data collection, accomplished through a community survey to learn about residents' concerns. Approximately 327 stakeholders contributed their responses and ideas to the community survey disseminated in 2022. Community health needs were identified and prioritized based on: available data, input from community members regarding perceived importance of health concerns via a community survey, and our ability to make a significant impact.

Four priorities will be the focus in our 2022-2024 Community Health Improvement Plan:

- Mental Health and Alcohol/Drug Abuse/Misuse
- Access to Transportation
- Healthy Eating/Exercise (Healthy Living)
- Aging Concerns

At this writing, we are in the process of facilitating planning meetings with four Community Action Teams to define specific goals, objectives and desired outcomes in each of the four priority areas. Chronic disease prevention is woven into several - if not all - of these priority areas. The specific role the Health Department will play in the workplan activities is not yet defined; however, it is the health department's mission, vision, and values to be a critical and engaged partner in the work of addressing and preventing chronic disease.

PARTNERSHIPS



Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws

Wis. Stat. § 251.05(3)(b)

Develop public health policies and procedures for the community.

Collaborations

Collaboration is at the heart of the work public health does in affecting the health of our communities. The Iowa County Health Department is engaged in dozens of coalitions, partner organizations and initiatives that provide the opportunity for the Health Department to influence the health of Iowa County residents through policy, prevention and/or intervention efforts.

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

Iowa County HeART Coalition

Iowa County Homeless Coalition

Substance Abuse Prevention 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

Aging Network (I-Team)

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Family Resource Center of Iowa County

South Central Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (SCWIHERC)

Southwest Alliance for Tobacco Prevention (SWATP)

Iowa County Health Department staff partnered with the ADRC to administer free COVID-19 booster vaccines at the 2022 drive through Wellness Expo. In December of 2022, the public health nurses began partnering with the Iowa County Food Pantry. The nurses continue to provide education, radon test kits, COVID test kits, N95 masks, and vaccines for adults on site at the food pantry on select Thursday mornings. In 2022, the Iowa County staff began Iowa County Immunization Stakeholder Meetings with the intent to bring those who administer vaccines in Iowa County a space to collaborate, identify gaps and minimize duplication.

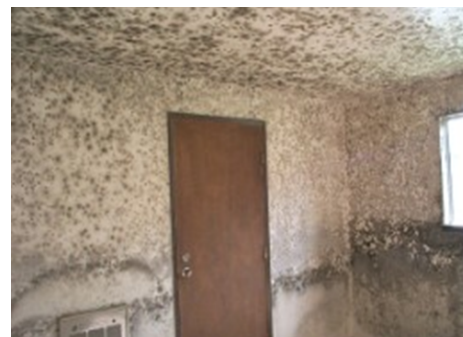
Utilize legal and regulatory actions

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.

Orders

In 2022, there was one order of abatement issued in December. Additionally, one previously issued order was resolved in 2022.



Enable equitable access

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.

Home Visits

The Health Department nurses went on a total of 16 home visits across Iowa County this year. They went on 11 visits to provide support, education, connection to resources, and infant weight checks to Iowa County mothers with infants who requested public health follow-up. Three visits were to provide education and administer vaccinations to homebound individuals. Two visits were to provide environmental health hazard follow-up.





STUDENT NURSE CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Build a diverse and skilled 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.

Student Nurse Experience

The Health Department Nurses served as preceptors/mentors for a UW-Madison BSN nursing student in the fall of 2022. The Iowa County Health Department is committed to helping students and interns develop the knowledge and skills required for them to gain entry into their desired professional fields. To that end, our nursing student was assigned one official preceptor (Lead Public Health Nurse) who provided daily guidance and assignments and served as the liaison to the nursing department at UW-Madison. All other staff mentored and guided her learning experience during her semester with us. Our student quickly learned that their experience at ICHD involves a teamwork approach. The Iowa County Health Department offers its students a rich, fully immersive experience allowing them to get a comprehensive look at the many ways a local health department serves its community.



Here is an overview of her experience:

- Assisted with administration of COVID vaccines at the Wellness Expo
- Administered flu and Tdap vaccines at our mass vaccination school-based clinics
- Observed and administered tuberculosis skin tests at the Health Department
- Shadowed staff on maternal-child health home visits
- Participated in mock anaphylactic reaction scenarios
- Was educated on the procedure for animal bite investigations and communicable disease follow-up
- Prepared and presented an educational opportunity for the staff on the subject of Ebola during the Uganda Ebola Outbreak.
- Completed research on the vaccine rates in Iowa County over the past 5 years to identify specific vaccines that have experienced a decrease in uptake over that time period.
- Submitted an article to the Iowa County News and Views on Mpox and COVID-19 vaccines
- Designed an educational brochure on rabies prevention to be used as an educational tool
- Attended a WALDHAB meeting and spent time in an Iowa County school under the supervision of the school nurse.
- Increased her knowledge of both the WIC program and general preparedness



Limited-Term Employees (LTEs)

A complex multi-year response involves complex operations far beyond the normal capacity of the Health Department. The capacity added in 2020 continued into 2021 and 2022. Many Public Health Nurses joined the staff as Limited-term Employees. These LTE nurses added essential capacity with vaccination and testing operations as well as contact tracing. In addition, one of the Public Health Nurse Project positions approved/added in 2020, continued in 2022. These were essential in assisting with the operations noted above as stakeholder coordination with long term care facilities and school districts. In addition, the assistance of Iowa County Department of Social Services in lending a team member continued in 2022. Also listed are our Emergency Management partners who have been absolutely essential to our operations and success.

PHN Project Positions

Carmen Carpenter
Kaylee Litchfield

LTEs

Kelly Deterding
Judi Ascher
Elizabeth Bothfeld
Cara Biddick
Janet Brown
Maria Felland

LTEs

Kathy Honerbaum
Denise Hummel
Marion Van Asseldonk
Debra Short
Cathy Tanner

Iowa County Social Services

Nohe Caygill

Emergency Management Department Staff

Keith Hurlbert, EM Director
Amanda Gardner, Assistant

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The Iowa County Health Department has enjoyed a multi-decade long partnership with neighboring counties to work on, train and exercise emergency preparedness plans. The partnership includes Iowa, Grant, Lafayette, Richland, Vernon and Crawford counties. The pandemic provided opportunity for regional collaboration across the consortium. We specifically partnered and pooled resources with Lafayette County when standing up our initial testing clinics. We also partnered with messaging and public education across the region. 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. Having said all of this, there are additional opportunities to collaborate as enhanced regional collaboration was identified in our COVID-19 After Action Report as a gap.

South Central Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (SCWIHERC)

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. From 2018 to June 2021, Iowa County Health Department served as the fiscal agent for SCWIHERC. As stated above, in the COVID-19 After Action Report, collaboration with the SCWIHERC was identified as an area where we feel there are opportunities to enhance the benefits that come from regional collaboration.



2022 LTES

Limited Term Employees

LTE NURSES CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN 2022

Vaccinations

The staff of LTE nurses that played an integral role in vaccination efforts in 2021 continued to assist the ICHD into 2022 on a smaller scale. This staff continued to assist with COVID-19 vaccination clinics held at both the Lands' End site and the HHS building.

COVID-19 testing

In addition to assisting with our vaccination effort, the LTE staff was also involved in helping with our COVID-19 drive through testing site until testing ceased on October 1, 2022.

School-based clinics

The LTE staff of nurses made it possible for the ICHD to vaccinate students and staff in the school setting for both COVID-19 boosters in February and the flu vaccine in October. With their assistance we were able to administer 773 flu vaccines as part of a mass vaccination school-based clinic.

Other notes on LTES

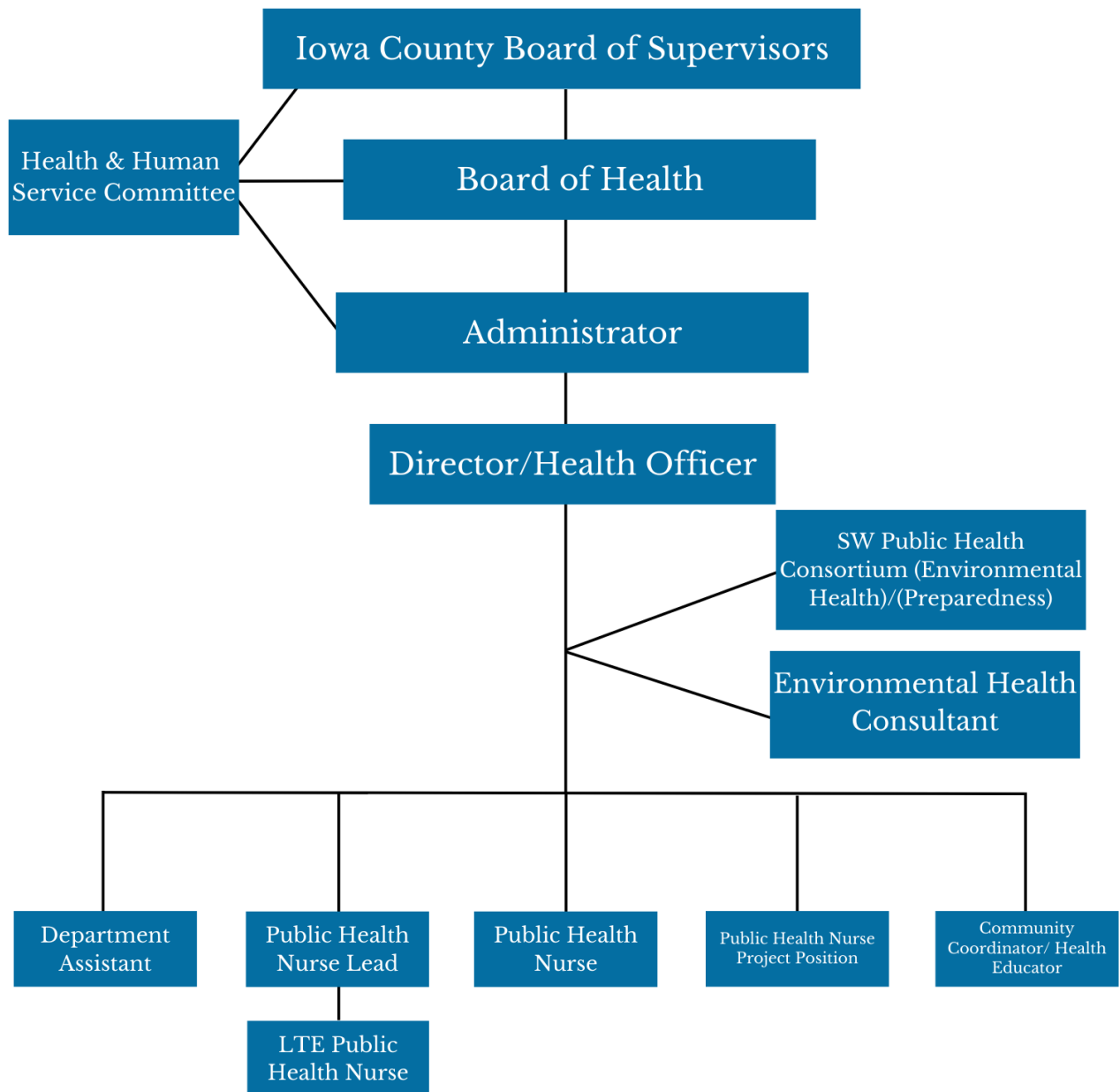
LTE staff was also available when the decision was made to provide N95 masks and at-home antigen testing to the residents of Iowa County. They prepared thousands of masks and tests for distribution. They also assisted ICHD staff with contact tracing during the month of January.

Social events were scheduled three times during 2022 to offer opportunities for the LTE staff to stay connected to the ICHD staff while providing social time to build relationships.





Iowa County Health Department ORGANIZATION CHART





Improve and innovate through evaluation, research, and quality improvement

Organizational Review

The Iowa County Health Department staff spent considerable time and effort in 2022 beginning an organizational review. With a nearly entirely new staff, we took a first important and essential step in a detailed review of the programs we implement, staffing models, data collection methods/metrics as well as our agency mission, mission and values. This organizational review included several key pieces contributing to our overall commitment to the delivery of quality programs and constant improvement. These pieces included: review and revision of policies and procedures; electronic scanning of thousands of immunization records/documents in our effort to move toward electronic storage of health records; upgrading the pharmaceutical grade refrigerator and freezer that stores our vaccinations.

This organizational review was the first step in updating our Strategic Plan which we will continue in 2023. The Health Department's current Strategic Plan: goals and strategies of the Department are below.

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

Policy and Procedure Review

In June of 2022, the staff of the ICHD made a commitment to update the Policy and Procedure Manual for the department. Throughout the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to review and update policies and procedures on a regular basis, but as part of the recovery process the decision was made to begin the review process and update the policy and procedure manual.

Individual policies and procedures were divided among staff members who then reviewed and updated the content of each policy. This task involved researching and obtaining updated information, state statutes, and hyperlinks to resources and references. From there, the policy was reformatted and brought back to the staff for review and edits.

During the final 6 months of 2022, the staff reviewed, researched, updated, and formatted 43 departmental policies. The goal of the ongoing review/updates is to keep the ICHD policy and procedure manual current and relevant for use.



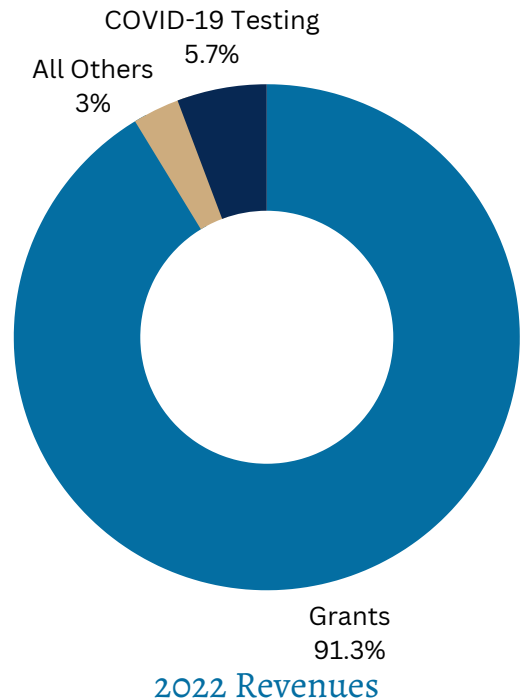
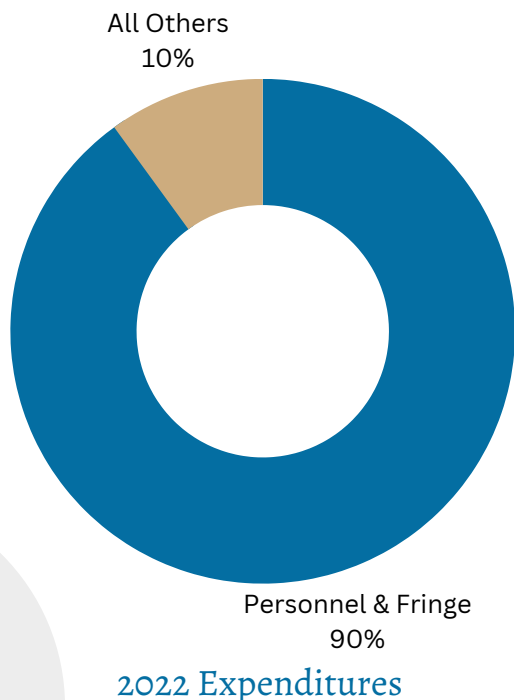


FISCAL SUMMARY

Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure

Expenses	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Personnel & Fringe	325,600	348,542	569,773	692,167	569,703
All others	49,965	59,172	76,554	178,733	63,448
*SCWIHERC	-	355,592	216,637	38,414	-
Total:	\$375,565	\$763,307	862,964	909,314	633,151
Revenue					
Grants	107,549	135,934	435,789	404,922	329,313
All others	12,368	10,558	1,230	2,772	10,764
*SCWIHERC	-	360,912	237,593	173,598	-
Covid-19 Testing				23,120	20,700
Total:	\$119,917	\$507,404	674,612	604,412	360,777
Tax Levy	\$255,648	\$255,903	188,352	304,902	272,374

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



Annual Report:

For additional copies, call 608-930-9870 or visit our website at

<https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/HealthDepartment/health-resource-links>

Iowa County Health Department

303 W Chapel St.

Suite 2200

Dodgeville, WI 53533



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT