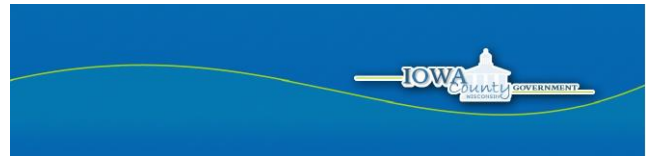


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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN

Case Count at 1682; Vaccine Planning Update; Dashboard Update

Iowa County – The Health Department reports an increase of 52 cases this past week bringing the total of cases to 1,682. During the previous week, 71 cases were reported, the week prior the increase was 111 cases and the week prior to that, 109 cases. We are very sad to report that the number of deaths of county residents who tested positive for COVID-19 has increased to eight in Iowa County. The number of individuals that have recovered is 1,628, meaning 54 cases are active. Cases are in all age ranges and across the entire county. See <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/county.htm> for a breakdown of the location of positive cases.

This week's dashboard update saw the percentage of positive cases decrease to 8.6%, from 9.3% at last Dashboard report, allowing our status to remain yellow. The average cases reported daily metric has also decreased to 11.14, from last week's average of 14.64, remaining at red status.

"Persistence with following public health recommendation remains critically important. The arrival of vaccine is wonderfully welcome and hopeful news, but until we achieve notable levels of vaccine uptake, every act of prevention still matters", states Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department.

We are asking the Iowa County community to continue to:

- Limit indoor gatherings to 10 people or less.
- Limit outdoor gatherings to 25 people or less.
- Post-poner or cancel all non-essential events, gatherings and travel
- Wear a cloth face covering in public settings, especially when difficult to practice physical distancing.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from other people when you leave your home.
- Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

COVID-19 Vaccine Planning

Iowa County Health Department, Iowa County Emergency Management, Upland Hills Health, Long Term Care facilities and Public Safety agencies continue with Covid-19 vaccination planning. Agencies are working in a collaborative manner to administer vaccine to those in Phase 1A. Upland Hills Health has received and administered vaccine and the Iowa County Health Department will receive and begin vaccine administration this week. Skilled Nursing facilities in Iowa County will also have vaccine administered later this week.

In anticipation of increased vaccine availability locally, Iowa County Health Department is putting out a call to

independent healthcare workers who need a COVID-19 vaccine. “We are looking for healthcare workers who are independent and have no other way to obtain vaccine through an employer,” said Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department.

Following tiers defined by a state advisory group, individuals who provide direct patient service or engage in healthcare services that place them into contact with patients who may have COVID-19 are defined as [Tier 1a](#), and are currently eligible for vaccine. Independent healthcare workers are those not employed by a facility who can vaccinate them.

Independent healthcare workers are asked to email the Iowa County Health Department at healthinfo@iowacounty.org. The Health Department will then follow up to verify your license or credential and gather your contact information.

If a healthcare worker is employed as part of a healthcare system, clinic, pharmacy, or dental office, we ask that they speak with their employer about the plan to receive vaccine.

Vaccine is not yet available to the general public. Iowa County Health Department asks for residents’ patience as we first vaccinate healthcare workers and long-term care facility staff and residents. 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.

Below are several excellent websites to help answer questions and provide important information.

COVID-19 Vaccine Resources

- [DHS COVID-19 Vaccine page](#)
- [Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#), COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A
- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine page](#)
- CDC: [Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- CDC: [Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- SDMAC: [11/24/2020 Meeting Information](#)
- Upland Hills Health: [What you Need to Know about COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccination](#)

Iowa County Dashboard Metrics

Epidemiology: Our percentage of positive cases decreased slightly, now at 8.6%, remaining yellow. The average cases reported daily metric decreased slightly to 11.1, remaining in the red. The Outbreak metric remains red.

Healthcare Status: Testing rate remains green with an average of 130 tests performed daily. We encourage anyone with symptoms to contact his/her health care provider to be tested. Local health care partner’s facility use status (represents med surge and ICU capacity) remains yellow. Staffing status indicates the number of available staff to care for the volume of patients and remains yellow. Critical supply status reflects at least fourteen days’ worth of supplies. This metric remains green. Our regional health care infrastructure metric represents regional hospital bed use and has changed to green. Currently there are 76.5% of regional hospital beds in use, down from last week. In addition, 75.6% of total regional ICU beds are in use, also down from last week.

Public Health Status: Community spread increased some and remains in red, as 44% of cases are reporting no known source of transmission in the past two weeks. Our goal is that fewer than 20% of cases have no known source of transmission. This value is a reflection of current information, some data

is missing, as not all cases have been in contact with the health department. Our contact tracing efforts are at 94%. This metric is dependent on individuals either answering the phone or returning our calls, which remains an issue. Our health department volume and staffing metric remains yellow.

School Capacity Indicator Dashboard <https://www.iowacounty.org/COVID-19IowaCountySchoolGuidance>

This dashboard contains metrics from our Iowa County COVID-19 Dashboard along with new case rate metric (per 10,000) in the past two weeks. Today, the new case rate is 66, a decrease from 86 per 10,000 at last dashboard report and the prior week's value of 85.

<i>Date dashboard was updated</i>	<i>Percent of tests that are positive</i>	<i>Average number of cases reported per day</i>	<i>Average number of tests per day</i>	<i>Outbreaks metric</i>	<i>Percentage of cases contracted by community spread</i>	<i>School Capacity metric: new case rate per 10,000</i>
July 20	1.45%	.92	42.8	Red	46%	--
July 27	2.1%	.71	33.1	Red	30%	--
August 3	2.6%	1.0	37.7	Red	42%	--
August 10	3.9%	1.71	43.6	Red	38%	--
August 17	4.2%	2.5	60	Red	54%	--
August 24	3.8%	2.0	53	Red	46%	--
August 31	3.3%	1.5	45	Red	43%	9
September 8	2.0%	0.93	45.4	Red	38%	5
September 14	1.3%	0.64	49.7	Red	40%	4
September 21	2.6%	1.79	70	Red	64%	11
September 28	3.5%	3.79	107.5	Red	60%	22
October 5	4.8%	5.57	116.5	Red	51%	33
October 12	6.8%	8.21	121	Red	43%	49
October 19	7.5%	11.58	153.8	Red	41%	59
October 23*	7.9%	11.35	142.9	Red	43%	67
October 30	8.4%	11.29	133.7	Red	42%	67
November 6	11.4%	16.86	148.3	Red	42%	99
November 13	14.5%	26.36	181.8	Red	41%	155
November 20	14.7%	30.14	205.7	Red	43%	178
November 27	12.5%	26.86	215.1	Red	44%	158
December 4	9.8%	16.64	169.4	Red	43%	98
December 11	8.1%	11.9	147	Red	46%	70
December 18	9.6%	14.43	150	Red	46%	85
December 28	9.3%	14.64	156.8	Red	40%	86
January 4	8.6%	11.14	129.8	Red	44%	66

*Shift in day of dashboard update due to data availability.

Community Testing

Testing will continue in 2021 on Thursdays, alternating between Iowa and Lafayette Counties, from 11am-1pm, weather dependent. The next testing site will be held on **Thursday, January 7, 2021 from 11:00am – 1:00pm in Lafayette County at the Ames Road Multipurpose Building at 11974 Ames Road in Darlington.** The following week's test site will be in Iowa County on Thursday, January 14, 2021 from 11:00 – 1:00pm at the Health and Human Services Center located at 303 West Chapel Street in Dodgeville.

Testing is free and open to anyone (age 5+) who feels they have a need to be tested. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian with consent. Appointments are not required, but it is requested that those who wish to be tested pre-register at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>.

People should consider visiting the testing site if:

- * They have had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- * They have COVID-19 symptoms
- * They have regular exposure to a large number of people (i.e., people who work in grocery stores)
- * They work closely with high-risk populations (i.e., healthcare workers, people who work with people who are incarcerated, people who work in long-term care facilities)

There are additional testing sites in southwest Wisconsin in Grant, Lafayette and Richland counties. Visit the Iowa County COVID-19 website to see the full regional schedule and/or follow our Facebook page for a list of weekly testing opportunities in southwest Wisconsin.

Upland Hills Hospital continues to provide COVID testing. Please see the Upland Hills website for information on getting tested at their facility.

Important Sources of Information

- o **Wisconsin Department of Health Services** <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- o **Iowa County website.** <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>
- o **Upland Hills Health** <https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19/>
- o **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- o **211 Wisconsin** Simply call 211 from your phone <https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/>

Social Media sites:

Iowa County Public Health on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/iowacountyhealthdepartment/>

Upland Hills Health on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/UplandHillsHealthHospital/>

Iowa County Emergency Management on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/ICEMWI>

Iowa County Emergency Management on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/icemwi/>

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