



Iowa County Health Department

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

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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN

Iowa County Health Department Advises Use of Masks

Iowa County -- The Iowa County Health Department continues to strongly advise that residents wear a mask while in public spaces. Individuals should wear masks or face coverings that cover their mouth and nose when around non-household members following current State and CDC guidance. In general, this means masking when around others who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or are of unknown vaccination status with few exceptions (<https://www.cdc.gov/.../vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>). It is important to note that businesses and schools can still require masks without a State order. For additional information visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

“The overturning of the State masking order today by the State Supreme Court does not mean masking and social distancing are no longer important”, said Debbie Siegenthaler, Director at the Iowa County Health Department. “We all want to be done with this pandemic, but we need to hang on a little longer. One important measure we can take is wearing a mask. Iowa County residents have done a terrific job with prevention measures, including mask wearing and we ask that they continue until we can get a larger percentage of folks vaccinated. We are doing great, let's not stop now”, added Siegenthaler.

“The bottom line is that we must remain careful and diligent in the prevention measures we know work, such as mask wearing, physical distancing, avoiding large gatherings and washing our hands,” added Siegenthaler. “We need the assistance of each citizen in continuing to be part of an effective pandemic response and thank you in advance for your continued cooperation”.

As of March 31, 2021, 36.5% (8,647) of Iowa County residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 23% (5,457) residents have completed the vaccine series. In addition, 84.6% of those age 65+ have received at least one dose of vaccine. You can view the interactive DHS data dashboard on the [COVID-19 Vaccine Data](#) page.

It continues to be important that fully vaccinated people follow [public health best practices](#) in public spaces. This includes wearing a mask and physically distancing. Fully vaccinated people should also continue these practices when visiting unvaccinated people who are at an increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease. You can find more information at the DHS's [After You Get the Vaccine webpage](#)

If you live or work in Iowa County, you can visit <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19/VaccineInformation> to find instructions for signing up for our waiting list. If you are unable to access the internet, you can call the Iowa County Health Department at 608.930.9870.

Important Sources of Information

- Wisconsin Department of Health Services <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- Iowa County website. <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>
- Upland Hills Health <https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19/>
- CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- 211 Wisconsin Simply call 211 from your phone <https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/>
- DHS Vaccine Data <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-data.htm#summary>
- **CDC: [Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)**

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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