



## Iowa County Health Department

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

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November 5, 2021

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

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### Iowa County a Top Performer in Johns Hopkins Research Study; COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Clinics; School-based Clinics for Children Ages 5-11 Years

**Iowa County** – The Iowa County Health Department is very proud of the overall successful pandemic response in Iowa County. Our success is due to many reasons, one of the most important being partnerships with key stakeholders in government, health care, school districts, businesses, and the community at large. Specifically, the Health Department wants to recognize the incredibly partnership with Iowa County Emergency Management. As we have said, this response has been and continues to be a team effort. We are excited to announce that these efforts have been recognized.

In early September, 2021, the Iowa County Health Department was contacted by David Bishai, MD, MPH, PhD, [Professor](#) at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Bishai relayed early findings from his research which identified an elite list of 27 U.S. counties (out of approximately 3100) that did far better than predicted in slowing the early spread of COVID-19 compared to other counties with similar characteristics. Iowa County was identified in this list of the top 27 performing counties nationwide. Dr. Bishai's outreach to the Iowa County Health Department sought to gather qualitative data for his team's study to understand elements of the Iowa County response that contributed to this.

In summary, the study team looked at case incidence data to examine which counties were successful in bending their case incidence curves in the first six months of the pandemic. The data revealed that 74% of counties were able to do this, however, this study went further and accounted for the fact that counties differ along several key characteristics that undoubtedly played a role in their ability to control the pandemic. Positive deviants can be conceptualized simply as those counties that succeeded in controlling COVID-19 faster than expected based on relevant social, demographic, and health system factors. Just picking the top ten counties in terms of how quickly they were able to "bend" their curves may give largely rural or sparsely populated counties the advantage. This study's approach was to locate counties that were able to succeed while taking into account their differing circumstances and characteristics, thus making them positive deviants. To do this, the second step involved incorporating a comprehensive set of observable demographic, socio-economic, health system, and population health characteristics in *time to event* models so that the measure captured success that was above that expected, based on these underlying characteristics.

"The final manuscript of this research is not yet published as the data gathering continues, but this is news we definitely wanted to share with our community", said Debbie Siegenthaler, Director/Health Officer, Iowa County Health Department. "This has been a long, exhausting and stressful response and sharing positive news is important and a terrific opportunity to highlight the strong community partnerships and support that have contributed to Iowa County's top performance", added Siegenthaler.

## COVID-19 BOOSTER CLINICS

Are you interested in getting a COVID-19 Booster dose? See links below to schedule your appointment for our upcoming clinics. **Note:** Our Nov 11th Moderna Clinic is full but there is availability for Pfizer Boosters on 11/11/21. Clinics are by appointment only. If you would like to receive a different booster dose than the original type of vaccine you received, sign-up for whichever dose you prefer.

To sign-up for a Booster Clinic, please click one of the following links.

- ➡ November 11th, Pfizer Booster <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/11112021PfizerBooster>
- ➡ November 18th, Moderna Booster [11.18.21: 11.18.2021 Moderna Booster \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/1118212021ModernaBooster)
- ➡ November 18th, Pfizer Booster [11.18.21: 11.18.2021 Pfizer Booster \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/1118212021PfizerBooster)
- ➡ If you are interested in a J&J Booster, call the Iowa County Health Department at 608.930.9870.

*The ICHD will announce further clinics on our [Iowa County Health Department | Facebook page](#) and the Iowa County website <https://www.iowacounty.org>*

We are holding a Food Drive during our November Booster Clinics. If you would like to participate, please bring a non-perishable food item to your scheduled appointment and drop it off in the box located at the entrance of the facility.

### What is the difference between a third dose and a booster dose?

The third or additional dose is to protect people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised and may not have built strong immunity after the primary vaccine series.

*These individuals must meet very specific criteria:*

➡ Those who qualify for the additional dose include people 12 years of age and older with medical conditions, including:

- Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Receipt of CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within two years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids ( $\geq 20$ mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-necrosis (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory.

If you are interested in receiving the additional dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, please call the HD at 608-930-9870 or come to our vaccination clinics on Wednesday's between 2:00 and 4:30 pm at the Health and Human Services building in Dodgeville.

The Booster dose is to boost the immune system after the strong, initial protection may have decreased over time.

Iowa County Health Department **COVID-19 Vaccine WEDNESDAY CLINICS CONTINUE** each Wednesday from 2-4:30pm at the Health and Human Services Building in Dodgeville for those seeking to get started with their covid vaccine, those needing dose #2 or those who are immunocompromised needing a third (additional) dose. No appointment is required. If you have an adolescent who would like to get vaccinated, understand that persons under 18 must have a parent signature on the consent form and an adult (age 18 or older) must accompany them to the clinic. For more information, visit <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19/VaccineInformation>

### School-based COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics for Children Ages 5-11 Years

The Iowa County Health Department is coordinating with School Districts in Iowa County to offer an opportunity for kids' ages 5-11 years old to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in school. Look for information from your district on the details of your district's clinic, FAQ document and required consent forms.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) [announced its support](#) for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation that children 5-11 years old receive the Pfizer-BioNTech (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for 5-11 year olds requires two doses, separated by three weeks for full protection, and is the first and only vaccine currently available for this age group.

### Case Count and Dashboard

The Iowa County Health Department reports the total number of cases as 2,733 (11.5.21). There were 61 new cases reported this week which is steady with the number reported last week (62). The week prior 41 cases were reported, and the week prior to that, 56 cases were reported.

This week's Iowa County COVID-19 Dashboard update (data period 10/20/21 to 11/2/21) reported the percentage of positive cases at 7.4% (an increase from the prior week's metric of 5.7%). The average cases reported daily metric also increased to 8 (the prior week's daily average was 6.6). Keep in mind, the dashboard metrics include data from the previous two week period. A summary of dashboard can be found at <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>.

### Community Testing Update

The Iowa County Health Department does drive through COVID PCR testing **Tuesdays & Thursdays** at the Iowa County HHS Building located on 303 W. Chapel St, Dodgeville, WI from 9:00-11:00 AM. No appointment is necessary but registration is required at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov/en-US/>. Testing is free to anyone above the age of 1 who is symptomatic or asymptomatic. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian with consent. Masks are required.

Upland Hills Hospital provides COVID testing to only symptomatic persons. See the Upland Hills website for information.

See <https://www.iowacounty.org/COVID-19CommunityTesting> for list of additional testing options locally.

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### Important Sources of Information

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- Wisconsin Department of Health Services <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- Iowa County website <https://www.iowacounty.org>
- 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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