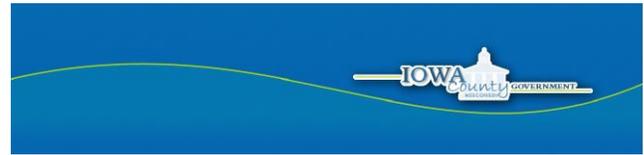


IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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www.iowacounty.org

March 27, 2020 5:30pm

For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN

Iowa County COVID-19 Update

Iowa County – The Iowa County Health Department will not be reporting daily numbers of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Iowa County going forward. We are intentionally making this shift due to the fact that we are experiencing community spread. There are likely more cases in the county than we are able to confirm with a lab test. There is simply not enough testing capacity to test everyone. The current reported lab confirmed cases are not reflective of the community spread that is occurring. It is essential that residents also make a shift from focusing on positive cases. To restate, every resident should assume there are undiagnosed cases of COVID-19 in our community and that we have community transmission and people may be unknowingly transmitting the virus to others even if they are not exhibiting symptoms. If you are interested in following the number of cases that are reported, please see the <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm>

Since we are experiencing community spread, we expect every county resident do their part in complying with the **#SaferAtHome** Order. If you do leave home, assume that you will come into contact with COVID-19. Please stay home so you don't increase your likelihood of getting sick, and you reduce the risk of getting others sick. All community members should be monitoring themselves for symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat) and isolating themselves from others as soon as these symptoms develop.

#SaferAtHome – We need you to do your part!

The URGENCY in the importance of **#SaferAtHome** and practicing social distancing is critical. The nation and state are seeing a rapid increase in cases, yet we know this is just the “tip of the iceberg” due to limited availability of testing. We are concerned that people are out and about more than is absolutely necessary. Staying home as much as possible means not leaving your home unless absolutely necessary. If you must go out, organize just a single trip every 1-2 weeks for groceries or medications, stay at least 6 feet away from others (i.e. while waiting in line), and do not gather in groups. Even if you are working during this time, please go directly to work and then home without additional stops.

Residents must continue the everyday prevention measures of social distancing, including: maintaining distancing of 6 feet between people; washing hands often; covering sneezes and coughs with a tissue or sleeve/elbow; regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces; not shaking hands; and following all other public health and CDC recommendations.

All non-essential business must be closed.

Essential business that are open must be practicing social distancing.

See the [Safer at Home Order](#) for more information.

FAQs re: Safer at Home order

<https://evers.wi.gov/Documents/COVID19/Safer%20at%20Home%20FAQ%203.24.20.pdf>

Announcements

- **Self-Care and When to Seek Medical Care:** [residents who are not critically ill, should stay home and manage their symptoms.](#)
- **Upland Hills Health Hospital and Clinics:**
 - **Effective 3/30** - UHH Clinics in Dodgeville, Mineral Point and Mt. Horeb will be open 9 AM-3 PM Monday-Friday. These hours will remain in effect until further notice.
 - [No Visitor Policy at Hospital and Nursing & Rehabilitation Center](#)
 - For the safety of our patients, healthcare workers and the community visitors are not allowed on the Upland Hills Health campus at 800 Compassion Way in Dodgeville. Visitors over the age of 16 years of age may be allowed in following circumstances with permission of the nurse lead or house supervisor:
 - Birth Center, labor and delivery
 - End of life
 - Pediatric patients requiring a parent
 - Visitors must undergo a health screening and will not be allowed entry with an elevated temperature, symptoms or exposure to COVID-19.
- **Managing Your Mental Health: You are not alone. We are in this together.**
 - The COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting changes to our lifestyles, can make anyone anxious or even depressed. Do not hesitate to ask for help if you're feeling overwhelmed. Call 800-985-5990 to speak to a trained crisis counselor or text TalkWithUS to 66747.
 - While you may not be able to be in the same room with your support system, you can still call or video chat with them.
- **Community Donations:** We continue to be impressed with the community stewardship shown. ***There are several ways to donate and/or volunteer:***
 - Please bring your new, unused PPE to the Iowa County Health & Human Services building between the hours of 8 AM and 8 PM Monday through Friday. These items will be used to keep our frontline health care workers and responders safe!
 - The Food Pantry through SWCAP <http://swcap.org/covid19.html>
 - Volunteer Drivers <http://swcap.org/covid19.html>
 - Check out Upland Hills Health website for opportunities to help <https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/>
- **211 Wisconsin** is an easy and helpful resource for COVID 19 questions. Simply call 211 from your phone <https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/>

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