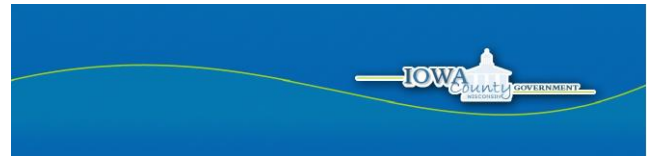


IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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www.iowacounty.org

March 29, 2020 5:00am

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 would like to offer clarity regarding reporting COVID 19 cases in Iowa County. We heard your concerns about reporting the number of positive test results and want to assure residents that we will provide that number daily.

The current number of lab confirmed cases in Iowa County is 3. This is not reflective of the community spread occurring. There are likely more cases than can be confirmed with a lab test due to the current testing criteria/capacity. It is critical that residents understand that if you leave your home you should assume you will come in contact with COVID 19. To restate, every resident should assume there are undiagnosed cases of COVID-19 in our community. The Health Department continues to track, report and complete the contact tracing and investigation with all positive cases. We will be in touch with anyone who is a close contact of a case.

For a broader picture of the number of cases, please see the <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm>

#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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