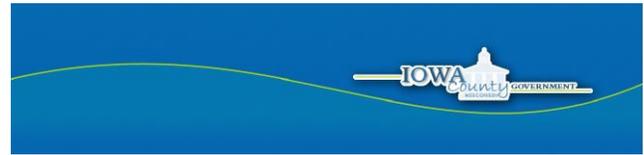


IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN

Community Spread and Enforcing Safer at Home

Iowa County – Although Iowa County continues to hold steady at three confirmed COVID-19 cases, it can be assumed there is community spread. There are not enough resources to do widespread testing for the virus; there are likely unidentified positive cases. The term “community spread” means a person’s disease cannot be traced to a specific individual or source. If you leave your house and go into a public place, assume you will come into contact with someone carrying the virus. Staying home is the only way we can slow the spread of the virus, we all have to make big sacrifices for a little while; we will get through this.

Governor Evers’ Safer at Home order is in place to protect the public. Only essential businesses may remain open. Travel must be restricted to travel to the essential business where you work or for an essential reason. Essential reasons include shopping for food (including pet food), medical supplies, prescriptions and other necessities. Getting essentials should be happening once per week, by one person in your household. If you are a single-parent household, do your best to plan ahead to limit the trips you must take with your children.

This Order is enforceable by any local law enforcement official, including county sheriffs. Violation or obstruction of this Order is punishable by up to 30 days imprisonment, or up to \$250 fine, or both. Wis. Stat. § 252.25.

“The health and the safety of our community is our highest priority,” Iowa County Sheriff Steve Michek stated. “To keep our community safe you need to follow the Safer at Home order and limit your outings. As we continue to monitor and get calls and emails about non-essential activities happening in Iowa County, we will be placing more emphasis on enforcement in order to protect people during this serious health crisis. Please obey this order; it will save lives.”

Remember to continue to check-in with those most vulnerable in our communities, especially anyone who may be isolated during this time. Call, email, video chat, or send a letter.

Iowa County Case Update

3 Positive Test Results in Iowa County
101 Negative Test Results in Iowa County
1,730 Positive Test Results in Wisconsin
20,317 Negative Test Results in Wisconsin
31 Deaths in Wisconsin

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

Announcements

- **Guidance for businesses and employers for responding to COVID-19 and Emergency Order #12.** We appreciate the efforts that are being made by county businesses in complying with the #SaferAtHome. [Emergency Order 12, Safer at Home Order](#), states that “Essential Businesses and Operations” means health care and public health operations, human services operations, essential infrastructure operations, and essential governmental functions as well as “any business or worker identified in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, [Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers during COVID-19 Response](#),”
 - In addition to a number of other businesses, with certain conditions. Businesses are encouraged to follow these [best practices related the development of a COVID-19 Response Plan](#) for the safety of their employees and their families.
 - Be sure to check out the DHS website <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/employers.htm> The site also includes resources for faith based organizations <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community.htm>
- **Elections Commission seeking Volunteers** Poll workers do everything from check-in voters, help people register to vote, check photo IDs and process absentee ballots. Please click [here](#) for more details from the Wisconsin Elections Commission. Local clerks will provide poll workers with training prior to Election Day.
- **Effective 4/2 – Upland Hills Health Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Requesting No Gift Deliveries to minimize virus spread.** Residents at Upland Hills Health Nursing and Rehabilitation Center are receiving an extra dose of TLC from staff ever since the COVID-19 pandemic caused management to close the door to visitors. “It is difficult to be separated from the ones you love, and we are sorry to announce that we cannot accept the delivery of gifts of any type to residents, as well,” the Center’s administrator stated. “It is important for each of our residents to feel loved and remain as active as they are able... so we’ve launched a BUDDY PROGRAM! Our staff is taking time with residents every day to play games... make things... read aloud... play music... skype with family... pray... and chat. We are going the extra mile to protect them from exposure to viruses while keeping them happy, active and safe.”
- **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.
 - Effective 3/25 - No Visitor Policy at Hospital and Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

Important Sources of Information

- **211 Wisconsin** is an easy and helpful resource for COVID 19 questions. Simply call 211 from your phone <https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/>
- **For localized information:**

Please monitor the following 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/>

Monitor the following websites:

Iowa County Health Department <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/HealthDepartment>
 Upland Hills Health <https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information/>
 WI Department of Health Services (DHS) <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm>
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>