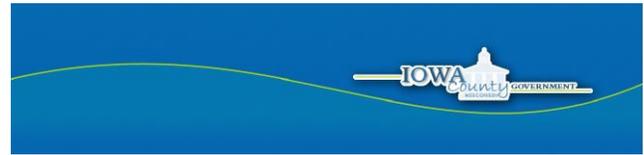


## IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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[www.iowacounty.org](http://www.iowacounty.org)

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April 23, 2020 5:00pm

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*For Immediate Release*

### Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN

### COVID 19 and Our Pets

*Iowa County –*

At this time, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low. A small number of pets have been reported to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, mostly after contact with people with COVID-19. We need to learn more about how this virus affects animals. Until then, treat pets as you would other human family members to protect them from getting sick: <https://bit.ly/2x73KKQ>

While CDC recommends that you avoid dog parks, if you still decide to use the dog park take extra precautions including:

- 1 Do not let pets interact with people or other animals outside the household.
- 2 Maintain at least 6 feet from other people and animals. Use a leash if necessary.
- 3 After leaving the dog park, use hand sanitizer and wipe down your dog with pet-friendly wipes. Wash your hands when you get home.

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### Case Update

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7 Positive Test Results in Iowa County  
212 Negative Test Results in Iowa County  
5,052 Positive Test Results in Wisconsin  
51,456 Negative Test Results in Wisconsin  
1,318 (26%) Hospitalizations  
257 Deaths in Wisconsin

For a broader picture of the number of cases and additional detail see

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm>

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### Announcements

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- [Upland Hills Health Hospital and Clinics:](#)
  - UHH Clinics in Dodgeville, Mineral Point and Mt. Horeb are open 9 AM-3 PM Monday-Friday.  
4/21/2020: Montfort Clinic is re-open 9 -3 pm.
  - 4/23/2020: Food donation policy update:  
All food donations from the community (or a UHH staff member donating to another department) must follow the Restaurant & Food Safety Requirements

All food donations from the community (or from a UHH staff member donating to another department) must be coordinated through the Foundation.

- a. The Foundation will coordinate food donations in consultation with Culinary Services.
- b. Food donors may suggest a department to receive the food donation. However, Culinary Services reserves the right to spread donations among various departments to ensure a fair distribution of donated food items for all staff who work in patient care or support patient care services.

- **COVID-19 Could Affect Severe Weather Sheltering Plans.** With severe weather season underway in Wisconsin, it's essential that people reevaluate their planning and anticipate the effects COVID-19 could have on where they take shelter. While it is important to practice good social distancing, [ReadyWisconsin](#) encourages everyone to make sure that doesn't prevent them from seeking safety during a severe thunderstorm or tornado warning. "While COVID-19 remains a serious threat to public health, severe weather also poses a major risk to the safety of everyone in its path," said Dr. Darrell L. Williams, Wisconsin Emergency Management administrator. "While we do want people to practice safe social distancing when possible, that should never stop them from going to a shelter during a dangerous weather event." For more information visit <https://dma.wi.gov/DMA/wemnews/2020wemnews/20056>

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### Important Sources of Information

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- **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 COVID 19 <https://www.iowacounty.org/>

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>

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