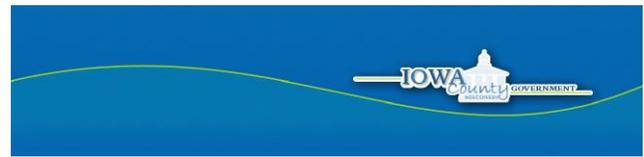


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Working to Keep Long Term Care Residents and Staff Safe During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Iowa County, WI - While Wisconsin's Safer at Home Order has worked to help flatten the curve to prevent COVID-19 from overwhelming our healthcare system, there continue to be additional people who test positive every day. This indicates that there is still active risk in our community.

Recent experience with outbreaks in nursing homes have indicated that residents and staff infected with COVID-19 may not report typical symptoms such as fever or respiratory symptoms and some may not report any symptoms at all. Unrecognized asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic infections contribute to the spread of the virus in nursing homes.

To protect the health of residents and staff, Governor Evers, the Wisconsin Division of Public Health and the Iowa County Health Department have recommended baseline testing of all residents and staff in skilled nursing facilities to identify all residents and staff who may be infected and to ensure that appropriate measures may be put in place to stop the spread of the virus.

The Iowa County Health Department, in partnership with Upland Hills Nursing and Rehab Center, Bloomfield Healthcare and Rehab Center, and Mineral Point Health Services is pleased to announce COVID-19 testing of nursing home residents and staff is underway.

Further testing is planned for all Iowa County assisted living facilities.

There will be NO cost to residents or employees for testing at any of these facilities.

Exact Sciences will be processing the tests at their lab in Madison.

Iowa County Health Department does not release the names of residents that have been tested positive for COVID-19 connected with public health investigations because the strategies employed by the health department to protect the community also seek to ensure the privacy of individuals and their families.

(END)