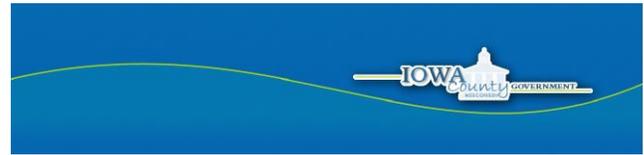


## IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

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May 21, 2020

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*For Immediate Release*

### **Iowa County Health Department**

*Director/Health Officer Debbie Siegenthaler*

### **Iowa County Emergency Management**

*Director Keith Hurlbert*

### **Iowa County Sheriff's Department**

*Sheriff Steve Michek*

## **Guidance to Continue to Protect Iowa County Against COVID 19**

**Iowa County** – As the Safer at Home Order has been overturned, it is critical we continue to understand that risk still remains for everyone in our community for contracting COVID 19. The virus is just as contagious and dangerous as it has been since the beginning of the pandemic. It is critical we continue with essential preventative measures in our community.

The Iowa County Health Department, Emergency Management and Sheriff's Department want to reiterate the need for residents to continue taking the necessary steps to protect the health and safety of themselves, their families and community. We continue to commend the residents of Iowa County for the efforts made with public health efforts to slow the spread of COVID 19. We have been successful in slowing the spread and flattening the curve in Iowa County and we want to continue to keep residents safe and healthy.

We also continue to expect and trust that businesses will take responsibility to protect the health of their employees and customers and assist in the prevention and transmission of COVID-19. Businesses and consumers are encouraged to follow the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) guidelines <https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/>. If we proceed too quickly and do not follow the guidance, we will be at risk for a rapid increase in cases.

The Iowa County Health Department has created a Business Toolkit which can be found at <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19> to be used as an additional tool to help businesses in their ability to open and operate safely.

Please remember, Iowa County has many residents who are at greater risk for serious health concerns when exposed to COVID-19. It is advised that individuals over age 60 or those with underlying health conditions continue to stay home as much as possible. This virus doesn't spread itself. People spread it. We don't have a cure or a vaccine yet. Our best tool is isolation for those we know are sick and physically distancing ourselves from others. Each of us represents an opportunity to interrupt the transmission of this virus. The Iowa County Health Department will continue to keep you up to date on information that impacts our community.

It is important to continue to take the following steps to protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- Stay home as much as possible and if you are sick.
- Minimize physical contact with anyone outside of your household.

- Maintain 6 feet of distance between yourself and others if you need to go out.
- Minimize travel, especially to areas considered to be “viral hot spots” within and beyond our state borders.
- Practice good hygiene:
  - Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
  - Avoid touching your face.
- Wear a fabric face covering when you must be in public.
- Individuals over the age of 60 should consider sheltering-in-place to protect themselves from COVID-19. For more information visit <https://www.cdc.gov/.../2019-.../prevent-getting-sick/index.html>

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## Case Update

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11 Positive Test Results in Iowa County  
579 Negative Test Results in Iowa County  
13,885 Positive Test Results in Wisconsin  
163,238 Negative Test Results in Wisconsin  
2,218 (16%) Hospitalizations  
487 Deaths in Wisconsin

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

### 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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