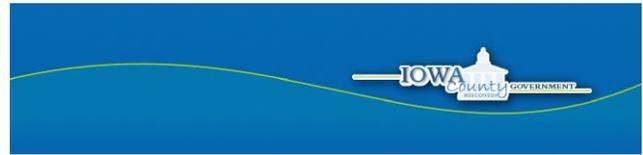


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arena Cheese works with Iowa County Health Department on COVID Investigation

Dodgeville, WI – The Iowa County Health Department is reporting 2 positive test results for COVID-19 at Arena Cheese in Arena, Wisconsin.

The Iowa County Health Department is working with Arena Cheese to conduct a thorough investigation to track, trace, and contain the virus,” said Debbie Siegenthaler Health Officer/Director, Iowa County Health Department. “We want to assure the community that leadership and staff at the facility are taking all necessary steps to contain the spread of the virus”, added Siegenthaler.

“Arena Cheese is committed to providing a safe environment for all our employees. We have implemented workplace practices designed to minimize risk, including extra cleaning and disinfecting, personal protective equipment, strict symptom monitoring, hand hygiene and other workplace controls” said Bill Hanson, Vice President, Arena Cheese.

A plan has been developed for testing of all close contacts, including employees. Testing is a key strategy for identifying individuals who have COVID and to prevent others from becoming infected.

The health department does not release the names of any individuals that have been tested positive for COVID to protect the privacy of individuals and their families.

A “public health investigation” is initiated when two or more cases are identified in a workplace, health care facility, group housing, and other settings such as restaurants. A “case investigation” and contact tracing are conducted with all people reported with COVID-19, regardless of the setting.

If you have been in contact with someone who is a confirmed case of COVID-19, staff from your local health department or the state health department will be in touch to notify you of potential exposure. When they call you, they will ask if you are experiencing symptoms, if you are an essential worker, and will provide information about quarantine and isolation. If you have symptoms, they can also help you understand when to seek medical help, how to get tested, and options if you have concerns about being able to safely quarantine or isolate for the required time.

“COVID-19 can be spread by asymptomatic people, meaning people who are not experiencing symptoms such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath,” continued Debbie Siegenthaler Health Officer/Director, Iowa County Health Department. “In addition to maintaining at least six feet of physical distance as much as possible, we recommend that everyone wear cloth face coverings, frequently wash their hands, and cover coughs and sneezes to prevent catching and spreading disease.”

Local Health Departments, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), and Arena Cheese are working around the clock to try to help everyone remain safe. Siegenthaler says employers can reach out to their local health department to get advice on how to keep employees, customers, and others safe.

We encourage the public to frequently 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>

(END)