

IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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www.iowacounty.org

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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

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COVID 19 Cases Increase in Young Residents

Iowa County – The Health Department announces the current COVID 19 confirmed case count in Iowa County is 31. Our most recent cases, since Friday, are young individuals between the ages of 15 and 25 and all are currently isolating at home. The Health Department has contact with all confirmed cases and reaches out to those who may have had close contact to each confirmed case. The Health Department assists in actively monitoring their health while they are under quarantine.

“Since Friday, we continue to see a steady increase of cases in young people ages 15-25. The steady uptick in Iowa County is in line with trends of new cases reported in neighbor counties. Young people make up the majority of new cases and it is important that we take notice of this trend”, says Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department. We are asking everyone to think carefully about the decisions you make. If you are getting together with a few friends or family, hang out with a small group in an outside space. When dining at a restaurant, use the carry out option or ask to use outdoor dining space. Always keep in mind protective measures that prevent disease spread. “We need our young residents to know they are a critical part of our response in keeping friends, neighbors, loved ones and vulnerable residents safe and healthy”, added Siegenthaler.

Iowa County Dashboard Metrics: *What's new from last week?*

Epidemiology: The metric remains green, however, it is important to note that our case positivity rate has doubled since last week. Our case rate has also increased with an average of a new case each day. The Outbreak metric remains red.

Healthcare Status: Testing rate remains green. An average of 51.6 tests are being done each day.

Public Health Status: Community spread metric remains red as the majority of recent cases have no known exposure. Our contact tracing and lab reporting timeliness metric has changed to green. Successful containment requires several components. Lab results must be reported to the Health Department in a timely manner. The Health Department must reach out to positive cases in a timely manner. Success additionally requires community members have the necessary contact with public health.

Emergency Management: Remains green

Check out this week's COVID 19 Dashboard at <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>

Regional metrics – Resource highlighting regional status is located at the following website <https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/data#metrics>

Overall, we remain at a MODERATE activity level. Diligence remains important in following recommendations to physically distance, wash hands often, clean and disinfect high touch surfaces, stay home if ill, wear a face covering and avoid large groups. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm>

New cases will continue to be reflected on our Iowa County Health Department Facebook page each day (Monday through Friday). The State of Wisconsin [DHS website](#), will continue to be updated each afternoon with county specific numbers. Going forward, we will not be conveying each positive case through a press release unless we are experiencing rapid or concerning changes in our metrics. All positive cases will continue to be reported to the state and followed up on as they have been. We have developed, through our Iowa County COVID 19 Dashboard, a multi-level way to monitor the picture in our county. Be sure to check out the COVID 19 Dashboard on our website. Check out the DHS website for more information <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases-map.htm>

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/>
- **Recently added /updated resources on the Iowa County website.** <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>
 - Mass Gathering Guidance
 - Business Toolkit
 - Reopening Guidance
 - Reduce Risk of Exposure and Transmission
- **Additional resources:**
CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

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/>

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>