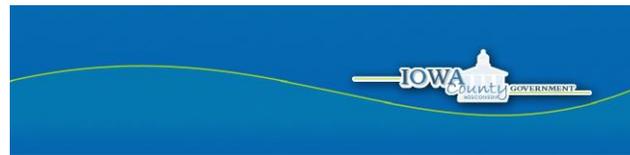


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August 10, 2020

For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department
Director/Health Officer
Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN

COVID-19 Update: Case Count at 82; Weekly Dashboard Check-in

Iowa County – Health Department confirms that over the weekend we added eight additional cases bringing the current COVID-19 confirmed case count in Iowa County to 82. Four of the eight positive cases are individuals in the 18-25 age range, three are between the ages of 56-65 and one is in the age range of 76-85 years. Please note, the positive case count reported locally is different than the number reported on the DHS website today due to corrections made to data after DHS pulled jurisdictional numbers this morning. The Health Department has contact with all lab 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.

Iowa County Dashboard Metrics: *Weekly check-in...*

Epidemiology: The metric remains green but our percentage of positive cases has increased to 3.9%, a significant increase from 2.6% last week). The average cases reported daily metric remains yellow, but also reflects a significant increase from last week. Last week we averaged one new case per day in the previous 14 days; however this week, we have increased that average to 1.71. The Outbreak metric remains red. We continue to have two active outbreaks in Iowa County.

Healthcare Status: Our partners in health care remain in green status. Testing rate remains green with an average of 43.6 tests done each day in the past two weeks. We continue to encourage anyone with symptoms to contact your health care provider to be tested.

Public Health Status: Community spread remains above target with 38% of cases reporting no known source in the past two weeks. This represents a slight decrease from 42% reported last week. This metric remains red, as our goal is that fewer than 20% of cases have no known source of transmission. Our contact tracing efforts remain successful, as 100% of positives cases in the past two weeks have been successfully contacted within 48 hours of their positive tests.

Emergency Management: Our emergency management partners remains in green status.

“We have definitely seen a marked increase in cases over the last month and the trends in the dashboard with a few key metrics illustrates this”, commented Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department. The positivity rate has steadily increased with a sharp uptick this week. In addition, the average number of cases reported each day has been steady but sharply increased this week. Below are changes in key areas of our local dashboard over the past four weeks.

	July 20, 2020	July 27, 2020	August 3, 2020	August 10, 2020
Positivity Rate	1.45%	2.1%	2.6%	3.9%
Average Cases reported each day	.92	.71	1.0	1.71
Testing: Daily average	42.8	33.1	37.7	43.6
Outbreaks	red	red	red	red
Community Spread	46%	30%	42%	38%

“We continue to urge everyone to keep social circles small and practice consistency and persistence with social distancing and hand hygiene. Much appreciation to the stellar job our businesses and residents are also doing with embracing the public health measure to wear a cloth face covering”, Siegenthaler added. Please do not host large parties or gatherings as it adds to this virus’s opportunity to spread. Likewise, limit exposure to large groups of people for a sustained duration and please stay home if you are sick. While most of us will do fine and recover, keep in mind those who are vulnerable as they are at increased risk of a bad outcome if they get COVID 19. Our goal is to avoid a large surge in our hospitals and to do that we need everyone’s help in keeping friends, neighbors, loved ones and vulnerable residents safe and healthy. If you are high risk (60 years and older or have a chronic medical condition or compromised immune status) please take extra precautions to reduce your exposure.

Iowa County status is classified as HIGH activity level along with the majority of Wisconsin counties. Regions and counties are classified as high, medium, or low activity levels for disease spread by combining case burden and trajectory indicators. Visit the web link below to see definitions for case indicators, additional detailed data and a map of Wisconsin noting each county and their risk level <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. 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.

Important Sources of Information

- **Wisconsin Statewide and Regional metrics** [DHS website](#)
 - WI Department of Health Services (DHS) <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm>
 - Regional metrics <https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/data#metrics>
 - Activity risk level <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm>
 - County-specific data <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases-map.htm>
- **Resources on the Iowa County website.** <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>
 - COVID-19 Dashboard (updated each Monday)
 - Daily Iowa County Case Count (updated Monday-Friday)
 - Local Data graphs (updated each Monday)
 - Get a free COVID-19 test here! <https://www.publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/testing>
- **Upland Hills Health** <https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19/>
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
 - **Frequently Asked Questions:** CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>
- **211 Wisconsin** Simply call 211 or visit <https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/>

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/>