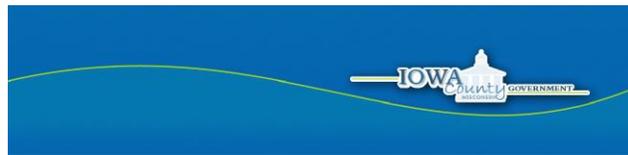


## IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

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October 16, 2020

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*For Immediate Release*

### Iowa County Health Department

*Director/Health Officer*

*Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN*

### COVID-19 Cases Continue to Increase in Iowa County, Case Count at 351

**Iowa County** – The Health Department reports an increase of 89 cases this past week bringing the total to 351. During the previous week, 56 cases were reported, 32 cases the week prior. Cases are in all age ranges and across the entire county. Iowa County status is now classified as VERY HIGH activity.

Due to the sharp increase in cases, the Health Department continues to experience delays in the time frame in which we are able to reach out to close contacts. When capacity is stretched with the increase in cases so quickly it hinders meaningful contact tracing. If you test positive, please isolate yourself and let your close contacts know to self-quarantine and consider being tested.

In addition, Wisconsin is experiencing increases in hospital admissions and/or staffing concerns. This week the state opened up an alternate care facility in the Milwaukee area to assist with hospital surge. In Iowa County, our local hospital is doing ok but is closely monitoring capacity as well as the capacity of Dane County hospitals. Regional hospital capacity and staffing status are monitoring on the DHS website <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm>. This data dashboard details COVID-19 disease activity and related hospital capacity level. Our region is experiencing hospital bed usage at 83% and ICU bed usage at 85% and the usage of both is trending upward.

### Community Testing

The Health Departments of Iowa and Lafayette County have collaborated to provide a Covid-19 Community test site in our counties, alternating each Tuesday from 10 am to Noon. Iowa County hosts this community test site at the Health and Human Services Center located at 303 West Chapel Street in Dodgeville. The Lafayette County Test site is at the Lafayette County Ames Road Multipurpose Building at 11974 Ames Road in Darlington. We ask that people go to [COVIDconnect.com](https://COVIDconnect.com) and register to be tested at one of these sites.

### The next scheduled community testing will be in Iowa County on Tuesday, October 20 from 10:00 am – Noon.

Testing is free and open to anyone (age 5+) who feels they have a need to be tested. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian with consent. Appointments are not required, but it is requested that those who wish to be tested pre-register at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>.

People should consider visiting the testing site if:

- \* They have had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- \* They have COVID-19 symptoms
- \* They have regular exposure to a large number of people (i.e., people who work in grocery stores)

\* They work closely with high-risk populations (i.e., healthcare workers, people who work with people who are incarcerated, people who work in long-term care facilities)

Upland Hills Hospital will continue to provide COVID testing as they have since the pandemic began. Please see the Upland Hills website for information on getting tested at their facility.

**You Stop the Spread:** All of us can help protect the people, places, and experiences that matter most. Taking a few simple steps to stop the spread of COVID-19 reduces the risk - even for young, healthy people - for you and those around you.

- Wear a cloth face covering in public settings, especially when it is difficult to practice physical distancing.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from other people when possible when you leave your home.
- 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.
- Stay at home as much as possible and especially if you are sick. Cancel events and avoid groups, gatherings, play dates, and nonessential appointments.

Halloween is approaching. Please check out two helpful resources on staying safe this Halloween. See below.

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#### Important Sources of Information

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- **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>
  - Decision Tool for Individuals and Families <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/decision.htm>
- **Halloween Safety:**
  - DHS: [Celebrating Halloween Safely One-Pager](#)
  - de Beaumont's [Safety Tips for Halloween 2020](#)
- **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)
    - New cases are reflected on the Iowa County Health Dept Facebook page each day (Monday thru Friday). The WI DHS website updates each afternoon with county numbers. We update case numbers that occur over the weekend on Monday's Case Count. Positive cases will continue to be reported to the state and followed up on as they have been.
  - Local Data graphs
  - School Resources and Capacity Indicators
- **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** is an easy and helpful resource for COVID 19 questions. Simply call 211 from your phone <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/>

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