

IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

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Case Count at 416; Weekly Dashboard Updates Shift to Fridays; Lafayette County Test Site 10.27.20

Iowa County – The Health Department reports an increase of 65 cases this past week bringing the total of cases to 416. During the previous week, 89 cases were reported, 56 cases the week prior. Cases are in all age ranges and across the entire county. See <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/county.htm> for a breakdown of the location of positive cases by census track. Iowa County status remains classified as VERY HIGH activity.

Due to the continued increase and large volume of 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 volume of cases, 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.

Iowa County Dashboard Metrics: Update will shift to Fridays

Due to the day and date range key data is available to us from DHS, we will be shifting the day we update our local dashboard to Friday. The Iowa County dashboard is showing continued upward trends in metrics. The average number of new daily cases is relatively level at 11.35, similar to Monday's average of 11.58. Cases continue to be in persons in all age ranges and across the entire county. The number of active outbreaks remains at fourteen with the following breakdown: Mineral Point (6), Dodgeville (6), Barneveld (1) and Highland (1). The Health Department will not list the names of businesses, organizations or events with outbreaks due to privacy concerns.

Wisconsin continues to experience increases in hospital admissions and staffing concerns. In Iowa County, our local hospital is maintaining operations but is closely monitoring capacity as well as the capacity of Dane County hospitals. We have added an additional metric to our local dashboard to provide a picture of our regional health care infrastructure. This metric represents regional hospital bed use and is currently yellow, as 81.2% of regional hospital beds are in use. In addition, 79.4% of total regional ICU beds are in use. Regional hospital capacity and staffing status are monitored on the DHS website <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm>

“The message continues to be very straight forward... YOU stop the spread, so be part of the solution! Don't go to crowds and don't create crowds. Mask up, keep your small social circles outside, practice social distancing and wash your hands often. Every person and every practice is important and helps us and the entire community with our goals”, Siegenthaler added. A vital message to residents who 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 Dashboard Metrics:

Epidemiology: The percentage of positive cases remains yellow, now at 7.9%, a slight increase. The average cases reported daily metric had a slight change, now at 11.35, still in the red. The Outbreak metric remains red, still with fourteen active outbreaks in Iowa County.

Healthcare Status: Testing rate remains green with an average of 142.9 tests performed daily. We encourage anyone with symptoms to contact his/her health care provider to be tested. Our partners in health care remain in green status. We added an additional metric to provide a picture of our regional health care infrastructure. This metric represents regional hospital bed use and is currently yellow, as 81.2% of regional hospital beds are in use. In addition, 79.4% of total regional ICU beds are in use.

Public Health Status: Community spread had a slight increase, still in red, as 43% of cases are reporting no known source of transmission in the past two weeks. Our goal is that fewer than 20% of cases have no known source of transmission. This value is a reflection of current information, some data is missing, as not all cases have been in contact with the health department. Our contact tracing efforts remain successful, as 96% of positive cases in the past two weeks have been successfully contacted within 48 hours of their positive tests. This metric is dependent on individuals either answering the phone or returning our calls, which is becoming an issue. We've added an additional metric indicating the ability and availability of the health department to manage daily operations. With the continued increase in cases, this metric is yellow.

Emergency Management: Our emergency management partners remain in green status; however, PPE demand has picked up and the supply chain is experiencing issues with gloves, gowns and N95 masks.

School Capacity Indicator Dashboard <https://www.iowacounty.org/COVID-19IowaCountySchoolGuidance>

This dashboard will also shift to a Friday update. It contains key dashboard metrics from our Iowa County COVID-19 Dashboard with the addition of the new case rate in the past two weeks. This week, the new case rate is 66.9 per 10,000, another increase from Monday's value of 58.5. Also included is a breakdown of cases among school age children, which is continuing in an upward trajectory.

Below are changes in key areas of our local dashboard since mid-July.

<i>Date dashboard was updated</i>	<i>Percent of tests that are positive</i>	<i>Average number of cases reported per day</i>	<i>Average number of tests per day</i>	<i>Outbreaks metric</i>	<i>Percentage of cases contracted by community spread</i>
July 20	1.45%	.92	42.8	Red	46%
July 27	2.1%	.71	33.1	Red	30%
August 3	2.6%	1.0	37.7	Red	42%
August 10	3.9%	1.71	43.6	Red	38%
August 17	4.2%	2.5	60	Red	54%
August 24	3.8%	2.0	53	Red	46%
August 31	3.3%	1.5	45	Red	43%
September 8	2.0%	0.93	45.4	Red	38%
September 14	1.3%	0.64	49.7	Red	40%
September 21	2.6%	1.79	70	Red	64%
September 28	3.5%	3.79	107.5	Red	60%
October 5	4.8%	5.57	116.5	Red	51%
October 12	6.8%	8.21	121	Red	43%
October 19	7.5%	11.58	153.8	Red	41%
October 23*	7.9%	11.35	142.9	Red	43%

*Shift in day of dashboard update due to data availability. Date range 10/7-10/20/20

Community Testing

The Health Departments of Iowa and Lafayette County have partnered to provide a Covid-19 Community test site in our counties. **Tuesday, October 27, the test site will be in Lafayette County at the Lafayette County Ames Road Multipurpose Building at 11974 Ames Road in Darlington.** Future testing in Iowa and Lafayette County is pending and will be announced next week.

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.

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>
 - Decision Tool for Individuals and Families <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/decision.htm>
- **Halloween Resources:**
 - 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 Friday)
 - School Resources and Capacity Indicators (updated each Friday)
 - Daily Iowa County Case Count (updated Monday-Friday)
 - New cases are reflected on the IC Health Dept Facebook page each day (Monday thru Friday). The Wisconsin DHS website updates each afternoon with county numbers. We update case numbers that occur over the weekend on the Monday Case Count. All positive cases are reported to the state and followed up on as they have been.
 - Local Data graphs
 - Community 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** 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>

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