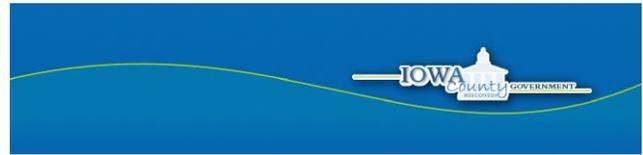


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www.iowacounty.org

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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

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COVID-19 Case Count at 582; Safety at the Polls; Community Testing

Iowa County – The Health Department confirms over the weekend we added 61 additional cases bringing the current COVID-19 confirmed case count in Iowa County to 582. Cases are in all age ranges and across the entire county. These recent cases are in persons in the following age ranges: 0-17 (14), 18-25 (6), 26-35 (6), 36-45 (9), 46-55 (12), 56-65 (8), 66-75 (2), 76-85 (2) and 86+ (2). The number of individuals that have recovered is 365, meaning 217 cases are active. Iowa County status remains classified as VERY HIGH activity.

Due to the continued high volume of cases, the Health Department continues to experience delays in the time frame in which we are able to identify and reach out to close contacts. When capacity is stretched with the volume of cases, it hinders meaningful contact tracing. If you are awaiting a test result, please be sure to remain quarantined. If you test positive, please isolate yourself and let your close contacts know to self-quarantine for 14 days and consider being tested. For more information <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02599.pdf>

We continue to be concerned about hospital capacity, locally and regionally. With the Dashboard update on Friday, we modified our local health care partners metric, breaking it down further. Facility use status represents medical surge and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity. This metric is currently yellow. Staffing status indicates the number of available staff to care for the volume of patients and is currently red. Critical supply status reflects at least three days' worth of supplies. This metric is currently green.

Our regional health care infrastructure metric represents regional hospital bed use and is currently yellow, as 82.4% of regional hospital beds are in use. In addition, 83.5% 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>

Stay Safe at the Polls

For residents heading to vote in-person tomorrow, we want to pass along helpful safety tips:

- Maintain a physical distance from others
- Avoid removing your mask
- Take your own pen
- Speed up the process by reviewing a sample ballot and being prepared
- Vote at off-peak times to avoid crowds

For more info visit <https://www.healthyvoting.org/wisconsin/>

Community Testing

The Health Departments of Iowa and Lafayette County continue their partnership in providing a COVID-19 Community test site in our counties. **Note the testing day has moved from Tuesdays to Thursdays.**

The next test site will be in Iowa County on Thursday, November 5 from 11:00 – 1:00 at the Health and Human Services Center located at 303 West Chapel Street in Dodgeville.

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-19 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.

Please take these simple steps to stop the spread of COVID-19:

- 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.

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>
- Resources on the Iowa County website. <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>
 - Daily Iowa County Case Count (updated Monday-Friday)
 - COVID 19 Dashboard
 - School Resources and Capacity Indicators

- Local Data graphs
- 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>
- 211 Wisconsin iSimply 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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