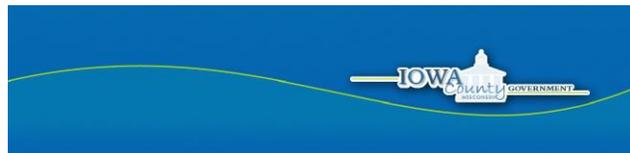


## IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

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*For Immediate Release*

### Iowa County Health Department

*Director/Health Officer*

*Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN*

### Case Count at 1,266; Dashboard Update

**Iowa County** – The Health Department confirms over the Holiday weekend, since reporting case numbers Wednesday, 11/25, 2020, we added 42 additional cases bringing the current COVID-19 confirmed case count in Iowa County to 1,266. Recent cases are in persons in the following age ranges: 0-17 (5), 18-25 (9), 26-35 (2), 36-45 (7), 46-55 (6), 56-65 (7) and 66-75 (6). See <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/county.htm> for a breakdown of the location of positive cases by census track. The number of individuals that have recovered is 808, meaning 458 cases are active.

“There is good news, cases are not climbing at the pace each day that they were 10 days ago. We are grateful to community members who are following the recommendations. We also know that we are just coming off the Thanksgiving Holiday and testing decreased over the Holiday as well as a 14 day incubation period must ensue before we see implications,” states Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department. “Overall, incidence of disease in the community remains critically high. Anytime you leave your home, you should anticipate that you will come in contact with coronavirus. If you are in a high risk category, staying home as much as you can continues to be extraordinarily important”, Siegenthaler noted

Iowa County numbers continue to be at a high volume of cases each day. The average case increase each day is now 26.86 slightly down from a daily average of 30.14 at last dashboard report, and steady from an average of 26.36 the week prior. The percent of positive tests has decreased to 12.5% down from 14.7%. These metrics both remain at a red status in today’s Dashboard update.

The Health Department continues to implement crisis standards for contact tracing which means that priority is to contact positive cases. As a result, the Health Department is unable to reach out to close contacts. 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, please visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02599.pdf>

We continue to be concerned about hospital capacity, locally and regionally. Our local Dashboard includes local metrics for Upland Hills Health. Facility use status represents medical surge and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity. Staffing status indicates the number of available staff to care for the volume of patients. Both metrics are at yellow status. Critical supply status reflects adequate levels of critical supplies. This metric remains green.

Our regional health care infrastructure metric represents regional hospital bed use and is currently yellow, as 86% of regional hospital beds are in use. In addition, 85% of total regional ICU beds are in use. It is important to note

that this metric simply reports bed capacity and doesn't measure staffing. There are concerns across the region as hospital staff continue to get sick or must be quarantined due to exposure to the virus. Regional hospital capacity can be found on the DHS website <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm>

We are asking the Iowa County community to continue to:

- Limit indoor gatherings to 10 people or less.
- Limit outdoor gatherings to 25 people or less.
- Post-poner or cancel all non-essential events, gatherings and travel

In addition, we reiterate continued diligence in the following:

- 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 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.

Iowa County status remains at the CRITICALLY HIGH activity level. The "critically high" category distinguishes counties and regions that have case rates (or case burdens) of greater than 1,000 cases per 100,000 residents over the last 14 days. Iowa County's burden is 1639 per 100,000. These enhancements to the [Disease Activity Dashboard](#) give Wisconsinites a better picture of the impact of COVID-19 in our state.

#### Iowa County Dashboard Metrics

**Epidemiology:** Our percentage of positive cases decreased to 12.5%, this metric remains red. The average cases reported daily metric decreased to 26.86, remaining in the red. The Outbreak metric remains red.

**Healthcare Status:** Testing rate remains green with an average of 215.1 tests performed daily. We encourage anyone with symptoms to contact his/her health care provider to be tested. Local health care partner's facility use status (represents med surge and ICU capacity) has changed to yellow. Staffing status indicates the number of available staff to care for the volume of patients and is currently yellow. Critical supply status reflects at least fourteen days' worth of supplies. This metric remains green. Our regional health care infrastructure metric represents regional hospital bed use and is currently yellow, as 85.8% of regional hospital beds are in use. In addition, 84.5% of total regional ICU beds are in use.

**Public Health Status:** Community spread remains in red, as 44% 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 are at 88%. This metric is dependent on individuals either answering the phone or returning our calls, which remains an issue. Our health department volume and staffing metric remains red. We continue to see an increase in cases and have had to modify our outreach to close contacts.

**Emergency Management:** Our emergency management partners remain yellow. PPE demand continues to be 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 contains key dashboard metrics from our Iowa County COVID-19 Dashboard along with new case rate metric (per 10,000) in the past two weeks. Today, the new case rate is 158, down from 178 per 10,000 at last dashboard report and steady from the prior week's value of 155.

<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>	<i>School Capacity metric: new case rate per 10,000</i>
<b>July 20</b>	1.45%	.92	42.8	Red	46%	--
<b>July 27</b>	2.1%	.71	33.1	Red	30%	--
<b>August 3</b>	2.6%	1.0	37.7	Red	42%	--
<b>August 10</b>	3.9%	1.71	43.6	Red	38%	--
<b>August 17</b>	4.2%	2.5	60	Red	54%	--
<b>August 24</b>	3.8%	2.0	53	Red	46%	--
<b>August 31</b>	3.3%	1.5	45	Red	43%	9
<b>September 8</b>	2.0%	0.93	45.4	Red	38%	5
<b>September 14</b>	1.3%	0.64	49.7	Red	40%	4
<b>September 21</b>	2.6%	1.79	70	Red	64%	11
<b>September 28</b>	3.5%	3.79	107.5	Red	60%	22
<b>October 5</b>	4.8%	5.57	116.5	Red	51%	33
<b>October 12</b>	6.8%	8.21	121	Red	43%	49
<b>October 19</b>	7.5%	11.58	153.8	Red	41%	59
<b>October 23*</b>	7.9%	11.35	142.9	Red	43%	67
<b>October 30</b>	8.4%	11.29	133.7	Red	42%	67
<b>November 6</b>	11.4%	16.86	148.3	Red	42%	99
<b>November 13</b>	14.5%	26.36	181.8	Red	41%	155
<b>November 20</b>	14.7%	30.14	205.7	Red	43%	178
<b>November 27</b>	12.5%	26.86	215.1	Red	44%	158

\*Shift in day of dashboard update due to data availability.

### School Recommendation

The Iowa County School Capacity Indicator Dashboard <https://www.iowacounty.org/COVID-19IowaCountySchoolGuidance> has a total of 10 metrics and 8 of its 10 metrics are either red or yellow, and 4 of the 8 metrics remain red. The new case rate is 158 per 10,000, while down from last week's value of 178, it is steady from the previous value of 155 and still remarkably above the guidance of 30 or more. Please note, a column has been added to the table above to track this metric over time. Cases among school age children has also increased and the number of total cases in November is significantly more than October numbers.

Due to 9 of the 13 Iowa County COVID-19 metrics being red or yellow, 8 of the 10 school indicator metrics being red or yellow, as well as additional statistical data needed to understand potential impacts from the recent Holiday, we recommend that schools consider remaining in virtual instruction for middle and high school students, and consider doing so for the entire district as operationally necessary or feasible. We recommend these measures be in place until December 11, 2020. Several school boards and districts have made a pivot to virtual and we completely support these decisions. In addition, we recommend that schools postpone all contact sports through December.

### Next scheduled community testing in Iowa County:

- Thursday, December 3 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 4:00pm -- Wisconsin National Guard

*Both tests sites are held in Dodgeville 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)

There are additional testing sites in southwest Wisconsin in Grant, Lafayette and Richland counties. Visit the Iowa County COVID-19 website and/or follow our Facebook page for a list of weekly testing opportunities in southwest Wisconsin.

Upland Hills Hospital continues to provide COVID testing. Please see the Upland Hills website for information on getting tested at their facility.

#### **Local Community testing for the remainder of December:**

- *Lafayette County*: Thursday, December 10 from 11:00 am – 1:00pm at the Ames Road Multipurpose Building at 11974 Ames Road in Darlington.
- *Iowa County*: Thursday, December 17 from 11:00 – 1:00 at the Health and Human Services Center located at 303 West Chapel Street in Dodgeville.
- *Lafayette County*: Wednesday, December 23 from 11:00 am – 1:00pm at the Ames Road Multipurpose Building at 11974 Ames Road in Darlington
- *Iowa County*: Wednesday, December 30 from 11:00 – 1:00 at the Health and Human Services Center located at 303 West Chapel Street in Dodgeville.

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#### **Important Sources of Information**

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- **Wisconsin Department of Health Services** <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
  - Holiday Safety <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community.htm#-holidays>
- **Iowa County website.** <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>
- **Upland Hills Health** <https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19/>
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- **211 Wisconsin** 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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