

IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

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Cases Continue to Increase Significantly, Count at 685; Dashboard Update

Iowa County - The Health Department reports an increase of 164 cases this past week bringing the total of cases to 685. During the previous week, 105 cases were reported and the week prior the weekly case count was 65 cases. 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. The number of individuals that have recovered is 391, meaning 294 cases are active. Iowa County status remains classified as VERY HIGH activity.

We are experiencing an extraordinary increase in cases. In just over four weeks, our case count is approaching triple in number from 236 on October 6th to 685 today, November 6th. In a month, we have also had three deaths in Iowa County. Our average case increase each day is now 16.86 and percent positive tests is 11.37%, both with a red status. “The Health Department is unable to keep up with this kind of volume increasing at this rate, stated Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department. “We are forced to implement crisis standards for contact tracing protocol which means that our priority is to contact positive cases only. As a result, we are 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”, added Siegenthaler. For more information, please visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02599.pdf>

We continue to be concerned about hospital capacity, locally and regionally. With the Dashboard update last 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 green. Staffing status indicates the number of available staff to care for the volume of patients and remains 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 84% of regional hospital beds are in use. In addition, 85% 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>

Vigilance is as important now as ever. Every person and every practice is critical with our goal of not overwhelming both our local hospitals and those we count on to care for us if we are very, very sick.” Please, keep your circle very small. Mask up, practice social distancing and wash your hands often., 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: Our percentage of positive cases continues to increase, now at 11.37%, changing this metric to red. The average cases reported daily metric increased to 16.86, remaining in the red. The Outbreak metric remains red, with fifteen active outbreaks in Iowa County.

Healthcare Status: Testing rate remains green with an average of 148.3 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 green. 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 remains green. Our regional health care infrastructure metric represents regional hospital bed use and is currently yellow, as 84.1% of regional hospital beds are in use. In addition, 85% of total regional ICU beds are in use.

Public Health Status: Community spread did not change and remains in red, as 42% 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 dropped some, now at 93%. 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, we have had to modify our outreach to close contacts so this metric is now red.

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 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 99.3 per 10,000, up significantly from, last Friday's value of 66.5. Also included is a breakdown of cases among school age children, which ticked down.

| <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% |
| October 30 | 8.4% | 11.29 | 133.7 | Red | 42% |
| November 6 | 11.37% | 16.86 | 148.3 | Red | 42% |

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

Community Testing

The next scheduled community testing will be **Thursday, November 12 from 11:00 am – 1:00pm in Lafayette County at the Ames Road Multipurpose Building at 11974 Ames Road in Darlington**. The following week's test site will be in Iowa County on Thursday, November 19 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 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 <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>
 - Holiday Safety <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community.htm#-holidays>
- **Resources on the Iowa County website.** <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>
 - COVID 19 Dashboard (updated each Friday)
 - School Capacity Indicators (updated each Friday)
 - Daily Iowa County Case Count (updated Monday-Friday)
- **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** 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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