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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

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Case Count at 1,620; Continued COVID-19 Vaccine Planning; Dashboard Update

Iowa County – The Health Department reports an increase of 71 cases this past week bringing the total of cases to 1,620. During the previous week, 111 cases were reported, the week prior the increase was 109 cases and the week prior to that, 57 cases. The number of individuals that have recovered is 1,569, meaning 51 cases are active. 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.

This week's dashboard update saw the percentage of positive cases remain steady reporting 9.3% with this Dashboard update, steady from last week's value of 9.6%, allowing our status to remain yellow. The average cases reported daily metric is also steady at 14.64, similar to last week's average of 14.4, remaining at red status.

"Persistence with following public health recommendation remains critically important. The arrival of vaccine is wonderfully welcome and hopeful news, but until we achieve notable levels of vaccine uptake, every act of prevention still matters", states Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department. "Our health care and public health workers continue to need the help of the community in slowing spread so that hospitals can continue to meet patient needs, especially as we monitor a potential post-Holiday surge" noted Siegenthaler.

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-pone or cancel all non-essential events, gatherings and travel
- Wear a cloth face covering in public settings, especially when 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.

COVID-19 Vaccine Planning

Iowa County Health Department, Iowa County Emergency Management, Upland Hills Health, Long Term Care facilities and Public Safety agencies continue with Covid-19 vaccination planning. Agencies are working in a collaborative manner to administer vaccine to those in Phase 1A. Upland Hills Health received vaccine last week and the Iowa County Health Department anticipates arrival of vaccine in early January.

In mid-December, The FDA approved an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Moderna's and Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccines and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) released the interim recommendations for their use.

As recommended both by the ACIP Practices and the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is prioritizing hospitals and clinics as initial vaccination sites to reach front-line healthcare workers. Nursing home residents and the staff that care for them are priority as well. The Iowa County Health Department anticipates vaccine arrival in early January 2021.

Over the next weeks and months there will be many updates regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. It will take significant time for enough vaccine to be available for the general public. Experts on ACIP, SDMAC and DHS will continue to relay more information about the next tier of priority groups to be immunized.

The Iowa County Health Department is not keeping a list of persons who wish to receive the vaccine. Please keep up to date with the vaccine roll-out through press releases, the Iowa County COVID-19 website and/or the ICHD Facebook page.

We are many months away from having enough COVID-19 vaccine supply and reaching high vaccination coverage. Even after the first people get vaccinated, it is important to continue wearing masks, physical distancing, washing our hands, and getting tested and isolating if we have signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Please continue using all these COVID-19 precautions so that we stand the best chance of getting our families, communities, schools, and workplaces “back to normal” soon.

We understand that some people may be nervous or have questions about the COVID-19 vaccines. We want to highlight several very excellent websites to help answer questions and provide important information.

COVID-19 Vaccine Resources

- [DHS COVID-19 Vaccine page](#)
- [Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine page](#)
- [CDC: Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [CDC: Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [SDMAC: 11/24/2020 Meeting Information](#)
- [Upland Hills Health: What you Need to Know about COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccination](#)

Iowa County Dashboard Metrics

Epidemiology: Our percentage of positive cases decreased slightly, now at 9.3%, remaining yellow. The average cases reported daily metric increased slightly to 14.6, remaining in the red. The Outbreak metric remains red.

Healthcare Status: Testing rate remains green with an average of 157 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 80.5% of regional hospital beds are in use, down some from last week. In addition, 82% of total regional ICU beds are in use, also down from last week.

Public Health Status: Community spread decreased some but remains in red, as 40% 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 96%. 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 yellow.

Emergency Management: Our emergency management partners remains green. 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 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 86, steady from 85 per 10,000 at last dashboard report and still a bit above the prior week's value of 70.

<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>
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%	9
September 8	2.0%	0.93	45.4	Red	38%	5
September 14	1.3%	0.64	49.7	Red	40%	4
September 21	2.6%	1.79	70	Red	64%	11
September 28	3.5%	3.79	107.5	Red	60%	22
October 5	4.8%	5.57	116.5	Red	51%	33
October 12	6.8%	8.21	121	Red	43%	49
October 19	7.5%	11.58	153.8	Red	41%	59
October 23*	7.9%	11.35	142.9	Red	43%	67
October 30	8.4%	11.29	133.7	Red	42%	67
November 6	11.4%	16.86	148.3	Red	42%	99
November 13	14.5%	26.36	181.8	Red	41%	155
November 20	14.7%	30.14	205.7	Red	43%	178
November 27	12.5%	26.86	215.1	Red	44%	158
December 4	9.8%	16.64	169.4	Red	43%	98
December 11	8.1%	11.9	147	Red	46%	70
December 18	9.6%	14.43	150	Red	46%	85
December 28	9.3%	14.64	156.8	Red	40%	86

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

Community Testing

The next scheduled community testing will be in *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.*

Testing will continue in 2021 on Thursdays, alternating between Iowa and Lafayette Counties, from 11am-1pm, weather dependent. Testing will be held on **Thursday, January 7, 2021 from 11:00am – 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, January 14, 2021 from 11:00 – 1:00pm 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 to see the full regional schedule 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.

Important Sources of Information

- **Wisconsin Department of Health Services** <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- **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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