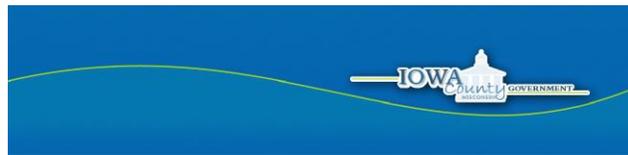


## IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

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**August 14, 2020**

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*For Immediate Release*

### Iowa County Health Department

*Director/Health Officer*

*Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN*

### COVID 19 Update: Case Count Continues Upward; Count at 92

**Iowa County** – The Health Department announces four additional cases today bringing the current COVID-19 confirmed case count in Iowa County to 92. The additional cases are individuals in the following age ranges: three in the age range of 49-59 and one person between the ages of 18-25 years. The Health Department has contact with all confirmed cases and reaches out to those who may have had close contact to each confirmed case. The Health Department assists in actively monitoring their health while they are under quarantine.

“In this week’s Iowa County COVID-19 Dashboard update, reported Monday, we saw a significant uptick in our positivity rate as well as the average number of cases reported each day. See below.

|                                        | <i>July 20, 2020</i> | <i>July 27, 2020</i> | <i>August 3, 2020</i> | <i>August 10, 2020</i> |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Positivity Rate</b>                 | 1.45%                | 2.1%                 | 2.6%                  | 3.9%                   |
| <b>Average Cases reported each day</b> | .92                  | .71                  | 1.0                   | 1.71                   |
| <b>Testing: Daily average</b>          | 42.8                 | 33.1                 | 37.7                  | 43.6                   |
| <b>Outbreaks</b>                       | red                  | red                  | red                   | red                    |
| <b>Community Spread</b>                | 46%                  | 30%                  | 42%                   | 38%                    |

The activity we have seen this week in cases confirms this trend of case numbers is continuing in an upward trajectory”, commented Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department. This week, we have had 13 new cases who have, in turn, identified 62 close contacts. Data also shows that a large number of these cases were close contacts of individuals who are positive which confirms that this virus is easily transmitted to others. “We continue to urge everyone to keep social circles small and practice consistency and persistence with social distancing and hand hygiene. Please do not host large parties or gatherings and limit exposure to large groups of people for a sustained duration and please stay home if you are sick”, Siegenthaler added. While most of us will do fine and recover, keep in mind those who are vulnerable as they are at increased risk of a bad outcome if they get COVID 19. Our goal is to avoid a large surge in our hospitals and to do that we need everyone’s help in keeping friends, neighbors, loved ones and vulnerable residents safe and healthy. If you 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.

On Friday, July 30, 2020, Governor Evers declared a Public Health Emergency and issued an Emergency Order requiring individuals to wear face coverings when indoors and not in a private residence, with some exceptions as clarified and defined in the order. The order was effective Saturday, August 1, 2020, and will expire on September 28, 2020 or by a subsequent superseding order. Executive Order #82, declaring a public health emergency, is available [here](#) and Emergency Order #1, requiring face coverings statewide, is available [here](#).

We want to extend our appreciation to the Iowa County businesses that are embracing the wearing of masks/cloth face coverings. We know this can be a challenging position for businesses. Face coverings play an

important role in preventing the spread of COVID-19. The main exceptions to this rule are when an individual is eating or drinking or the individual is unable to wear a face covering for health or work related purposes; other exemptions from wearing a face covering can be found in Emergency Order #1, [here](#);

Iowa County status is classified as HIGH activity level along with the majority of Wisconsin counties. Regions and counties are classified as high, medium, or low activity levels for disease spread by combining case burden and trajectory indicators. Visit the web link below to see definitions for case indicators, additional detailed data and a map of Wisconsin noting each county and their risk level <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm>

The number of individuals that have recovered is 69, meaning 23 cases are active. The number of patients recovered from COVID-19 is defined as the number of confirmed cases who are currently alive based on Wisconsin state vital records system data and have one or more of the following: 1) Documentation of resolved symptoms 2) Documentation of release from public health isolation 3) 30 days since symptom onset or diagnosis.

New cases will continue to be reflected on our Iowa County Health Department Facebook page each day (Monday through Friday). The State of Wisconsin [DHS website](#), will continue to be updated each afternoon with county specific numbers. All positive cases will continue to be reported to the state and followed up on as they have been. We have developed, through our Iowa County COVID-19 Dashboard, a multi-level way to monitor the picture in our county. Be sure to check out the COVID-19 Dashboard on our website.

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### Important Sources of Information

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- **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>
- **Resources on the Iowa County website.**  
<https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19>
  - COVID 19 Dashboard (updated each Monday)
  - Daily Iowa County Case Count (updated Monday-Friday)
  - Local Data graphs
  - Mass Gathering Guidance
- **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>

Iowa County Emergency Management on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/icemwi/>