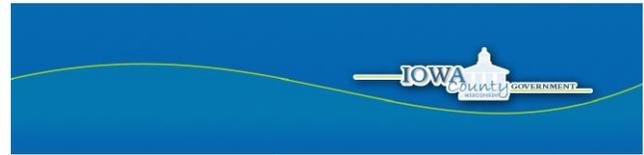


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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN

COVID 19 Update: Case Count Continues Upward; Count at 107

Iowa County – The Health Department announces an additional case today bringing the current COVID-19 confirmed case count in Iowa County to 107. This additional case is an individual between the ages of 49-59 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.

The number of individuals that have recovered is 87, meaning 20 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.

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

	July 20, 2020	July 27, 2020	August 3, 2020	August 10, 2020	August 17, 2020
Positivity Rate	1.45%	2.1%	2.6%	3.9%	4.2%
Average Cases reported each day	.92	.71	1.0	1.71	2.5
Testing: Daily average	42.8	33.1	37.7	43.6	60
Outbreaks	red	red	red	red	red
Community Spread	46%	30%	42%	38%	54%

The number of cases reported this week (between 8/14 and 8/20) is similar to numbers reported last week. This week, we have had 14 new positive cases and last week that number was 13. “The good news is that the average number of cases reported each day has remained steady this week”, commented Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department.

DHS Launches COVID-19 Individual Decision Tool to Help Wisconsinites Keep Each Other Safe

Wisconsin is seeing significant COVID-19 activity, and data show that this is at least partly due to activities like gatherings. Statewide data obtained from contact tracing calls indicate that the percent of people with confirmed cases of COVID-19 who reported attending a gathering, party, or other meet up with people outside their home in the past two weeks grew from 7% of cases in May to 21% of cases in June and 20% of cases in July.

DHS urges residents to consider how individual actions like the decision to attend a gathering may contribute to community spread. To support residents in making safer choices, DHS has launched a new [Decision Tool for Individuals and Families](#).

“The safest choices are to stay home and wear a face covering when you are out,” said Governor Tony Evers. “At the same time, we know from the data that people are choosing to participate in activities that put themselves

and others at risk, and we hope this tool will assist people in making safe choices. I understand the pull to see family and do the activities we love to do, but we also need to protect ourselves and each other as much as possible.”

The aim of the Decision Tool for Individuals and Families is to help people assess risk and determine the best course of action to keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe. By providing questions to consider, scenarios to think through, and the available evidence behind certain recommendations, the tool is designed to give Wisconsinites necessary information to make choices that will help stop the spread.

“This tool is meant to empower people to choose safer activities whenever possible,” said DHS Secretary-designee Andrea Palm. “All activities involve some level of risk, and depending on the individual participating and the community where the activity is located, that risk is evolving and multi-dimensional. This tool gives people additional questions to consider when making decisions about which activities to participate in.”

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>
 - COVID 19 Dashboard (updated each Monday)
 - Daily Iowa County Case Count (updated Monday-Friday)
 - *NOTE:* New cases are reflected on the Iowa County Health Dept Facebook page each day (Monday through Friday). The Wisconsin DHS website is updated each afternoon with county specific numbers. We update case numbers that occur over the weekend on the Monday Case Count. All positive cases will continue to be reported to the state and followed up on as they have been.
 - Local Data graphs
 - Mass Gathering Guidance
 - Get a free COVID-19 test here! <https://www.publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/testing>
- **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/>