

IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

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COVID 19 Update: Cases Count Continues Upward; Count at 74

Iowa County – The Health Department announces four additional cases of COVID 19 bringing the case count in Iowa County to 74. The four additional cases include two individuals between the ages of 18-25, one person between the ages of 66-75 and one in between the ages of 76-85 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 just one month’s time, cases in Iowa County have nearly doubled”, commented Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department. On July 7th there were 38 cases and today, August 7th, we have 74. This past week, five of the positive cases are tied to an outbreak related to a one day event outside Iowa County. These cases identified 27 close contacts. Furthermore, we ask these 27 close contacts to be quarantined for 14 days. “The risks and consequences of large gatherings are clearly demonstrated by this one event,” said Siegenthaler. “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 as it adds to this virus’s opportunity to spread. Likewise, 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.

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 63, meaning eleven 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.

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>
- **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>

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