



Iowa County Health Department

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<https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/HealthDepartment>

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Iowa County Health Department

Director/Health Officer

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COVID-19 Booster Vaccine Clinics Announced; ICHHD Drive-thru PCR Testing Clinic will Stop October 1st

Iowa County Health Department COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

Looking for a bivalent booster?

The Iowa County Health Department has the Pfizer and Moderna bivalent booster available. Vaccine clinics are every Thursday from 1pm-4pm at the HHS building in Dodgeville (303 W Chapel St).

Click on a link below or visit <https://www.iowacounty.org/.../COVID-19/VaccineInformation> to schedule.

Call the HD at 608-930-9870 if you have questions.

- ➡ **September 22nd**, MODERNA Vaccine <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/09222022Moderna>
- ➡ **September 22nd**, PFIZER Vaccine <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/09222022Pfizer>
- ➡ **September 22nd**, PEDIATRIC (ages 5-11) PFIZER Vaccine <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/09222022PedsPfizer>
- ➡ **September 29th**, MODERNA Vaccine <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/09292022Moderna>
- ➡ **September 29th**, PFIZER Vaccine <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/09292022Pfizer>
- ➡ **September 29th**, PEDIATRIC (ages 5-11) PFIZER Vaccine <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/09292022PedsPfizer>

The Iowa County Health Department is encouraging Iowa County residents to make a plan to get boosted against COVID-19 this fall. People 12 and older are now eligible to receive updated COVID-19 boosters (also known as bivalent boosters).

“As we head into the fall and winter respiratory virus season, it’s important to use all available tools to keep us healthy and this booster is a critical way to boost your protection against COVID-19,” said Debbie Siegenthaler, Director, Iowa County Health Department. “Everyone 12 and older is eligible for the added protection of the updated boosters. This is especially important for people 50 and older and those who are immunocompromised.”

The updated boosters have been [authorized by the FDA](#) and [recommended by the CDC](#), and are the first Omicron-specific vaccines to be made available in the United States. They target the original strain of COVID-19, as well as the BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants. The highly contagious BA.5 Omicron subvariant is the dominant strain of COVID-19, making up about 90% of cases nationally.

The updated boosters are recommended as a single (1) dose for people 12 and older who have received their primary COVID-19 vaccine series and have not received a COVID-19 vaccine dose in the last two months. People 12 and older are eligible to receive the updated Pfizer COVID-19 booster, and those 18 and older are eligible to receive the updated Moderna COVID-19 booster. In these age groups, these boosters replace the original boosters. The Pfizer and Moderna updated boosters can be administered after any primary series, including Pfizer, Moderna, J&J, or Novavax.

Children ages 5-11 continue to be eligible for the original COVID-19 booster, which provides protection against the original strain of COVID-19. It is anticipated that this age group will be eligible for updated boosters in the coming months.

Everyone 6 months and older is recommended to get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. If you have not yet received your primary series of COVID-19 vaccines, it is never too late to get vaccinated.

“Getting vaccinated and staying up to date on COVID-19 boosters remains the best way to protect against severe illness from COVID-19,” said Stephanie Schauer, Ph.D., DHS Division of Public Health Immunization Program Manager. “COVID-19 vaccines continue to show that they are effective at reducing severe symptoms that can result in hospitalization and death. The updated boosters can help restore protection that has waned since previous vaccination or infection, and provide broader protection against newer variants.”

People can safely get their COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines at the same time, including the annual flu vaccine.

Changes Set to Occur to the Iowa County Health Department COVID-19 Drive-thru PCR Test Site

The Iowa County Health Department will be **stopping** its drive-thru COVID-19 PCR testing site currently held each Tues/Thurs (9-10am), **effective October 1, 2022. This means that the last testing clinic will be held September 29, 2022.**

This change is due to several factors to include: widely available free antigen at-home tests (see below); significant changes from DHS on Community Testing Program requirements; limited staff capacity; and low volume of specimens being collected at the current clinics.

Testing options locally <https://www.iowacounty.org/COVID-19CommunityTesting>

DHS Offers Free COVID-19 Self-Tests to Wisconsinites

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services launched an online portal for Wisconsinites to order free at-home rapid COVID-19 tests directly to their homes. Orders can be placed on the [Say Yes to COVID Test webpage](#). Initial supplies allow for one package of tests to be ordered per address. Each package includes a total of five tests. See press release, “[DHS Expands Access to COVID-19 Self-Tests](#).”

In addition to the free tests available from DHS, the Iowa County Health Department has a supply of free at-home antigen tests. These free tests are available (M-F 8am-4:30pm) in the lobby of the HHS building, 303 W. Chapel Street, Dodgeville. Please call the ICHD with any questions at 608.930.9870

IMPORTANT INFO REGARDING EXPIRATION DATES....

Boxes with Expiration date of July through November 2022: know that your tests are still reliable and good to use for an additional six months. You can look up your package of test kits on the iHealth website to find the specific expiration date of your package: <https://ihealthlabs.com/pages/news>

Important Sources of Information

- Iowa County website <https://www.iowacounty.org>
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- 211 Wisconsin Simply call 211 from your phone <https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/>
- Upland Hills Health <https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19/>

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/>