



Winnebago County

# Health Department

## NEWS RELEASE

May 19, 2022

Contact: Katherine O'Toole, Director of Communications/PIO, 815-720-4213

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

---

## Winnebago County Moves To High Community Level of COVID-19

WINNEBAGO COUNTY – Winnebago County is now at a HIGH Community Level of COVID-19 due to an increase in the case rate in the community and hospital numbers reaching concerning levels. The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) is advising residents to take additional actions to protect themselves and those around them from the spread of COVID-19.

Winnebago County's COVID-19 case rate has exceeded 200 cases per 100,000 and the number of new COVID-19 hospital admissions has exceeded 10.0 per 100,000 population in the last 7 days, which indicates high community level based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) metrics. These [CDC Community Level](#) metrics are designed to help communities take action when COVID-19 spread is increasing impacting health and healthcare systems in their locality.

### At HIGH Community Level, the public can take the following actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- **Wear A Mask** while in public indoor settings, regardless of your vaccination status
  - o Those who are immunocompromised or [high risk](#) for severe disease, should talk to their healthcare provider about whether they need to [wear a mask](#) or a respirator.
- **Avoid Crowded Indoor Settings.**
- **Stay Up-To-Date On COVID-19 Vaccines** by being vaccinated and getting your booster shots when eligible.
- **Know Your Risk and Plan Ahead.** Those at risk for serious illness from COVID-19 should talk to their healthcare provider and have a plan for possible treatment options if they become ill with COVID-19. Consider asking indoor contact to self-test to detect infection before getting together.

“To protect yourself, your family, and community, take the recommended actions to prevent COVID-19 based on community level. This phase of the pandemic emphasizes self-care.” said Dr. Sandra Martell, Public Health Administrator for the Winnebago County Health Department. “Due to the High Community Level of COVID-19, all individuals regardless of vaccination status are strongly encouraged to wear masks when in public indoor settings. If you test positive for COVID-19 contact your healthcare provider right away to see if treatment options are right for you, even if you currently have mild symptoms. Let's work together to have a safe, healthy, and fun summer.”

To order free masks and test kits or to find treatment, vaccine, and booster shot locations, visit [covid.gov](#).

###