

DHS Facilities and COVID-19

Updated Nov. 27, 2020

Below are testing stats for DHS' six facilities as of Nov. 27 at noon:



Staff Positive Case Summary

Facility	Not Recovered	Recovered	Total
BSTS	9	38	47
CCUSO	7	14	21
CMHI	0	10	10
GRC	17	158	175
IMHI	6	17	23
WRC	4	113	117
Total	43	350	393

Patient Positive Case Summary

Facility	Not Recovered	Recovered	Total
BSTS	2	26	28
CCUSO	11	9	20
CMHI	0	0	0
GRC	4	108	112
IMHI	5	0	5
WRC	2	77	79
Total	24	220	244

Staff Testing Results

Facility	Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
BSTS	381	4	47	432
CCUSO	326	7	21	354
CMHI	287	4	10	301
GRC	1761	12	175	1948
IMHI	416	10	23	449
WRC	693	1	117	811
Total	3864	38	393	4295

Patient Testing Results

Facility	Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
BSTS	125	0	28	153
CCUSO	275	0	20	295
CMHI	15	0	0	15
GRC	836	1	112	949
IMHI	185	0	5	190
WRC	258	0	79	337
Total	1694	1	244	1939

Numbers reflect individuals who have tested positive or negative. Total test counts reflect multiple tests for some individuals.

The first resident to be confirmed COVID-19 positive at any of DHS' six facilities was at Woodward Resource Center (WRC) on May 1, 2020. As a precaution, DHS tested all residents in the home even though they were asymptomatic. When additional residents tested positive, DHS proceeded to test all 129 residents on the WRC campus.

To protect other residents in the home, WRC residents who test positive are transitioned to another house on campus designated for positive cases. As their symptoms improve and they meet specific criteria, they will transition to a step down house before returning to their primary residence.

Each DHS facility has developed contingency staffing plans to ensure safe staffing levels are met. The goal of DHS policy related to potential exposure and staying home when sick is to significantly limit the risk of exposure to other employees and those we serve.

DHS relies on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to determine when it is appropriate for an employee

who tests positive to safely return to work. We will continue to follow strict protocols to prevent the further spread of the virus. We've been working closely with IDPH, Boone County Public Health and have also pulled in a team of doctors for additional technical assistance from the University of Iowa. We will use every tool at our disposal to ensure our team and clients are supported through this time.

Summary of DHS' COVID-19 Response:

A timeline summary of DHS' agency-wide COVID-19 response can be found [here](#), and is updated regularly. You can find DHS COVID-19 resources [here](#). Below is information specific to our response at DHS facilities.

Before any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State of Iowa, DHS began analyzing our operations across the agency and conferring with other states. Our leadership team quickly mobilized to assess our emergency response protocols and tailor those plans to this unique pandemic. Things progressed very quickly, as did our response.

From the beginning, we've focused much of our preparedness and response efforts on our six facilities. Not dissimilar to long-term care facilities, our staff are in close contact with some of Iowa's most vulnerable individuals and we have undertaken significant efforts to keep everyone safe.

We constantly monitor the number of staff calling in sick to identify trends. The goal has been to create an environment that when staff become ill we catch it, they alert us or we catch it at temperature checks, and that they feel supported.

With the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, we knew it would be a matter of when—not if—we had a confirmed positive and have worked every day since the beginning of March to prepare for this moment. Throughout this public health emergency, Director Garcia has talked with facility leadership at least twice daily to stay abreast of potential issues and proactively mobilize response efforts.

March 10, 2020: DHS took the following action:

- Provided protocols for potential exposure
- Limited all non-essential business travel
- Encouraged suspending personal travel
- Provided detail on sick leave
- Notified staff of coming visitor restrictions
- Provided good prevention measures

March 12, 2020: We instituted visitor restrictions at all facilities. All visitors were screened for illness and risk to previous exposure, and those permitted entry were asked to take further precautionary measures to mitigate risk of potential exposure.

March 13, 2020: DHS suspended in-person visitation entirely with limited exception.

When we knew our existing PPE stock wouldn't be enough as IDPH confirmed significant community spread, we ramped up our efforts to find supply.

- Our fiscal management staff have worked extremely hard over the past several weeks to secure additional masks, gowns, face shields, and other critical items, and we've been successful.
- We owe great thanks to the Department of Corrections for producing large quantities of masks quickly and to Director Skinner for delivering some of these masks to Woodward Resource Center herself.

March 15, 2020: We began daily screenings of all facility staff and all individuals served in our facilities for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, including temperature checks. If a resident spiked a fever or otherwise exhibited symptoms, we've collected samples for testing in-house and couriered the samples to the State Hygienic Laboratory on the same day.

April 1, 2020: all resource center staff began wearing masks in all patient areas and/or when providing care or interacting with residents.

April 17, 2020: staff at all facilities began wearing masks in all patient areas and/or when providing care or interacting with residents.

April 25, 2020: All staff at all facilities must wear facemasks at all times.

April 27, 2020: DHS has approximately 2,200 staff at our state facilities, and have only had 5 positives to date. We appear to have our first client positive at Woodward Resource Center (WRC). DHS issued the first version of this document with the intent to update regularly moving forward.

May 1, 2020: The resident at WRC who had presumptively tested positive for COVID-19 has now been confirmed to be positive. This is the first resident to test positive at any of DHS' six facilities. Two additional residents at WRC have now tested positive.

Following the positive cases at WRC, DHS sought technical assistance from the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC). UIHC reviewed DHS' infectious control policies and confirmed DHS is following best practices. They shared additional resources related to donning and doffing as well as other educational resources to assist our team members. DHS has also been in constant contact with Dr. Pedati and Dr. Garvey from IDPH.

May 2, 2020: As a precaution following the resident positive at WRC, DHS tested all residents in the home even though they were asymptomatic. Five additional residents at WRC have now tested positive. To protect other residents in the home, WRC residents who test positive are transitioned to another house on campus designated for positive cases. As their symptoms improve and they meet specific criteria, they will transition to a step down house before returning to their primary residence.

Eight DHS employees who work at five different facilities have tested positive to date. Because of DHS policy related to potential exposure and staying home when sick, many of these employees had not been onsite for multiple days before testing positive, significantly limiting the risk of exposure to other employees and those we serve.

May 4, 2020: DHS reported one additional staff positive at WRC. WRC suspended the reuse of PPE to assist in risk mitigation during the current increase in positive cases.

May 5, 2020: DHS began testing for all residents at WRC and completed testing on May 6, 2020. The all staff and all resident testing at WRC were processed through Lab Corps.

May 6, 2020: DHS reported two additional staff positives and one additional resident positive at WRC. To date there have been 11 staff positives at all DHS facilities and 7 resident positives.

May 8, 2020: In response to positive cases, DHS has tested all residents at Woodward Resource Center. These results have begun coming in. An additional 44 residents have tested negative. No new positive resident cases were reported.

May 9, 2020: DHS tested all 129 residents on campus at WRC. We've received results for 125 of those residents. The results include one additional resident positive, and two additional staff positives at WRC.

May 10, 2020: No significant changes today. There is one additional negative test at IMHI. The staff tests at CCUSO and BSTS were updated to reflect total tests. The previous summary overstated the number of negative staff tests at IMHI by one, this was corrected.

None of the positive residents at WRC have a fever. Some of them are asymptomatic, while some have mild symptoms. One positive resident was admitted to the hospital unrelated to COVID-19 and continues to be hospitalized.

May 11, 2020: DHS received additional test results today for staff and residents at WRC. All results were negative.

May 12, 2020: One additional resident and one additional staff member tested positive at WRC.

May 13, 2020: There were no positive test results today. There were a few additional negative tests, and a large number of pending tests.

May 16, 2020: One new resident tested positive at WRC, while 194 staff tested negative.

May 17, 2020: DHS received test results for 118 residents at GRC, which were all negative. There were 27 additional negative results for WRC staff.

May 18, 2020: DHS received test results for 70 residents at GRC, which were all negative. GRC has begun testing all staff. There were 50 negative results for WRC residents and 2 additional positive results for WRC staff.

May 29, 2020: One additional WRC resident tested positive.

June 3, 2020: DHS updated this summary to be more granular and reflect those who have recovered. As of June 3, 3030, there was only one currently positive resident at all DHS facilities, which is at WRC. All other previous resident who tested positive have recovered.

June 9, 2020: An WRC resident tested. In response, DHS has proceeded to test all residents in the home, and all staff who've been in the home.

June 12, 2020: Six additional residents and seven additional staff tested positive at WRC.

June 26, 2020: WRC has moved through it's second outbreak. All clients, with one exception have recovered. All positive clients were asymptomatic except one with a mild fever.

July 8, 2020: Current reopening phases for DHS facilities:

- **Boys State Training School** – Phase 2 (as of 7/7/20)
- **Cherokee Mental Health Institute** – Phase 3 (as of 6/29/20)
- **Independence Mental Health Institute** – Phase 3 (as of 6/29/20)
- **Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders** – Phase 2 (eligible for Phase 3 on 7/23 unless additional positive occurs for patients or staff between now/then)
- **Woodward Resource Center** – Phase 1 (eligible for Phase 2 on 7/13 unless additional positive occurs for patients or staff between now/then)
- **Glenwood Resource Center** – Phase 2 (eligible for Phase 3 on 8/4 unless additional positive occurs for individuals or staff between now/then)

July 16, 2020: Current reopening phases for DHS facilities:

- **Boys State Training School** – Phase 2 (as of 7/7/20). Eligible for Phase 3 on 7/21/20.
- **Cherokee Mental Health** – Phase 3 (as of 6/29/20).
- **Independence Mental Health Institute** – Phase 3 (as of 6/29/20).
- **Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders** – Phase 2. Eligible for Phase 3 on 7/23/20.
- **Woodward Resource Center** – Phase 2 (as of 7/13/20). Eligible for Phase 3 on 8/1/20.
- **Glenwood Resource Center** – Phase 2. Eligible for Phase 3 on 8/4/20.

July 20, 2020: A BSTS staff member tested positive.

July 21, 2020: Two additional BSTS staff members tested positive.

July 22, 2020: An additional BSTS staff member tested positive. There are currently four positive BSTS staff members.

July 23, 2020: One student at Boys State Training School (BSTS) tested positive. This is the first student positive at BSTS. The positive student was removed from his cottage and separated from other students. All students on campus are being tested. We've deep cleaned and disinfected the cottages. Students are being offered masks. Nurses are explaining the importance of masks and additional hygiene measures during known positives on campus. All staff who've been in contact with positive staff are being tested. All teachers and school personnel are being tested. There is no PPE re-use at this time and staff are required to use surgical, procedural or N95 masks only—no cloth masks. Nurses are spot checking to ensure proper PPE use. All guardians are being notified. Boys State Training School is at phase 1, with on-campus visits temporarily suspended, virtual visits will be available.

July 25, 2020: We have temporarily suspended admission to BSTS to ensure we are able to separate positive students to prevent further spread.

July 26, 2020: There are now 5 positive staff and 12 positive students at BSTS.

July 29, 2020: There are now 8 positive staff and 14 positive students at BSTS.

July 30, 2020: There are now 11 positive staff and 17 positive students at BSTS.

July 31, 2020: There are now 13 positive staff and 20 positive students at BSTS.

September 30, 2020: There are 4 positive staff and 6 positive residents at GRC. The residents have been quarantined in a designated COVID house.

October 2, 2020: There are 7 positive staff and 6 positive residents at GRC.

October 5, 2020: There are 10 positive staff and 6 positive residents at GRC. There are 11 positive staff and 8 positive residents at WRC.

November 9, 2020: There are 54 positive staff and 49 positive residents at GRC. There are 16 positive staff and 17 positive residents at WRC.