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Qs about Iowa's effective reproduction number

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To: "Mccoy, Amy" <amy.mccoy@idph.iowa.gov>

Hello Amy,

A number of independent modeling sites calculate that Iowa's effective reproductive number is above 1.0, indicating uncontrolled spread of COVID-19. For example:

<https://rt.live/us/IA>

<http://metrics.covid19-analysis.org>

<https://covid-19.public-health.uiowa.edu>

Does the Iowa Department of Public Health's epidemiology team feel confident that COVID-19 spread in Iowa can be well-controlled with the current approach? Does IDPH believe Rt for Iowa is below or above 1.0 now?

At what point would the IDPH recommend strengthened mitigation policies, either through renewed business closures or urging the broader population (and not just vulnerable people) to wear face coverings in public?

Thanks in advance for clarifying.

Laura

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