



Des Moines County Board of Health position statement regarding large public events in 2020 in Des Moines County during the pandemic public health crisis of COVID-19

Des Moines County Board of Health has a responsibility to address the health concerns of Des Moines County citizens and is taking the position that large scale events planned in 2020 are ill advised. Based on known evidence of how COVID-19 spreads among mass gatherings of people, along with the high risks associated with community spread of COVID-19 from travelers coming in from highly infectious areas across the United States, the board believes that the harmful health impact on our county citizens attending these events could be substantial. Increases in COVID-19 related illnesses and even death could result and affect our population health for months to come. The Board of Health recommends canceling of these events out of concern for the health and safety of all community members. Should these events move forward, the Board of Health strongly encourages citizens to protect themselves and others and avoid mass gatherings and crowds while this virus is still highly active and spreading across the United States.

Signed,

Des Moines County Board of Health:

Matthew Shivers

Dr. F. Jackson, MD

Mary Margaret Wagner

Deb Trousil

Anna Short

Jeff Heland