

# Indicators Program

## Covid-19 in Iowa: 300,000 Cases and 1.4 Million Tested

Covid-19<sup>1</sup> cases have been reported in Iowa since March 7, 2020. On January 13, 2021, 10 months later, Iowa recorded its 300,000th case (Figure 1, Table 1).<sup>2</sup> This means that Iowa, with nearly 3.16 million<sup>3</sup> people, is approaching the milestone that 10% of the population may have tested positive for Covid-19.

It took seven months to reach 100,000 cases in Iowa in mid-October. After that, the rate of new infections grew rapidly through November as the state added 20,000 new cases every four to seven days. For the week<sup>4</sup> ending November 13th, nearly 32,000 cases were reported that week alone (Figure 2, Table 1). Fortunately, the rate of new infections slowed in December and into January to the latest time frame reported here. Weekly cases reported in Iowa have been below 12,000 for five consecutive

weeks, although there still are approximately 20,000 new cases every two weeks in the state (Figures 1, 2; Table 1).

One measure used to examine trends is the rate of Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population. The number of Covid-19 cases for an area is divided by the population and then multiplied by 100,000 to give a rate per 100,000 population. Based on a population estimate for Iowa of 3,155,070,<sup>3</sup> the weekly case rate/100,000 statewide for Iowa was 286 for the week ending January 15th (Table 1). This rate, although higher than many weeks through the months that Covid-19 has been active in Iowa, is significantly lower than the rates experienced during the weeks in Iowa when cases were increasing most rapidly. During the week with the highest number of new cases (November 13th) the statewide weekly rate for Covid-19 was 1,010 per 100,000 population. Iowa exceeded a rate of 600/100,000 for four consecutive weeks during that time (Table 1).

By the week of November 6th, more than a million Iowans had been tested for Covid-19. Through the most recent week reported, more than 1.4 million Iowans have been tested for the virus. The cumulative percentage testing positive is 21.4% (Table 1). The vaccines for Covid-19 have begun to be distributed to Iowa residents. Through the following weeks and months it is hoped, as more Iowans become vaccinated, that the number of new cases will go down.

This report, others in the series, along with other information related to Covid-19 in Iowa and nationwide is available at: <https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu/Indicators/COVID19/>

### Notes

<sup>1</sup>Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is defined as illness caused by a novel coronavirus <https://www.medscape.com/answers/2500114-197401/what-is-covid-19>

<sup>2</sup>Data reported here are from the Iowa Department of Public Health which uses several web sites for reporting. These include: <https://www.idph.iowa.gov/>; <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus>; <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/>; <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/pages/access>; <https://open-iowa.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/ia-covid19-demographics>; and <https://open-iowa.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/ia-covid19-cases>

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/data/tables.html>

<sup>4</sup>The weeks reported here start with cases and tests reported for a Saturday and end with the reporting for the following Friday.

Figure 1. Days to Gain Each 20,000 Covid-19 Cases, Iowa, 2020-2021

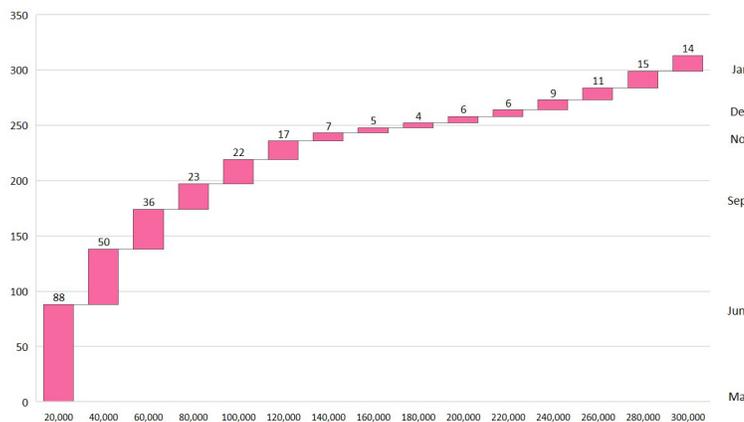
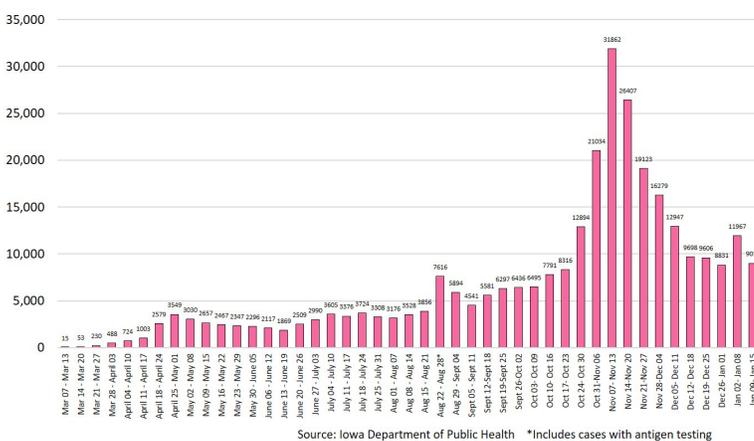


Figure 2. Weekly Additional Covid-19 Cases, Iowa, 2020-2021



# Covid-19 in Iowa: 300,000 Cases and 1.4 Million Tested

Table 1. Cumulative Total and Weekly Covid-19 Cases, Dates and Number of Days Between Successive 20,000 Count Days, Cumulative Total Percent Positive and Number Tested, and Weekly Rate/100,000, Iowa, 2020-2021.<sup>1</sup>

Week	Cumulative Total Cases	Dates of Successive 20,000 Count Days	Number of Days Between Successive 20,000 Count Days	Cumulative		Weekly	
				Percent Positive <sup>2</sup>	Individuals Tested	Cases	Rate/100,000 Population <sup>3</sup>
Mar 07 - Mar 13	18	March 07 (3 cases)	Date of first case	36.7	49	18	1
Mar 14 - Mar 20	68			5.8	1,171	50	2
Mar 21 - Mar 27	298			6.4	4,673	230	7
Mar 28 - April 03	786			7.7	10,240	488	15
April 04 - April 10	1,510			8.8	17,132	724	23
April 11 - April 17	2,513			11.0	22,947	1,003	32
April 18 - April 24	5,092			14.8	34,350	2,579	82
April 25 - May 01	8,641			17.4	49,727	3,549	112
May 02 - May 08	11,671			16.3	71,476	3,030	96
May 09 - May 15	14,328			14.9	96,300	2,657	84
May 16 - May 22	16,795			13.6	123,653	2,467	78
May 23 - May 29	19,142			12.8	150,108	2,347	74
May 30 - Jun 05***	21,438	June 02 (20,010 cases)	88 days since first case	11.6	184,554	2,296	73
June 06 - June 12	23,555			10.8	218,964	2,117	67
June 13 - June 19	25,424			10.2	249,207	1,869	59
June 20 - June 26	27,933			9.7	288,212	2,509	80
June 27 - July 03	30,923			9.4	327,936	2,990	95
July 04 - July 10	34,528			9.4	368,104	3,605	114
July 11 - July 17	37,904			9.4	403,726	3,376	107
July 18 - July 24***	41,628	July 22 (40,509 cases)	50 days since 20,000 cases	9.3	447,251	3,724	118
July 25 - July 31	44,936			9.4	480,423	3,308	105
Aug 01 - Aug 07	48,112			9.3	514,451	3,176	101
Aug 08 - Aug 14	51,640			9.3	552,389	3,528	112
Aug 15 - Aug 21	55,496			9.4	591,016	3,856	122
Aug 22 - Aug 28****	63,112	August 27 (62,031 cases)	36 days since 40,000 cases	10.1	624,834	7,616	241
Aug 29 - Sept 04	69,006			10.4	661,821	5,894	187
Sep 05 - Sep 11	73,547			10.6	694,782	4,541	144
Sept 12 - Sept 18	79,128			10.8	732,186	5,581	177
Sep 19 - Sep 25***	85,425	September 19 (80,009 cases)	23 days since 60,000 cases	11.1	771,756	6,297	200
Sept 26 - Oct 02	91,861			11.2	816,710	6,436	204
Oct 03 - Oct 09	98,356			11.5	855,596	6,495	206
Oct 10 - Oct 16***	106,147	October 11 (100,052 cases)	22 days since 80,000 cases	11.9	894,073	7,791	247
Oct 17 - Oct 23	114,463			12.3	931,801	8,316	264
Oct 24 - Oct 30***	127,357	October 28 (121,913 cases)	17 days since 100,000 cases	13.1	971,807	12,894	409
Oct 31 - Nov 06***	148,391	November 04 (140,609 cases)	7 days since 120,000 cases	14.5	1,021,858	21,034	667
Nov 07 - Nov 13***	180,253	November 09 (161,257 cases)	5 days since 140,000 cases	16.5	1,089,768	31,862	1,010
		November 13 (180,253 cases)	4 days since 160,000 cases				
Nov 14 - Nov 20***	206,660	November 19 (203,033 cases)	6 days since 180,000 cases	17.9	1,153,810	26,407	837
Nov 21 - Nov 27***	225,783	November 25 (222,278 cases)	6 days since 200,000 cases	18.8	1,203,496	19,123	606
Nov 28 - Dec 04***	242,062	December 04 (242,062 cases)	9 days since 220,000 cases	19.5	1,243,591	16,279	516
Dec 05 - Dec 11	255,009			19.9	1,278,951	12,947	410
Dec 12 - Dec 18***	264,707	December 15 (260,227 cases)	11 days since 240,000 cases	20.2	1,307,498	9,698	307
Dec 19 - Dec 25	274,313			20.5	1,339,501	9,606	304
Dec 26 - Jan 01***	283,144	December 30 (280,303 cases)	15 days since 260,000 cases	20.8	1,361,710	8,831	280
Jan 02 - Jan 08	295,111			21.2	1,390,853	11,967	379
Jan 09 - Jan 15***	304,122	January 13 (300,280 cases)	14 days since 280,000 cases	21.4	1,418,940	9,011	286

<sup>1</sup>Source: Iowa Department of Public Health; <sup>2</sup>Percent positive is calculated by dividing the reported cumulative number of cases by the reported cumulative number tested and multiplying the result by 100; <sup>3</sup>The rate/100,000 population is calculated by dividing the number of weekly cases by Iowa's population estimate for 2019 (3,155,070) and multiplying the result by 100,000; <sup>4</sup>On August 27th, the Iowa Department of Public Health added the cumulative positive Covid-19 cases identified by antigen testing (1,377) to the state cumulative Covid-19 total cases identified by PCR (polymerase chain reaction) testing. Before August 27th, the reported state positive totals were based only on PCR testing. The data reported here for the week of August 22-August 28 reflect the totals *with* the added antigen cases even though those cases were from many previous weeks and months, not from just that week; \*\*\*Designates weeks when cumulative total cases exceeded 20,000 Count Days. Exact dates and case counts given in column three.

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 January 16, 2021

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