

# Indicators Program

## Covid-19 in Iowa: 150,000 Cases and 1 Million Tested

Figure 1. Days to Gain Each 10,000 Covid-19 Cases, Iowa, 2020

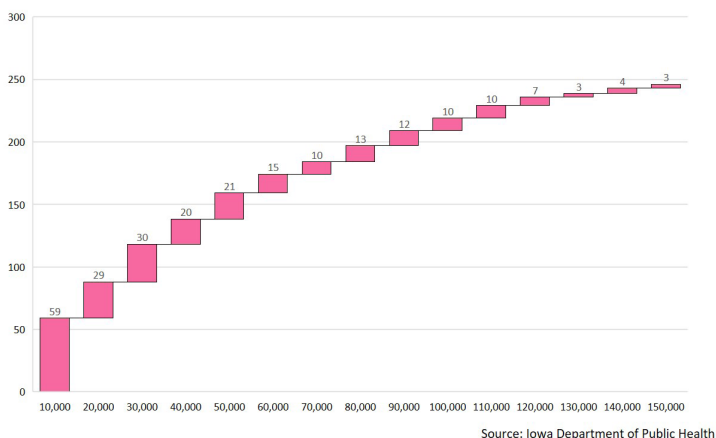


Figure 2. Weekly Additional Covid-19 Cases, Iowa, 2020

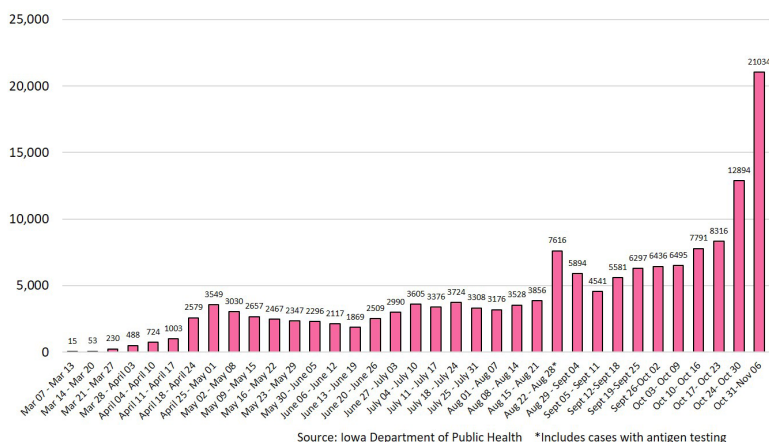
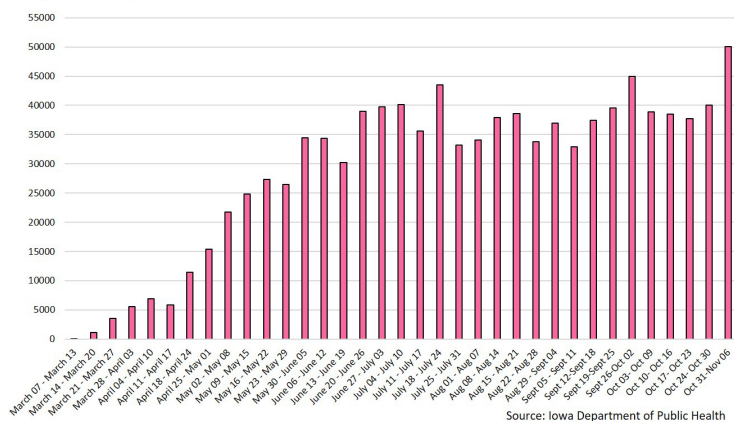


Figure 3. Weekly Additional Individuals Tested for Covid-19, Iowa, 2020



Covid-19<sup>1</sup> cases have been reported in Iowa since March 7th, 2020. On November 7th, eight months later, Iowa recorded its 150,000th case.<sup>2</sup> Even though it took seven months to reach 100,000 cases, only one more month passed before growing 50% and adding another 50,000 cases. For the week ending November 6th, Iowa recorded the highest ever weekly number of cases, 21,034 (Figures 1, 2; Table 1).

In the earliest months of Covid-19 in Iowa, it took 59 days for the state to record the first 10,000 cases. Since then, the virus has been spreading more rapidly. It took 29 days to reach the second set of 10,000 cases and 30 more days for another 10,000. New milestones of successive 10,000 cases then came at a faster pace. In mid-October, each set of 10,000 cases began to be 10 days apart and now, in November, there are just three or four days between new sets of 10,000 cases (Figure 1, Table 1). These are truly remarkable rates of increase and very alarming that Iowa has reached these levels.

In response to the higher number of cases, many more tests were done during the week of November 6th. The number of additional individuals tested that week exceeded 50,000, the highest ever during any week (Figure 3, Table 1). The cumulative testing in Iowa exceeded one million that week as well. Iowa's cumulative positivity rate<sup>3</sup> for the virus reached 14.5% that week. It was the highest rate since the early weeks of the virus in Iowa (Figure 4, Table 1).

Because the cumulative rate is calculated over the entire time frame of the virus, it can hide shorter-term increases. Week-by-week trends<sup>4</sup> help to better understand what is happening on a more recent time frame. Weekly rates of positive cases have been particularly high since mid-August but jumped in the last two weeks reported here to even higher (42%) levels (Figure 4, Table 1).

These Iowa trends are unfortunate and dismaying. It remains to be seen if Iowans can take the necessary steps for increased safety and vigilance that are needed across the state in order to stem the community spread of Covid-19.

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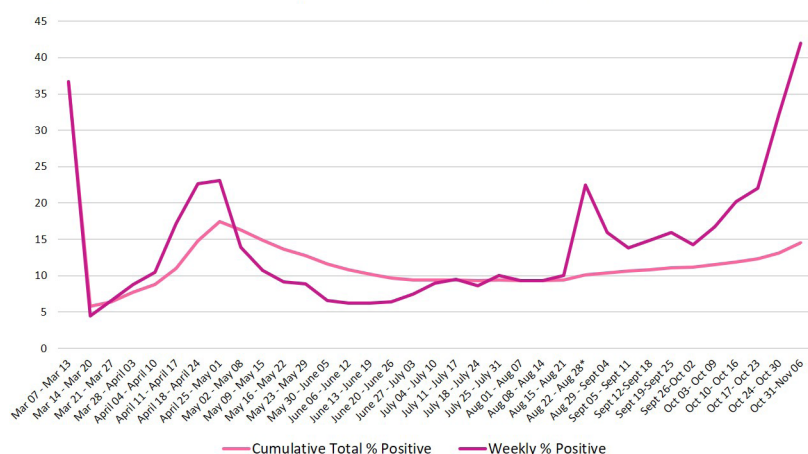
Table 1. Cumulative Total and Weekly Covid-19 Cases, Dates and Number of Days Between Successive 10,000 Count Days, Cumulative Total and Weekly Percent Positive and Number Tested, Iowa, 2020.<sup>1</sup>

Week	Cumulative Total Cases	Dates of Successive 10,000 Count Days	Number of Days Between Successive 10,000 Count Days	Cumulative		Weekly		
				Percent Positive <sup>2</sup>	Tested	Cases	Percent Positive <sup>2</sup>	Tested
Mar 07 - Mar 13	18	March 07 (3 cases)	Date of first case	36.7	49	18	36.7	49
Mar 14 - Mar 20	68			5.8	1171	50	4.5	1122
Mar 21 - Mar 27	298			6.4	4673	230	6.6	3502
Mar 28 - April 03	786			7.7	10240	488	8.8	5567
April 04 - April 10	1510			8.8	17132	724	10.5	6892
April 11 - April 17	2513			11.0	22947	1003	17.2	5815
April 18 - April 24	5092			14.8	34350	2579	22.6	11403
April 25 - May 01	8641			17.4	49727	3549	23.1	15377
May 02 - May 08***	11671	May 04 (10,111 cases)	59 days since first case	16.3	71476	3030	13.9	21749
May 09 - May 15	14328			14.9	96300	2657	10.7	24824
May 16 - May 22	16795			13.6	123653	2467	9.1	27353
May 23 - May 29	19142			12.8	150108	2347	8.9	26455
May 30 - Jun 05***	21438	June 02 (20,010 cases)	29 days since 10,000 cases	11.6	184554	2296	6.6	34446
June 06 - June 12	23555			10.8	218964	2117	6.2	34410
June 13 - June 19	25424			10.2	249207	1869	6.2	30243
June 20 - June 26	27933			9.7	288212	2509	6.4	39005
June 27 - July 03***	30923	July 02 (30,355 cases)	30 days since 20,000 cases	9.4	327936	2990	7.5	39724
July 04 - July 10	34528			9.4	368104	3605	9.0	40168
July 11 - July 17	37904			9.4	403726	3376	9.5	35622
July 18 - July 24***	41628	July 22 (40,509 cases)	20 days since 30,000 cases	9.3	447251	3724	8.6	43525
July 25 - July 31	44936			9.4	480423	3308	10.0	33172
Aug 01 - Aug 07	48112			9.3	514451	3176	9.3	34028
Aug 08 - Aug 14***	51640	August 12 (50,167 cases)	21 days since 40,000 cases	9.3	552389	3528	9.3	37938
Aug 15 - Aug 21	55496			9.4	591016	3856	10.0	38627
Aug 22 - Aug 28*** <sup>3</sup>	63112	August 27 (62,031 cases)	15 days since 50,000 cases	10.1	624834	7616	22.5	33818
Aug 29 - Sept 04	69006			10.4	661821	5894	15.9	36987
Sep 05 - Sep 11***	73547	September 06 (70,314 cases)	10 days since 60,000 cases	10.6	694782	4541	13.8	32961
Sep 12 - Sept 18	79128			10.8	732186	5581	14.9	37404
Sep 19 - Sep 25***	85425	September 19 (80,009 cases)	13 days since 70,000 cases	11.1	771756	6297	15.9	39570
Sep 26 - Oct 02***	91861	October 01 (90,754 cases)	12 days since 80,000 cases	11.2	816710	6436	14.3	44954
Oct 03 - Oct 09	98356			11.5	855596	6495	16.7	38886
Oct 10 - Oct 16***	106147	October 11 (100,052 cases)	10 days since 90,000 cases	11.9	894073	7791	20.2	38477
Oct 17 - Oct 23***	114463	October 21 (110,974 cases)	10 days since 100,000 cases	12.3	931801	8316	22.0	37728
Oct 24 - Oct 30***	127357	October 28 (121,913 cases)	7 days since 110,000 cases	13.1	971807	12894	32.2	40006
Oct 31 - Nov 06***	148391	October 31 (130,244 cases)	3 days since 120,000 cases	14.5	1021858	21034	42.0	50051
		November 04 (140,609 cases)	4 days since 130,000 cases					
Nov 07 - Nov 13***	150,000+	November 07 (152,604 cases)	3 days since 140,000 cases	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

\*\*\*Designates weeks when cumulative total cases exceeded 10,000 Count Days. Exact dates and case counts given in column three; <sup>1</sup>Source: Iowa Department of Public Health; <sup>2</sup>Percent positive is calculated by dividing the reported number of cases (cumulative total or weekly) by the reported number tested (cumulative total or weekly) and multiplying the result by 100; <sup>3</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.

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Figure 4. Cumulative Total and Weekly Percent of Covid-19 Tests Positive, Iowa, 2020



Source: Iowa Department of Public Health \*Includes cases with antigen testing

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 now called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2; formerly called 2019-nCoV) <https://www.medscape.com/answers/2500114-197401/what-is-covid-19>

<sup>2</sup>The source for the Covid-19 data reviewed here is the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). Through the months that Covid-19 cases have been reported in Iowa, the Iowa Department of Public Health has utilized several methods of reporting the cases and testing in Iowa. These include press reports, web sites, data tables and files, mapping, and graphing. The data in this report have been gathered from a number of these methods. Several web sites directly from or affiliated with the Iowa Department of Public Health have been used. 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/iacovid19-demographics>; and <https://open-iowa.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/ia-covid19-cases>

<sup>3</sup>Percent positive is calculated by dividing the number of cases (cumulative total or weekly) reported by IDPH by the reported number tested (cumulative total or weekly) during that time and multiplying the result by 100. IDPH uses a different method of calculating the percent positive and the results reported here may vary from those reported on the IDPH website.

<sup>4</sup>Although cases are reported on a daily basis, there are day-by-day variations in reporting that include weekends and holidays that make it useful to aggregate cases and reporting on a weekly basis to look at trends. The weeks reported here start with cases and tests reported for a Saturday and end with the reporting for the following Friday.

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**November 10, 2020**

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