STATE REPORT
09.27.2020

# IOWA

## SUMMARY

- Iowa is in the red zone for cases, indicating 101 or more new cases per 100,000 population last week, with the 6th highest rate in the country. Iowa is in the orange zone for test positivity, indicating a rate between 8.0% and 10.0%, with the 10th highest rate in the country.
- Iowa has seen an increase in new cases and stability in test positivity over the last week.
- The following three counties had the highest number of new cases over the last 3 weeks: 1. Polk County, 2. Woodbury County, and 3. Dubuque County. These counties represent 24.5% of new cases in Iowa.
- 70% of all counties in Iowa have moderate or high levels of community transmission (yellow, orange, or red zones), with 29% having high levels of community transmission (red zone).
- During the week of Sep 14 - Sep 20, 7% of nursing homes had at least one new resident COVID-19 case, 31% had at least one new staff COVID-19 case, and 2% had at least one new resident COVID-19 death.
- Iowa had 197 new cases per 100,000 population in the last week, compared to a national average of 93 per 100,000.
- Between Sep 19 - Sep 25, on average, 54 patients with confirmed COVID-19 and 41 patients with suspected COVID-19 were reported as newly admitted each day to hospitals in Iowa. An average of greater than 95% of hospitals reported either new confirmed or new suspected COVID patients each day during this period.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Test positivity and case rates have been sustained at the highest levels during the past four weeks, putting Iowa in a vulnerable position going into the fall and winter. Transmission is statewide with new hospital admissions increasing. Institute mask requirements statewide with reduced capacity for indoor dining and bars while expanding outdoor dining options. Use metrics like West Virginia to determine school learning and extracurricular activity options.
- Rapidly scale up testing to identify individuals with COVID-19 with support for isolation to reduce community transmission. Target testing in areas with persistent high levels of transmission and rapidly increasing incidence from east to northwestern parts of the state.
- Develop age-segmented and geographic relevant messaging to keep Iowans compliant with mitigation efforts including wearing face masks.
- On the Iowa COVID-19 public dashboard, provide county trends in test positivity and case rates with numerators and denominators so the community can follow local transmission status and adhere to mitigation efforts to decrease spread.
- Decrease introduction of COVID-19 in correctional facilities through on-site inspection of infection control practices in congregate settings.
- Decrease introduction of COVID-19 in nursing homes through on-site inspection of infection control practices at skilled nursing facilities.
- In university settings, use wastewater surveillance on and off campus to identify areas with high viral load for targeted testing. Establish routine testing of student body to find cases early, prevent spread, and keep students on campus. Provide these data to students, faculty, parents, and community on public dashboard.
- Tribal Nations: Ensure all Tribal Nations are aware of the significant risk from asymptomatic transmission during gatherings or ceremonies. Encourage the continued enforcement of social distancing and masking measures in areas of increased transmission. Continue enhanced testing activities. Continue to enhance contact tracing and ensure that cases and contacts can quarantine or isolate safely.
- Test positivity and case rates have been sustained at the highest levels during the past four weeks, putting Kansas in a vulnerable position going into the fall and winter. Transmission is statewide and new hospital admissions are increasing. Institute mask requirements statewide with reduced capacity for indoor dining and bars while expanding outdoor dining options. Use metrics like West Virginia to determine school learning and extracurricular activity options.
- Specific, detailed guidance on community mitigation measures can be found on the CDC website.

*The purpose of this report is to develop a shared understanding of the current status of the pandemic at the national, regional, state and local levels. We recognize that data at the state level may differ from that available at the federal level. Our objective is to use consistent data sources and methods that allow for comparisons to be made across localities. We appreciate your continued support in identifying data discrepancies and improving data completeness and sharing across systems. We look forward to your feedback.*

**COVID-19**

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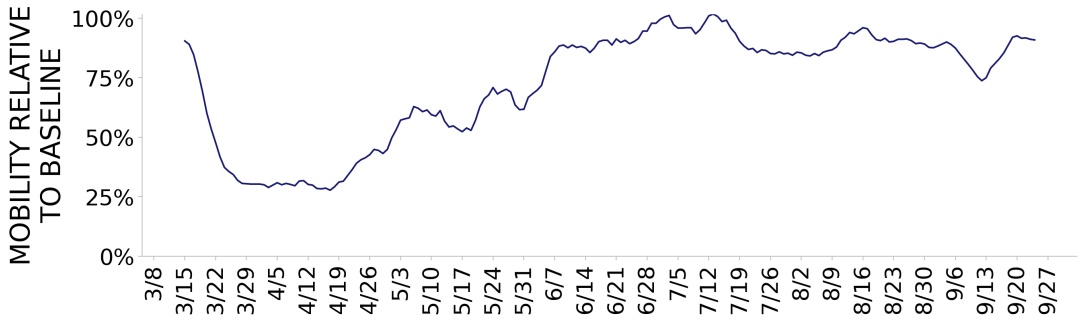
| | STATE, LAST WEEK | STATE, % CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK | FEMA/HHS REGION, LAST WEEK | UNITED STATES, LAST WEEK |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NEW COVID-19 CASES (RATE PER 100,000) | 6,208 (197) | +13% | 23,969 (170) | 305,449 (93) |
| VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY RATE | 8.0% | +0.3%* | 8.7% | 4.3% |
| TOTAL VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TESTS (TESTS PER 100,000) | 83,223** (2,638) | +13%** | 236,699** (1,674) | 6,381,570** (1,944) |
| COVID-19 DEATHS (RATE PER 100,000) | 45 (1.4) | -10% | 315 (2.2) | 5,143 (1.6) |
| SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 CASE (≥1 NEW STAFF CASE) | 7% (31%) | -2%* (+4%*) | 11% (29%) | 9% (20%) |
| SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 DEATH | 2% | +0%* | 3% | 4% |

## MOBILITY




* Indicates absolute change in percentage points.
** Due to delayed reporting, this figure may underestimate total diagnostic tests and week-on-week changes in diagnostic tests.

**DATA SOURCES** – Additional data details available under METHODS

**Note:** Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

**Cases and Deaths:** State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 9/25/2020; last week is 9/19 - 9/25, previous week is 9/12 - 9/18.

**Testing:** CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 9/23/2020. Last week is 9/17 - 9/23, previous week is 9/10 - 9/16.

**Mobility:** Descartes Labs. This data depicts the median distance moved across a collection of mobile devices to estimate the level of human mobility within a county. The 100% represents the baseline mobility level prior to the pandemic; lower percent mobility indicates less population movement. Data is anonymized and provided at the county level. Data through 9/24/2020.

**SNFs:** Skilled nursing facilities. National Healthcare Safety Network. Data are reported separately for cases among residents and staff. Last week is 9/14-9/20, previous week is 9/7-9/13.

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## COVID-19 COUNTY AND METRO ALERTS*

**Top 12 shown in table (full lists below)**

| | METRO AREA (CBSA) LAST WEEK | | COUNTY LAST WEEK | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| LOCALITIES IN RED ZONE | 6 | Sioux City<br>Dubuque<br>Ottumwa<br>Oskaloosa<br>Spencer<br>Spirit Lake | 29 | Woodbury<br>Dubuque<br>Sioux<br>Henry<br>Plymouth<br>Jasper<br>Crawford<br>Wapello<br>Lyon<br>Delaware<br>Mahaska<br>O'Brien |
| LOCALITIES IN ORANGE ZONE | 2 | Omaha-Council Bluffs<br>Pella | 10 | Pottawattamie<br>Marion<br>Boone<br>Buchanan<br>Jones<br>Guthrie<br>Cass<br>Davis<br>Emmet<br>Humboldt |
| LOCALITIES IN YELLOW ZONE | 10 | Des Moines-West Des Moines<br>Cedar Rapids<br>Ames<br>Waterloo-Cedar Falls<br>Davenport-Moline-Rock Island<br>Clinton<br>Fort Dodge<br>Fort Madison-Keokuk<br>Storm Lake<br>Muscatine | 30 | Polk<br>Linn<br>Story<br>Scott<br>Black Hawk<br>Dallas<br>Clinton<br>Webster<br>Lee<br>Buena Vista<br>Bremer<br>Muscatine |

**All Red Counties:** Woodbury, Dubuque, Sioux, Henry, Plymouth, Jasper, Crawford, Wapello, Lyon, Delaware, Mahaska, O'Brien, Kossuth, Chickasaw, Winnebago, Sac, Floyd, Jackson, Cherokee, Clay, Dickinson, Ida, Palo Alto, Osceola, Lucas, Fremont, Audubon, Monona, Monroe

**All Yellow Counties:** Polk, Linn, Story, Scott, Black Hawk, Dallas, Clinton, Webster, Lee, Buena Vista, Bremer, Muscatine, Washington, Winneshiek, Poweshiek, Benton, Grundy, Cedar, Allamakee, Fayette, Tama, Clayton, Harrison, Hardin, Wright, Appanoose, Mills, Union, Louisa, Clarke

*** Localities with fewer than 10 cases last week have been excluded from these alerts.**

**Note:** Lists of red, orange, and yellow localities are sorted by the number of new cases in the last 3 weeks, from highest to lowest. Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

**DATA SOURCES** – Additional data details available under METHODS

**Cases and Deaths:** State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 9/25/2020; last week is 9/19 - 9/25, three weeks is 9/5 - 9/25.

**Testing:** CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 9/23/2020. Last week is 9/17 - 9/23.

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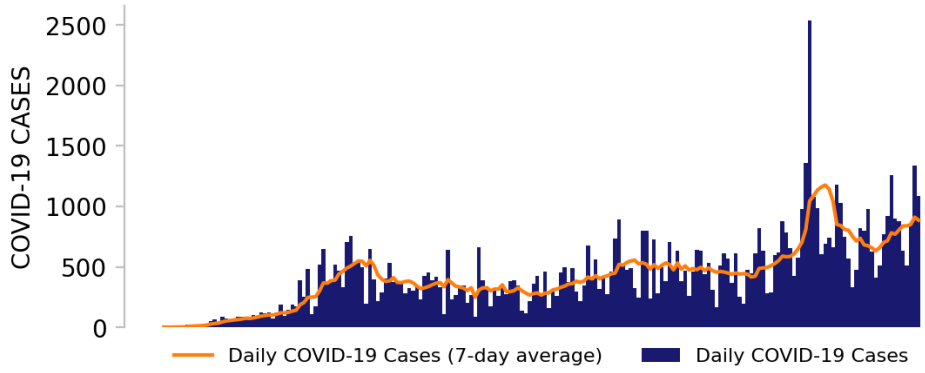
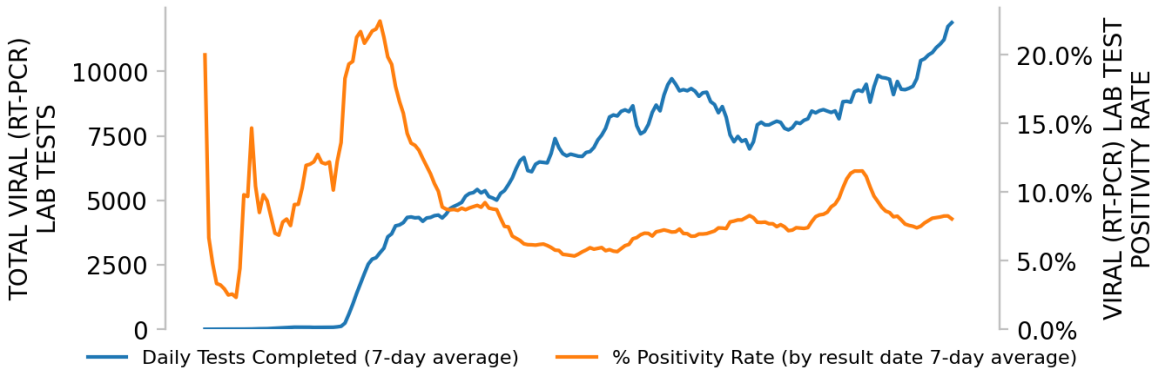
## NEW CASES

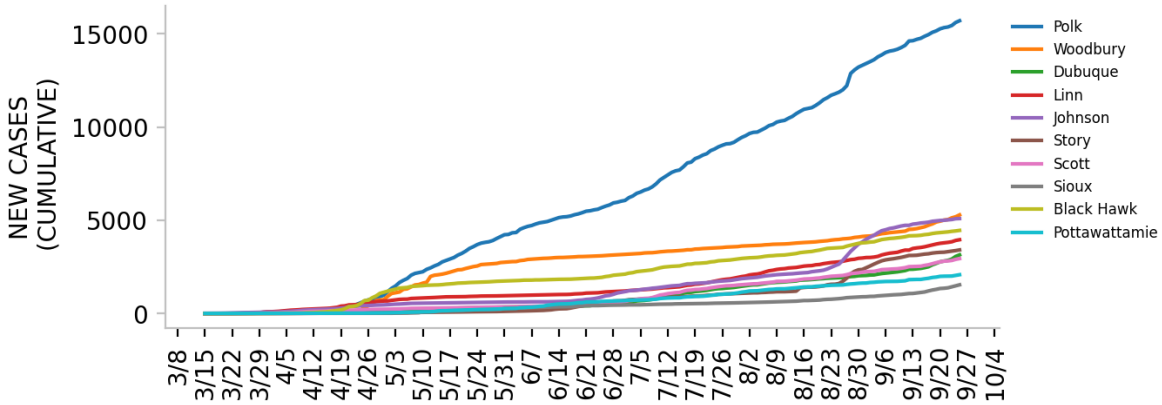



## TESTING




## TOP COUNTIES

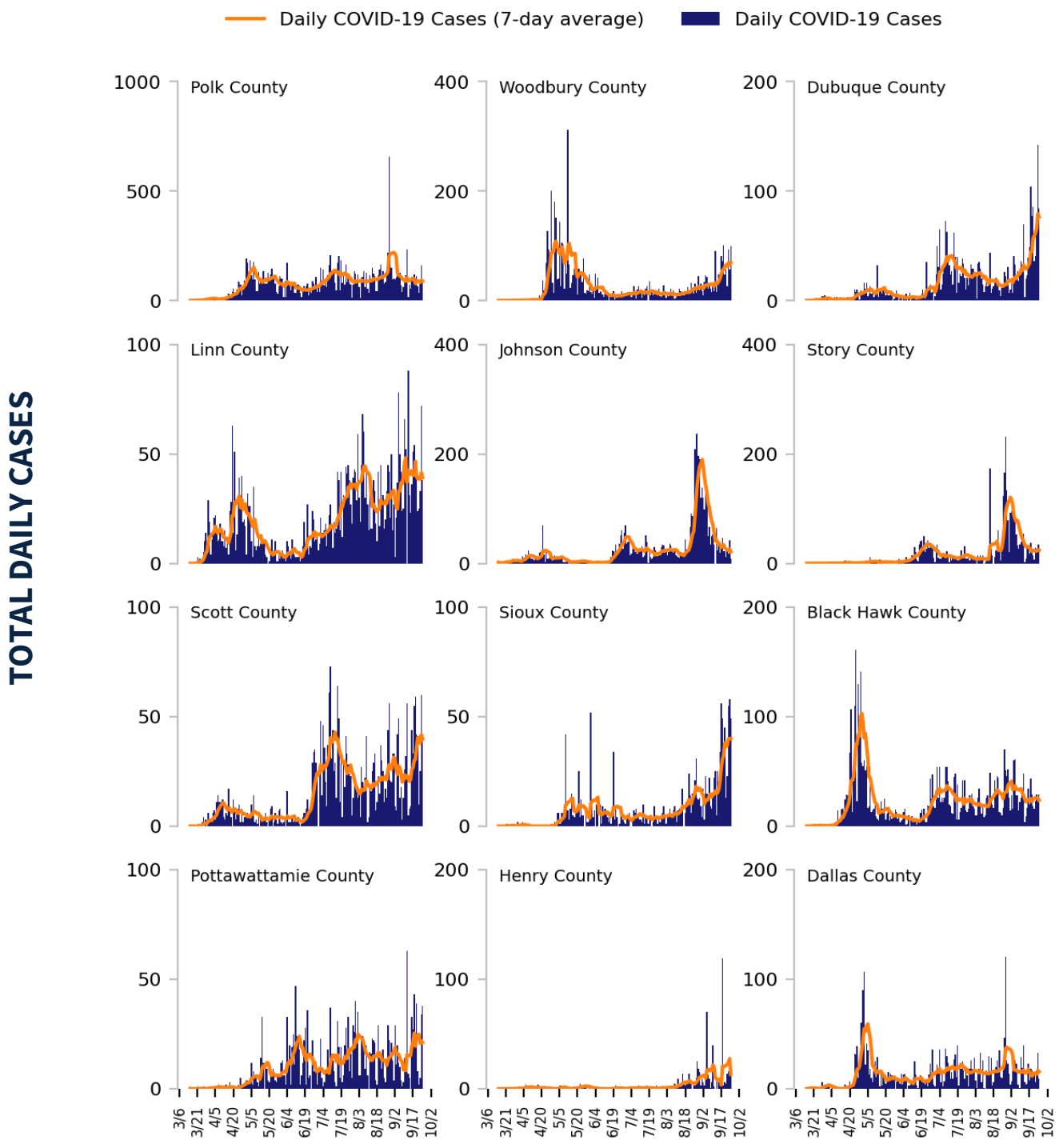
Top counties based on greatest number of new cases in last three weeks (9/5 - 9/25)




**DATA SOURCES** – Additional data details available under METHODS

**Note:** Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.
**Cases:** State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 9/25/2020.
**Testing:** CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 9/23/2020.

# Top 12 counties based on number of new cases in the last 3 weeks




**DATA SOURCES** – Additional data details available under METHODS

**Cases:** State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 9/25/2020. Last 3 weeks is 9/5 - 9/25.

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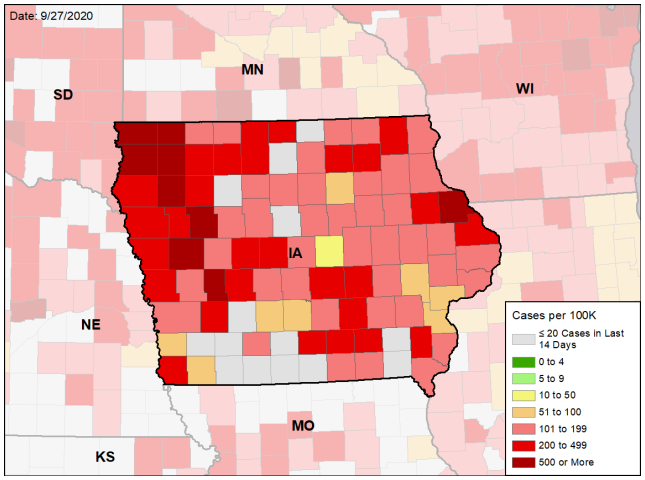
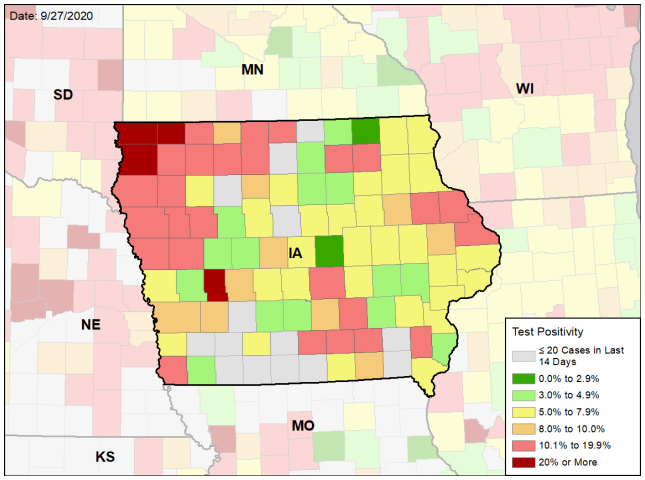
## CASE RATES AND VIRAL LAB TEST POSITIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK

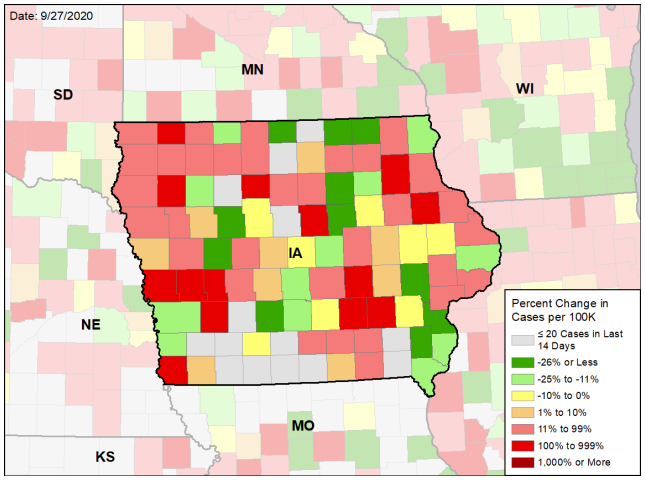
### NEW CASES PER 100,000 DURING THE LAST WEEK



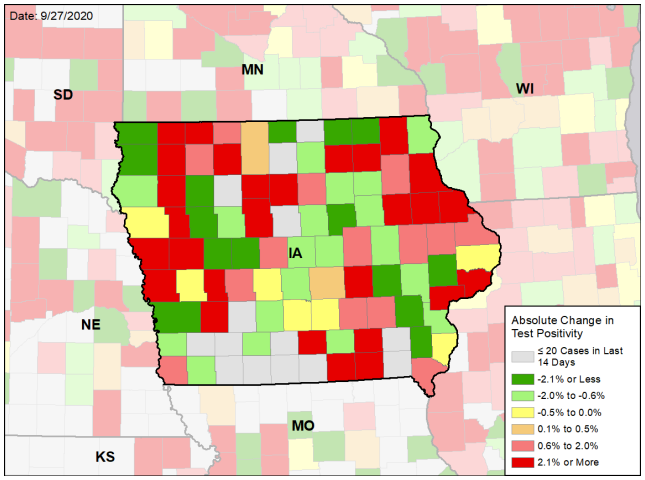

### VIRAL (RT-PCR) LABORATORY TEST POSITIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK




### WEEKLY CHANGE IN NEW CASES PER 100,000




### WEEKLY CHANGE IN VIRAL (RT-PCR) LABORATORY TEST POSITIVITY

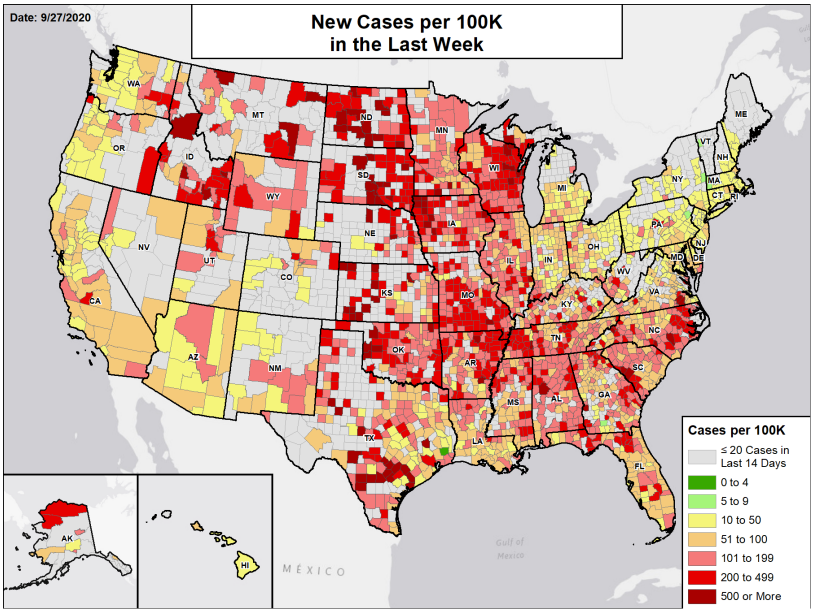



**DATA SOURCES** – Additional data details available under METHODS

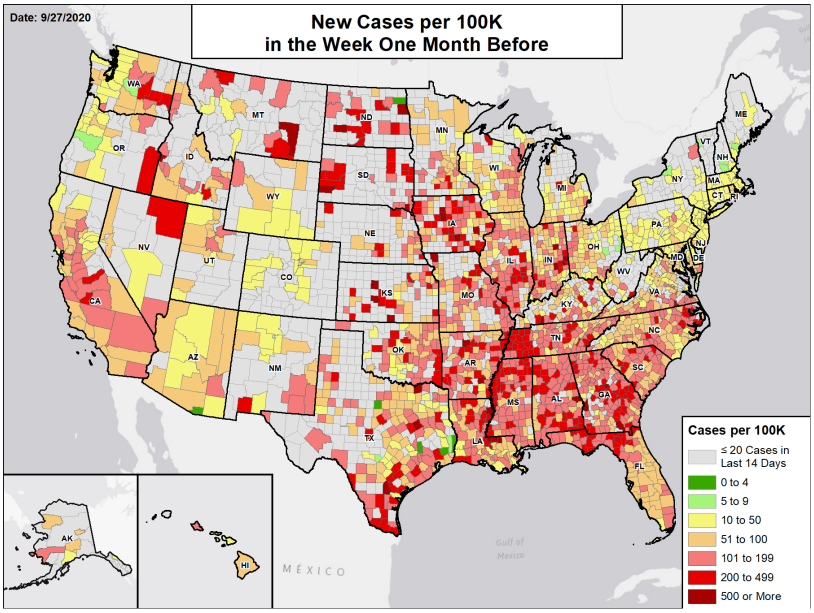
**Note:** Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.
**Cases:** State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 9/25/2020. Last week is 9/19 - 9/25, previous week is 9/12 - 9/18.
**Testing:** CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 9/23/2020. Last week is 9/17 - 9/23, previous week is 9/10 - 9/16.

# National Picture

NEW CASES PER 100,000 LAST WEEK




NEW CASES PER 100,000 IN THE WEEK ONE MONTH BEFORE



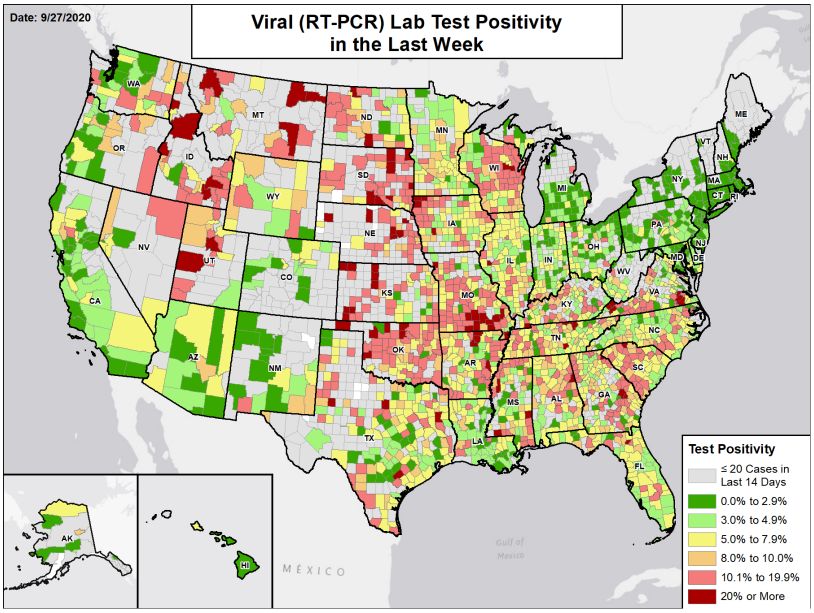

**DATA SOURCES**

**Note:** Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

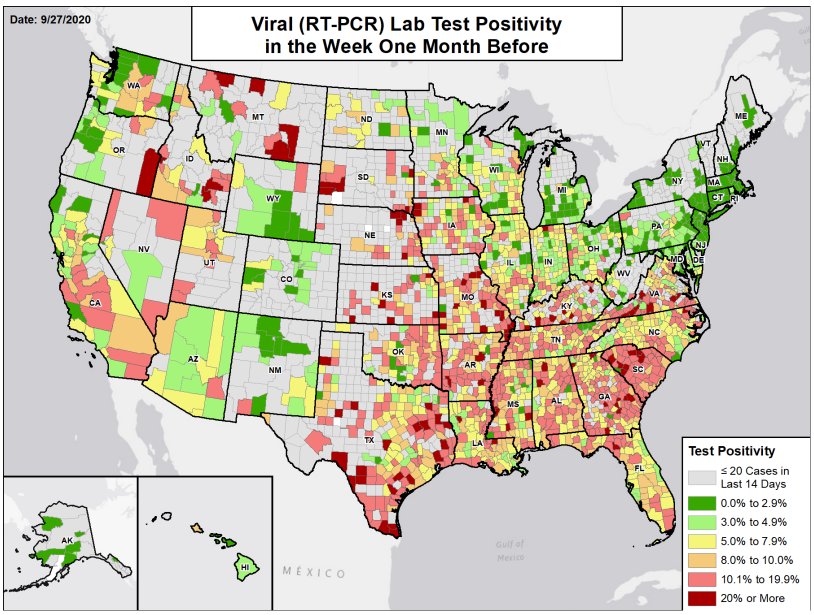
**Cases:** County-level data from USAFacts through 9/25/2020. Last week is 9/19 - 9/25; the week one month before is 8/22 - 8/28.

# National Picture

## VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY LAST WEEK




## VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY IN THE WEEK ONE MONTH BEFORE




**DATA SOURCES**

**Note:** Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

**Testing:** Combination of CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data and HHS Protect laboratory data (provided directly to Federal Government from public health labs, hospital labs, and commercial labs) through 9/23/2020. Last week is 9/17 - 9/23; the week one month before is 8/20 - 8/26.

# METHODS

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**COLOR THRESHOLDS:** Results for each indicator should be taken in context of the findings for related indicators (e.g., changes in case incidence and testing volume). Values are rounded before color classification.

| Metric | Dark Green | Light Green | Yellow | Orange | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New cases per 100,000 population per week | ≤4 | 5 – 9 | 10 – 50 | 51 – 100 | ≥101 |
| Percent change in new cases per 100,000 population | ≤-26% | -25% – -11% | -10% – 0% | 1% – 10% | ≥11% |
| Diagnostic test result positivity rate | ≤2.9% | 3.0% – 4.9% | 5.0% – 7.9% | 8.0% – 10.0% | ≥10.1% |
| Change in test positivity | ≤-2.1% | -2.0% – -0.6% | -0.5% – 0.0% | 0.1% – 0.5% | ≥0.6% |
| Total diagnostic tests resulted per 100,000 population per week | ≥2001 | 1001 – 2000 | 750 – 1000 | 500 – 749 | ≤499 |
| Percent change in tests per 100,000 population | ≥26% | 11% – 25% | 1% – 10% | -10% – 0% | ≤-11% |
| COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 population per week | ≤0.1 | 0.2 – 0.4 | 0.5 – 1.0 | 1.1 – 2.0 | ≥2.1 |
| Percent change in deaths per 100,000 population | ≤-26% | -25% – -11% | -10% – 0% | 1% – 10% | ≥11% |
| Skilled Nursing Facilities with at least one resident COVID-19 case, death | 0% | | 1% – 5% | | ≥6% |
| Change in SNFs with at least one resident COVID-19 case, death | ≤-2% | | -1% – 1% | | ≥2% |

## DATA NOTES

- Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes. It is critical that states provide as up-to-date data as possible.
- **Cases and deaths:** County-level data from USAFacts as of 17:12 EDT on 09/27/2020. State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data are reviewed on a daily basis against internal and verified external sources and, if needed, adjusted. Last week data are from 9/19 to 9/25; previous week data are from 9/12 to 9/18; the week one month before data are from 8/22 to 8/28.
- **Testing:** The data presented represent viral COVID-19 laboratory diagnostic and screening test (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction, RT-PCR) results—not individual people—and exclude antibody and antigen tests, unless stated otherwise. CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data are used to describe county-level viral COVID-19 laboratory test (RT-PCR) result totals when information is available on patients' county of residence or healthcare providers' practice location. HHS Protect laboratory data (provided directly to Federal Government from public health labs, hospital labs, and commercial labs) are used otherwise. Some states did not report on certain days, which may affect the total number of tests resulted and positivity rate values. Because the data are deidentified, total viral (RT-PCR) laboratory tests are the number of tests performed, not the number of individuals tested. Viral (RT-PCR) laboratory test positivity rate is the number of positive tests divided by the number of tests performed and resulted. Resulted tests are assigned to a timeframe based on this hierarchy of test-related dates: 1. test date; 2. result date; 3. specimen received date; 4. specimen collection date. Resulted tests are assigned to a county based on a hierarchy of test-related locations: 1. patient residency; 2. provider facility location; 3. ordering facility location; 4. performing organization location. States may calculate test positivity other using other methods. Last week data are from 9/17 to 9/23; previous week data are from 9/10 to 9/16; the week one month before data are from 8/20 to 8/26. HHS Protect data is recent as of 12:34 EDT on 09/27/2020. Testing data are inclusive of everything received and processed by the CELR system as of 19:00 EDT on 09/26/2020.
- **Mobility:** Descartes Labs. These data depict the median distance moved across a collection of mobile devices to estimate the level of human mobility within a locality. The 100% represents the baseline mobility level prior to the pandemic; lower percent mobility indicates less population movement. Data is anonymized and provided at the locality level. Data is recent as of 13:00 EDT on 09/27/2020 and is through 9/24/2020.
- **Hospitalizations:** Unified hospitalization dataset in HHS Protect. This figure may differ from state data due to differences in hospital lists and reporting between federal and state systems. These data exclude psychiatric, rehabilitation, and religious non-medical hospitals. In addition, hospitals explicitly identified by states/regions as those from which we should not expect reports were excluded from the percent reporting figure. The data presented represents raw data provided; we are working diligently with state liaisons to improve reporting consistency. Data is recent as of 17:28 EDT on 09/27/2020.
- **Skilled Nursing Facilities:** National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Data report resident and staff cases independently. Quality checks are performed on data submitted to the NHSN. Data that fail these quality checks or appear inconsistent with surveillance protocols may be excluded from analyses. Data presented in this report are more recent than data publicly posted by CMS. Last week is 9/14-9/20, previous week is 9/7-9/13.
- **County and Metro Area Color Categorizations**
  - **Red Zone:** Those core-based statistical areas (CBSAs) and counties that during the last week reported both new cases at or above 101 per 100,000 population, and a lab test positivity result at or above 10.1%.
  - **Orange Zone:** Those CBSAs and counties that during the last week reported both new cases between 51–100 per 100,000 population, and a lab test positivity result between 8.0–10.0%, or one of those two conditions and one condition qualifying as being in the "Red Zone."
  - **Yellow Zone:** Those CBSAs and counties that during the last week reported both new cases between 10–50 per 100,000 population, and a lab test positivity result between 5.0–7.9%, or one of those two conditions and one condition qualifying as being in the "Orange Zone" or "Red Zone."