

**Good morning Cardinal Family,**

**I wish each of you a blessed holiday week. Health is a blessing too often taken for granted, and we are at a time of heightened responsibility for our own health and that of others. Thank you for keeping this in your hearts and minds throughout the next few days, as your commitment to the health and safety of our district will make a difference upon our return to school.**

Following is a reminder of the Governor's latest mitigation measures:

DES MOINES, Iowa — Effective at midnight Monday, Iowans will now be required to wear masks whenever they're unable to social distance inside public spaces.

This order is part of several new mitigation measures put in place Monday by Gov. Kim Reynolds as Iowa's case counts continue to spike exponentially.

The Republican governor cites [skyrocketing COVID-19 hospitalizations](#) as one of the reasons for issuing one of her most restrictive proclamations since the pandemic began.

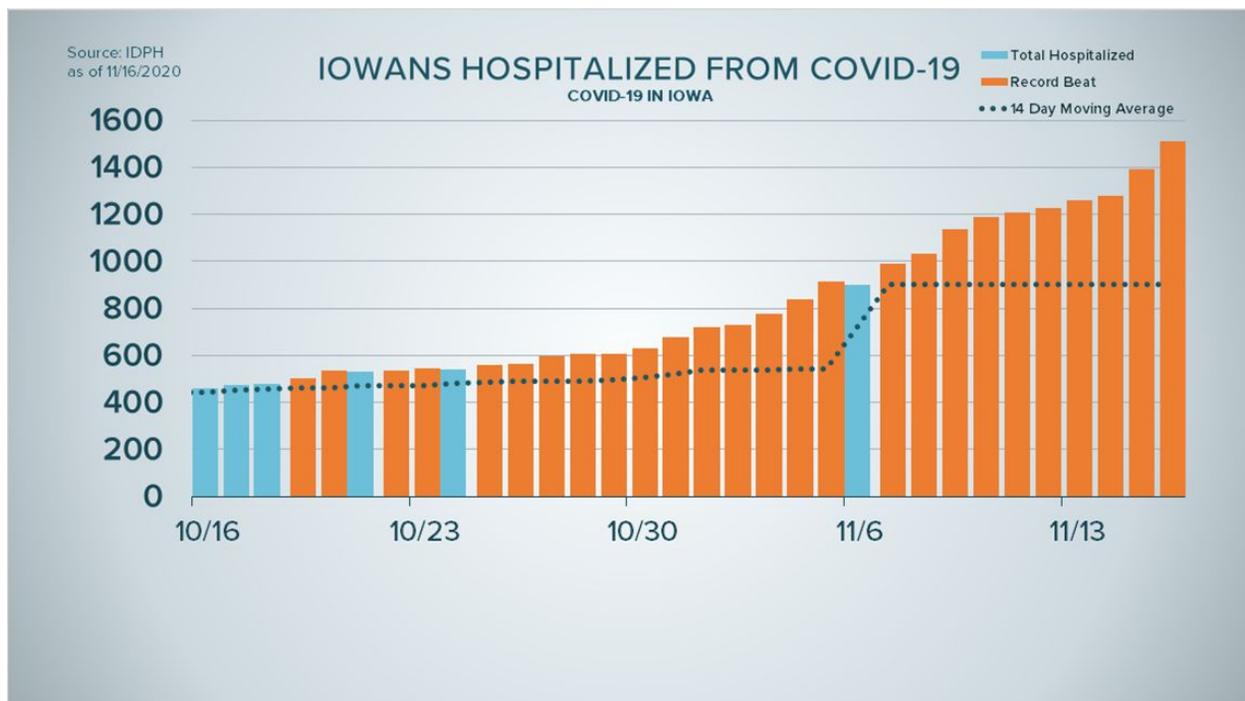
"We have the same number of cases from the beginning of the pandemic in March to mid-August," Reynolds said during her Monday evening address.

After months of saying Iowans will do the right thing, Reynolds took a different approach to the matter.

"For some Iowans who have experienced the virus firsthand that may not seem like something to worry about, because, for many, COVID-19 has been relatively mild, some having no symptoms at all. And I'm grateful for that," the governor said.

"But I'm afraid that these mild cases have created a mindset where lowans have become complacent... where we've lost that sight of what it was, why it was so important to flatten the curve."

Reynolds said about 5% of lowans with the virus require hospitalization, and because of this the state has seen the dramatic increase of hospitalizations over the last several weeks.



Credit: WOI

A look at hospitalizations from COVID-19 in Iowa from Oct. 16 to Nov. 16.

"Because of the increase we've seen over the last two weeks, our healthcare system is being pushed to the brink," Reynolds said. "The number of lowans in the hospital with COVID-19 has doubled to the point where one out of every four hospital patients, has the virus."

**Blessings to you all!**

**Chris**