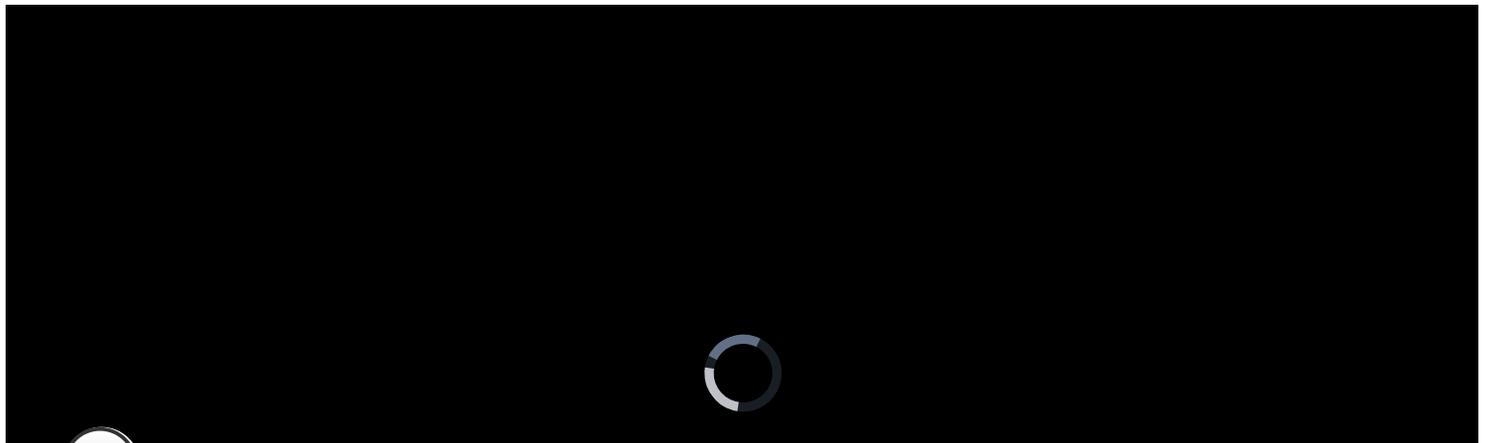


- Search
 - U.S.**
 - World**
 - Business**
 - Tech & Science**
 - Culture**
 - Autos**
 - Sports**
 - Health**
 - Opinion**
 - Experts**
 - Education**
 - Podcasts**
-

U.S.

Florida COVID Cases Among Lowest in Country Two Months After Record High Surge

BY **JENNI FINK** ON 10/18/21 AT 2:06 PM EDT



Unlimited access (ad free). \$49 a year

[SUBSCRIBE NOW >](#)

You have **4** free articles remaining this month



U.S. RON DESANTIS FLORIDA CORONAVIRUS

Florida appears to be at the end of its wave of coronavirus cases after seeing a massive surge in infections as the Delta variant spread throughout the state.

Cases in the Sunshine State have been trending downward in recent weeks, with a 48 percent drop in infections over the past two weeks, according to data from *The New York Times*. At a seven-day average of about 2,600 new cases per day, Florida is experiencing one of the lowest case counts (per 100,000 people) of any state.

Florida's cases started trending upward at the end of June. Cases have since been on the decline, according to the *Times*, dropping to about 2,400 per day, the lowest they've been since July. Over the summer, Florida reported more than 27,000 new cases in one day, a record high since the start of the pandemic, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)).

The state is no longer considered an area with "high" community transmission, and the CDC categorizes it as having "substantial" transmission. With a seven-day percent positivity rate between 3 and 4.9

Unlimited access (ad free). \$49 a year

SUBSCRIBE NOW >

You have 4 free articles remaining this month

[SUBSCRIBE >](#)

On a per capita basis over the past seven days, Florida has had fewer cases than every state in the contiguous United States, with the exception of California. Hawaii's seven-day case rate on a per capita basis is lower than Florida's.

About 80 percent of Florida's adult population has been vaccinated against COVID-19, according to the CDC. Data from a Johns Hopkins University tracker shows the Sunshine State hasn't seen a significant surge in vaccinations over the past several months, and it's unclear exactly why cases are trending downward.



Unlimited access (ad free). \$49 a year

[SUBSCRIBE NOW >](#)

You have **4** free articles remaining this month

Florida has one of the nation's lowest coronavirus case counts on a per 100,000 people basis, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Above, Governor Ron DeSantis speaks during a press conference on August 5.

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

One of the most plausible explanations is that the Delta variant has run its course, at least for now. Throughout the pandemic, two-month surges in cases have been followed by a decline in infections. Jason Salemi, a professor of epidemiology at the University of South Florida, told WKMG that the variant "burned through the population" and may be struggling to find people to infect.

NEWSWEEK SUBSCRIPTION OFFERS >

Thomas Unnasch, distinguished professor of public health at the University of South Florida, told WFTS outbreaks would likely still occur but wouldn't be the same "big waves" the state has seen throughout the pandemic.

With 3.6 million cases, Florida has had the third-highest case count in the country and has the fifth-highest count on a per 100,000 people basis, according to the CDC. Meanwhile, Florida Governor [Ron](#)

Unlimited access (ad free). \$49 a year

SUBSCRIBE NOW >

You have **4** free articles remaining this month

[SUBSCRIBE >](#)

protection of people's jobs by keeping the state open throughout the health crisis. A vocal advocate of monoclonal antibody treatments, DeSantis credited the outpatient therapy for helping drive down hospitalizations.

READ MORE

- [Big Pharma is Testing a Pill for COVID \(It's Not Ivermectin\)](#)
- [Ron DeSantis Gets Fundraising Boost Amid Declining Approval Rating](#)
- [DeSantis Backs Law Banning Vaccine-Related Firings, Florida County Fined](#)

DeSantis expanded access to monoclonal antibody treatments in mid-August and told a Republican crowd on Friday that medical systems, not the state government, should have been providing large swaths of people with the treatment. The treatment is authorized for use in high-risk individuals, and millions of Americans could be eligible for it because high risk includes those with a body mass index of 25 or higher.

The Florida governor has bucked mandates that require mask wearing or vaccination. He's barred school districts from implementing mask mandates, saying the decision should be left up to parents. But the governor has found himself in legal battles with parents who want their districts to be able to require masks in school.

As with local mandates, DeSantis has vowed to fight President [Joe Biden's](#) vaccination requirements. In addition to a mandate for federal workers, Biden announced in September that businesses with more than 100 employees would be required to have workers vaccinated or tested weekly.

At a press conference this past Friday, DeSantis said Florida will challenge any such mandate in federal

Unlimited access (ad free). \$49 a year

[SUBSCRIBE NOW >](#)

You have **4** free articles remaining this month

SUBSCRIBE >

REQUEST REPRINT & LICENSING, SUBMIT CORRECTION OR VIEW EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

SPONSORED CONTENT



"They Almost Killed Me" Why Tommy Chong Doesn't Trust CBD
CBD Good Vibes



Take This Mineral Before Bed And Watch Fat Melt Away!
Keto Strong



72-Year-Old Grandma Shocks Doctors: Forget Botox, Do This
Serious Skin Reverse Lift



Outrageous Vintage Ads That Would Be Banned Today
Gazillions



It's Stronger Than Adderall And Taking Florida By Storm
BrainUSA



Legal Steroid Turning Men Into Beasts Even With No Exercise
DominXT



This Ancient Japanese Tonic Melts 3 Pounds Of Fat Every 3.5 Days
Okinawa Flat Belly Tonic



If Your Dog Licks His Paws - Top Vet Says To Do This Daily
DogFoodExpose.Com

Unlimited access (ad free). \$49 a year

SUBSCRIBE NOW >

You have 4 free articles remaining this month

SUBSCRIBE >



ke While Eating

Unique Tip If Your C
Comparisons.Org



Here's What Full Mouth Dental Implants Should Cost You In 2021

Search Ads

30-second Stretch "Ends" Back Pain and Sciatica (Watch)

WeeklyPenny.Com

Florida Nursing Degree: This May Be The Cheapest Fastest Program

Search Ads



Most Paused Movie Scenes Showing A Bit Too Much

Gazillions



1 Blood Sugar Trick Keeps Blood Sugar Normal - Try Tonight!

Altai Balance

Unlimited access (ad free). \$49 a year

SUBSCRIBE NOW >

You have 4 free articles remaining this month

[SUBSCRIBE >](#)

THE DEBATE

Policymakers Must Fix Our Student Debt Crisis

BY CODY HOUNANIAN

VS

Don't Give Our Flawed Universities the Boon of a Student Loan Bailout

BY INEZ FELTSCHER STEPMAN

OPINION

A Great Consolidation Is Underway. It's Destroying the Middle Class.

BY CAROL ROTH

Unlimited access (ad free). \$49 a year

[SUBSCRIBE NOW >](#)

You have **4** free articles remaining this month

[SUBSCRIBE >](#)

BY CARMEN BLACK

Americans Don't Want Any More Wasteful Spending

BY TIM PHILLIPS

It's Time to End an Ugly U.S. Legacy. Stop Tax Evasion.

BY RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

Congress Needs To Provide Guardrails for the Cryptocurrency Revolution

BY JOSH HAMMER

The Affordable Housing Crisis Is Destroying Relationships and Families

BY AMANDA JAYNE MILLER AND COLLEEN WYNN

The U.S. is Addicted to Sanctions. Do They Work?

BY DANIEL R. DEPETRIS

What World Does The Biden Administration Live In?

BY JASON RANTZ

Latin American Unity Remains a Pipe Dream

BY ÁLVARO VARGAS LLOSA

**GET THE BEST OF
NEWSWEEK VIA EMAIL**

Email address

Unlimited access (ad free). \$49 a year

SUBSCRIBE NOW >

You have **4** free articles remaining this month

CHOOSE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

PREMIUM

Newsweek magazine delivered to your door
Unlimited access to Newsweek.com
Ad free Newsweek.com experience
iOS and Android app access
All newsletters + podcasts

[SUBSCRIBE >](#)

DIGITAL+

Unlimited access to Newsweek.com

Unlimited access (ad free). \$49 a year

[SUBSCRIBE NOW >](#)

You have **4** free articles remaining this month

[SUBSCRIBE >](#)

NEWSLETTER

BEST OF NEWSWEEK VIA EMAIL

Join half a million readers enjoying Newsweek's free newsletters

Email address

Newsweek.

© 2021 NEWSWEEK DIGITAL LLC



Editions: [U.S. Edition](#) [日本](#) [Pakistan](#) [Polska](#) [România](#)

[About Us](#) [Announcements](#) [Archive](#) [Corrections](#) [Contact Us](#) [Editorial Guidelines](#) [Mission Statement](#) [Advertise](#) [Copyright](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Cookie Policy](#) [Terms of Sale](#)

Unlimited access (ad free). \$49 a year

[SUBSCRIBE NOW >](#)

You have **4** free articles remaining this month