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Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [Gov. Reynolds lifts Iowa mask rules, limits on businesses and gatherings](#)
- [IHA releases most-recent hospital data trends](#)
- [IHA sponsors NAMI motivational series](#)
- [Greene County names new chief medical officer](#)

Gov. Reynolds lifts Iowa mask rules, limits on businesses and gatherings

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds has lifted Iowa's partial face mask mandate, public health restrictions on businesses and limits on public gatherings. The update to Gov. Reynolds' COVID-19 public health emergency declaration did not affect existing nonessential/elective surgery guidelines. The changes went into effect Sunday, Feb. 7.

Specifically, the updated COVID-19 public health emergency declaration means:

- Businesses do not need to limit their number of customers or keep them socially distanced.

Iowans no longer need to wear face coverings in public when around other people for at least 15 minutes.

- There are no limits on the number of people who can gather in public.

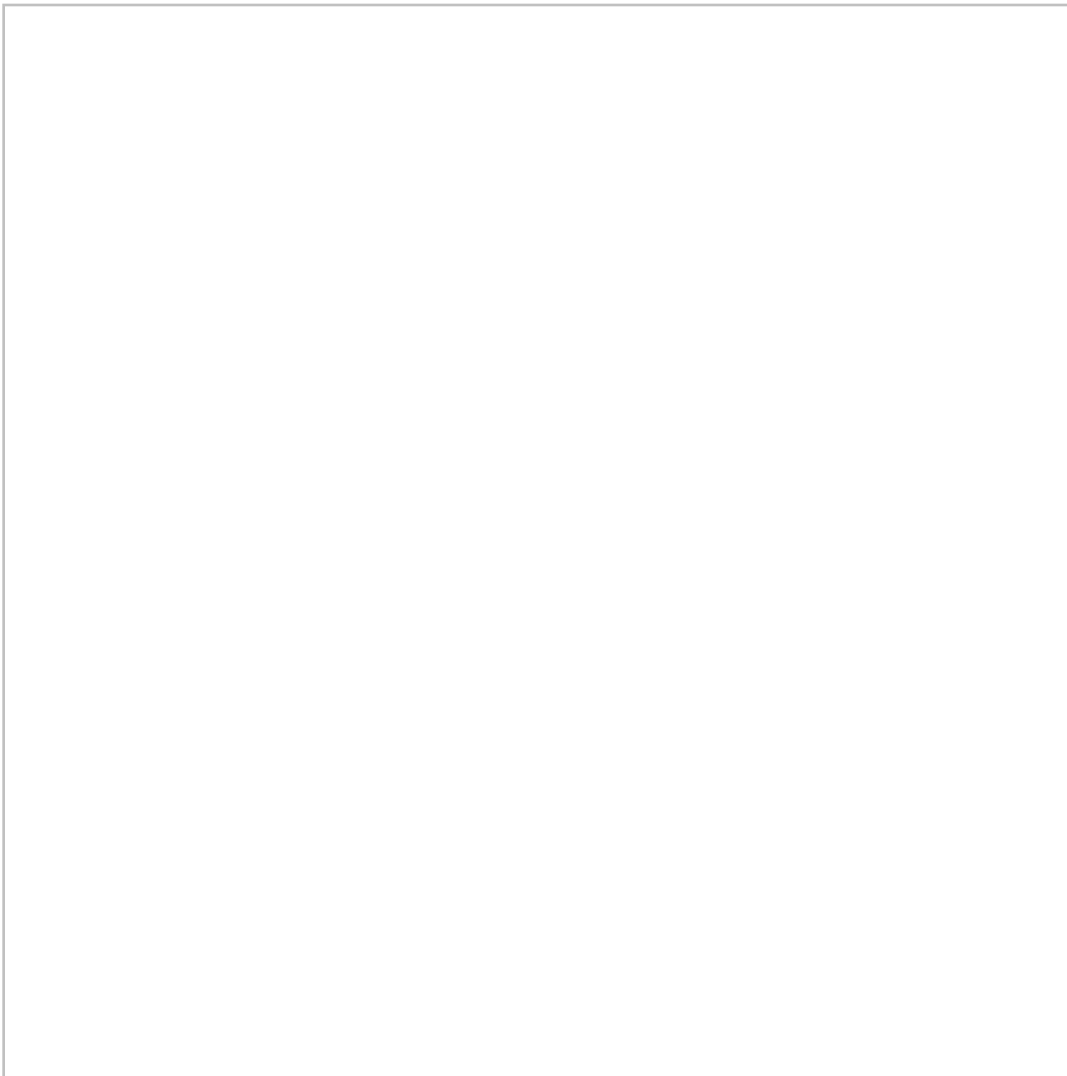
The updated proclamation encourages vulnerable Iowans (those 65 years or older, or with serious health conditions) to limit activities outside of their homes. It also strongly encourages gathering organizers to take reasonable measures to ensure the health of participants, including physical distancing and increased hygiene practices. Businesses also are strongly encouraged to take reasonable measures to ensure the health of employees, patrons and members of the public.

IHA releases most-recent hospital data trends

IHA has collected [Iowa hospital data trends](#) for the COVID-19 pandemic period of March-December 2020 as compared with the same months in 2019. For this report, 92 Iowa hospitals reported data:

- Acute discharges decreased 12.4% as acute patient days decreased 4.3%.
- Average length of stay increased 9%.
- Births decreased 6.5%.
- Charity care decreased 11.1%.
- Emergency department visits decreased 21.2%.
- Facility employment (excluding physicians) decreased 3%.
- Hospital-based ambulatory surgery visits decreased 18.3%.
- Inpatient admissions from the emergency department decreased 8.4%.
- Inpatient surgeries decreased 20.9%.
- Medicaid acute discharges decreased 11%; Medicaid acute patient days decreased 5.9%.
- Net patient revenue (collected charges) decreased 3.8%.
- Outpatient utilization decreased 7.9%.
- Total expenses increased 3.1%.
- Uncompensated care (bad debts) decreased 16.4%.

Contact [Allison Martin](#) at IHA with questions.



IHA sponsors NAMI motivational series

IHA is sponsoring the [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\) Greater Des Moines'](#) motivational speakers series, We Are Here. With You. Upcoming sessions are:

- **Feb. 17, Curtis Hill, Leadership Lessons From the Hood** – Transformed drug dealer and gang member turned educator/administrator shares lessons in overcoming adversity.
- **March 3, Sarah Noll Wilson, Chronically Curious** – Diagnosed with a panic disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in her 30s, Noll Wilson shares her humorous and inspirational journey of self-discovery.
- **March 17, Claudia Schabel, The Neuroscience of Inclusion** – Schabel offers strategies to develop and leverage workplace diversity with tools to uncover unconscious biases.
- **March 31, Devin Henderson, Something Greater Is Always Possible** – An award-winning comedian, magician and father of six daughters, Henderson shares how to use a "possibility mindset" to rise through unexpected challenges.
- **April 14, John Register, Amputate Your Fear** – A four-time All-American, decorated Gulf War veteran, amputee and Paralympic medalist, Register speaks about "hurdling adversity."

All sessions begin at noon. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Greene County names new chief medical officer

Greene County Medical Center has appointed Greene County Family Medicine Clinic provider **Laurie Connolly, MD**, as the organization's new chief medical officer. She began transitioning into

her new role Feb. 1. Dr. Connolly has worked at Greene County Family Medicine Clinic since May 2019.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Partnership will allow Iowa to help improve health care statewide](#)
- [Half of Iowa vaccine providers can deny access to noncustomers, nonpatients](#)
- [Hospitalizations continue to decline as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted](#)

National news

- [These were the specialties that used telehealth the most in 2020](#)
- [Health care CEOs on how US should prepare for next health crisis](#)
- [Pfizer expects to cut COVID-19 vaccine production time by 50%](#)

Click [HERE](#) to read all of NewsStand.

Upcoming events

- [Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program](#): Tuesday, Feb. 16.
- [COVID-19 and CEO Turnover: What's a Board to Do?](#): Wednesday, Feb. 17.
- ["The Power of You": Understanding and Maximizing Happiness and Well-Being Virtual Series](#): Thursday, Feb. 18-Thursday, Dec. 16.
- [Physician Business Leadership Certification Program](#): Tuesday, Feb. 23-Tuesday, Aug. 10.
- [Wage Index: Strategies and Trends in Iowa](#): Thursday, Feb. 25.
- [Iowa Rehabilitation Managers Virtual Spring Conference](#): Thursday, March 4.
- [Special Governance Issues for Public Hospitals](#): Wednesday, March 10
- [Common Life Safety Code Deficiencies](#): Tuesday, March 16.
- [Iowa Society for Health Care Human Resources Association Virtual Spring Conference](#): Wednesday, April 28-Thursday, April 29.
- [Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, May 11- Tuesday, Nov. 16.



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