

Main Navigation

- [News](#)
 - [Local News](#)
 - [Nebraska News](#)
 - [US & World News](#)
 - [Health News](#)
 - [Second Sunday Health Report](#)
 - [Coronavirus Updates](#)
 - [Get News Alerts](#)
 - [Submit Your News](#)
- [Weather](#)
 - [10-Day Outlook](#)
 - [Weather Radar](#)
 - [Closings & Delays](#)
 - [Flight Tracker](#)
 - [Power Outages](#)
 - [Your Weather Photos](#)
- [Sports](#)
 - [Husker Sports](#)
 - [LPS Sports Live](#)
 - [High School](#)
- [Community](#)
 - [Who's HIRING](#)
 - [What's OPEN](#)
 - [Lincoln Public Schools – Remote Learning](#)
 - [Pros That Know](#)
 - [Community Calendar Events](#)
 - [Vala's Pumpkin Patch Family Fun Giveaway](#)
 - [Nebraska Gas Tracker](#)
- [Watch](#)
 - [Live News](#)
 - [LPS Sports Live](#)
 - [Video](#)
 - [TV Schedule](#)
- [About](#)
 - [Channel 8 News Team](#)
 - [Careers](#)
 - [Closed Captioning](#)
 - [DMCA Agent](#)
 - [FCC Public File](#)
 - [FCC Applications](#)
 - [Children's TV Report](#)
 - [EEO Report](#)
 - [Terms of Use](#)
 - [Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Standard Media Group](#)

Eyebrow Menu

- [Submit News](#)
- [KLKN Apps](#)
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐



Search



Data suggest decline in positivity rate for Lancaster County since mask mandate

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[Local News](#)

[Nebraska News](#)

[US & World News](#)

[Health News](#)

Since Lincoln's mask mandate has been put in place, positivity rates for the city have been on the decline.

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August 10, 2020 10:30 AM [Mary Meyer](#)

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[10-Day Outlook](#)

[Weather Radar](#)

[Closings & Delays](#)

[Flight Tracker](#)

[Power Outages](#)

[Your Weather Photos](#)

SPORTS

[Husker Sports](#)

[LPS Sports Live](#)

[High School](#)

COMMUNITY

[Who's HIRING](#)

[What's OPEN](#)

[Lincoln Public Schools – Remote Learning](#)

[Pros That Know](#)

[Community Calendar Events](#)

[Vala's Pumpkin Patch Family Fun Giveaway](#)

[Nebraska Gas Tracker](#)

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It's been widely debated all across the country. Mask mandates.

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Lincoln Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird issued a mandate three weeks ago for the capitol city and ever since, weekly positivity rates have been on the decline.

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A good sign according to health officials.

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"Our data do indicate what appears to be the trend in the right direction. Since the mask mandate went into effect July 20th we have not seen a continued increase," Interim Health Director Pat Lopez said.

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Officials say it's hard to make the connection to the mandate and there could be other factors involved.

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Here's a look at the numbers.

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For the week of July 25th, the week the mandate went into effect, Lancaster county had a 8.3% positivity rate.

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For the week of August 1st, it dropped to 7.1%.

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Finally, the week of August 8th. The positivity rate dropping once again, this time to only 6%.

“This does suggest that our new directed health measure that included the mask mandate has really contributed to the decline,” Lopez said.

To put Lancaster counties numbers into perspective, Channel 8 looked at Douglas counties numbers as well, an area that doesn't have a mask mandate.

For the week of July 25th, they had a 9% positivity rate.

For the week of August 1st, their rate increased to 11%.

Then, the week of August 8th, a decrease for the county, to 10%.

While Omaha's numbers have always been higher than Lincoln, they aren't seeing the same kind of decline in rates as the capitol city.

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- [Local News](#)
- [Gage](#)
- [Jefferson](#)
- [Lancaster](#)
- [Saline](#)
- [Seward](#)
- [York](#)

WEATHER

- [Weather](#)
- [10-Day Outlook](#)
- [Closings & Delays](#)
- [Flight Tracker](#)
- [Power Outages](#)
- [Weather Radar](#)
- [Your Weather Photos](#)

TRAFFIC

- [Traffic](#)
- [Traffic Map](#)

SPORTS

- [Sports](#)
- [Husker Sports](#)
- [LPS Sports Live](#)
- [High School](#)

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- [Community](#)
- [Pros that Know](#)
- [Community Calendar Events](#)
- [KLKN Contests](#)

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- [Watch](#)
- [Live News](#)
- [LPS Sports Live](#)
- [LPS Sports LIVE](#)
- [Video](#)
- [TV Schedule](#)
- [Mr. Food](#)

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- [Closed Captioning](#)
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