

The Delray Democrat

We're No. 1! Florida Leads the Nation in per Capita COVID Hospitalizations¹

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Just a month ago, I expect Ron DeSantis was feeling the same way Donald Trump felt in January 2020, contemplating a second term.

In mid-June Florida hit a low for new COVID-19 cases. DeSantis was leading Nikki Fried by 22 points and Charlie Crist by 9 points in a poll. His Orwellian attacks on Critical Race Theory, something not even taught in Florida schools, were a masterful appeal to racism masquerading as a tough stance against racism.

That was then. On July 31, Florida reported its biggest one-day increase in new COVID-19 cases to the CDC, and in the month of July it reported more new cases than California and Texas combined. In the week ending July 23, Florida also [recorded](#) more coronavirus deaths in a recent week than California, Texas, New York and Illinois combined.

Florida now leads the nation in per capita hospitalizations, and according to a recent [report](#) “Florida is more likely to experience severe physical and economic suffering from COVID and to face harder, longer recovery.”

All this is down to DeSantis, who:

- Rescinded the state’s Covid-19 restrictions, recklessly declaring “We are no longer in a state of emergency.”
- Mocked the wearing of masks (how do I drink a beer with a mask on)
- Promised to pardon people convicted of violating mask orders or failure to social distance.
- Signed an executive order banning school mask mandates in public schools.

DeSantis may be smarter than Trump, and he may have better table manners, but he won’t be able to lie his way out of a virus and a crashed economy any more than Trump could. #removedeathsantis 11/8/22

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, August 2021, p. 1.