Darkest times of the pandemic

COVID-19 surge may be behind us in Nebraska, but health officials caution against complacency.

By Chris Dunker

The number of patients hospitalized because of the coronavirus continued to decrease in Nebraska in December, but the recent surge in cases has put state officials on high alert over the possibility of a new strain of COVID-19 circulating in the state.

As of Tuesday, Dec. 28, there were 214 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 in Nebraska, a marked decrease from the peak of 700 patients in November.

However, health officials say that the decrease in hospitalizations is not enough to relax precautions and that people should continue to take steps to prevent the spread of the virus, such as wearing masks, getting vaccinated and avoiding large gatherings.

"We’re seeing a decrease in hospitalizations, but we’re not seeing a decrease in cases," said Dr. Scott Skidmore, state epidemiologist.

"We need to continue to follow the guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus."