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# Ron DeSantis tells Iowa 'Fauci needs to be held accountable' for COVID claims

By [Josh Christenson](#)

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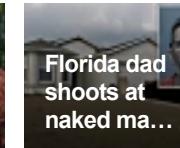
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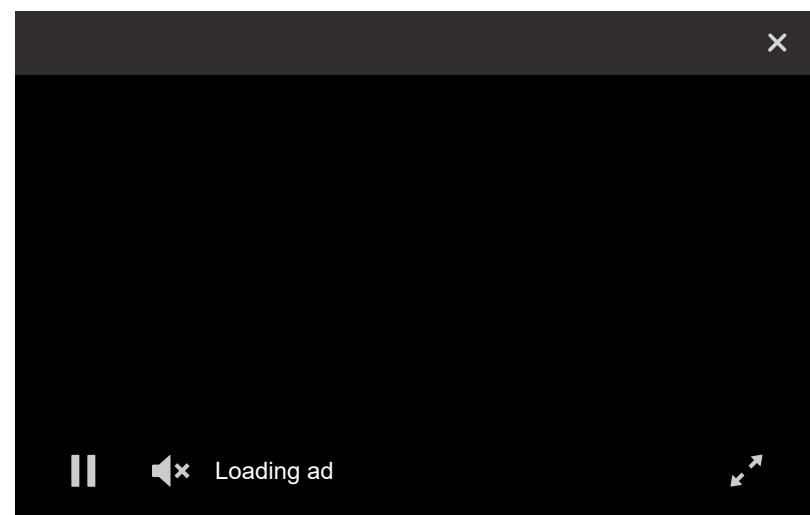
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We know now today, DeSantis, 44, told attendees at a Davenport event promoting his new book, "The Courage to be Free," "the elites were wrong about lockdowns; they were wrong about forced masking; they were wrong about closing schools; they were wrong about denying natural immunity; they were wrong about the efficacy of mRNA shots; and they were wrong — and indeed they lied — about the lab leak."

"They said it was natural — we know it came from that lab," added DeSantis, who was joined by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, to cheers and applause from the crowd at the Rhythm City Casino Resort. "And I think we need some accountability here. Fauci needs to be held accountable. All these agencies. The CCP [Chinese Communist Party]."

DeSantis, who shot to national prominence early in the pandemic due to his opposition to mask and vaccine mandates and his insistence on keeping schools and business open, also ridiculed the media during the event, saying the press was "all about furthering a partisan narrative" and that no one should be fooled into thinking journalists are "neutral gatekeepers."



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