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Purpose: The purpose of this report is to provide an update to city officials within Region 22 about the current COVID-19 Pandemic. It is essential to keep in mind that this information often changes rapidly. This report is the first of many. Any questions, suggestions or concerns can be directed:

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COVID-19 Nebraska Cases: As of 04:45 p.m., April 7, 2020. This information is updated daily and can be found by clicking [here](#).

Nebraska totals

Positive tests 447
Negative tests 6,811
Total tested 7,269
Deaths 10

Panhandle Cases:

Panhandle Totals	Scotts Bluff County	Kimball County	Cheyenne County
Positive tests 17	Positive tests 6	Positive tests 10	Positive tests 1
<u>Pending tests</u> 76	Negative tests 88	Negative tests 21	Negative tests 20
Total tests 282	Total tests 94	Total tests 31	Total tests 21

Three of the six Scotts Bluff County positive tests have recovered and are no longer under Quarantine Orders.

Directed Health Measure (DHM) – The State of Nebraska is currently under a [Directed Health Measure Order 2020-09](#). The DHM expires for the Panhandle of Nebraska on May 11, 2020, unless renewed, extended, or terminated by subsequent order.

First Responders: - Several panhandle public safety agencies have taken extensive measures to protect their employees and limit their exposure. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a concern for all first responders in Region 22. We are currently working to establish a reliable inventory of PPE in Scotts Bluff County and Banner County to identify immediate needs and to project future needs when more PPE is acquired.

Law Enforcement is working to determine the process in enforcing Quarantine Orders. Currently voluntary compliance has been successful; however it is important that officers have a clear understanding of what is required and the process necessary to take enforcement action.

Regional West Medical Center:

To protect patients, staff and slow the spread of COVID-19, Regional West has implemented a number of safety measures at its healthcare facilities.

Regional West Physicians Clinic is now offering virtual healthcare visits so patients can see their providers from the security of their homes. Virtual visits are available with providers from Regional West Physicians Clinic- Family Medicine in Scottsbluff and Sidney; Internal Medicine, Skin Clinic and Medical Aesthetic Center, Behavioral Health, Pediatrics; Diabetes Care Center; Pain Clinic; and Ear, Nose, and Throat, Head and Neck Surgery. Efforts are ongoing to add more clinics and services soon.

Urgent Care Patient services has moved to Regional West Physicians Clinic-Family Medicine, located in Medical Plaza South for non- respiratory illness and injuries at this location. Hours for Urgent Care are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Urgent Care location is now only treating respiratory illnesses by appointment. Individuals who are experiencing respiratory symptoms, including cough, and fever with shortness of breath, are asked to call 308- 630- 2100 and screeners will assist them in making an appointment at the Respiratory Clinic, located at 3011 Avenue B. Walk- ins are not accepted at the Respiratory Clinic.

Regional West is asking anyone in the western Nebraska region who has potentially been exposed to COVID- 19 and has a fever, sore throat, and cough with shortness of breath to call 308- 630- 1580 before coming to any Regional West healthcare facility, or you may call your provider and follow his or her medical advice. Healthcare providers will determine if the patient can be cared for at home or if screening is necessary. Screeners will guide you to appropriate care.

Patient, staff, and community wellness is our priority therefore we have restricted visitation. Effective, Tuesday, March 31 – Regional West has made the difficult decision to further limit visitation in its hospitals and clinics to protect our patients and providers. Therefore, no visitors will be allowed at Regional West healthcare facilities including the Medical Center, all Regional West Physicians Clinics, Surgery Center, offsite physician clinics, and Urgent Care.

Limited exceptions include:

- Pediatric units (only ONE parent/guardian will be permitted)
- Birth and Infant Care Center (only ONE significant other/support person can visit)
- Patients attending appointments at any Physicians Clinic or Urgent Care (only ONE caregiver if the patient is a minor, or the provider requests the patient be accompanied)

Regional West staff will be available to provide assistance at the door.

Community Events and Activities:

Scottsbluff:

Parks are open but playground areas and playground equipment are closed. Cleaning will be required prior to reopening.

Pathways are open.

Westmoor Swimming Pool, there are no immediate plans to open the pool but monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 virus.

Baseball and softball parks are open for informal activities; gatherings of more than 10 and the six foot rule apply.

All organized sporting **events** or **activities** are suspending but monitoring COVID-19 impact.

Gering:

Playgrounds are closed.

Lyman:

Nothing to report.

Mitchell:

Nothing to report.

Morrill:

Nothing to report.

Minatare:

Nothing to report.

Resources:

The University of Nebraska Medical Center has developed a COVID-19 screening mobile app. Click [here](#) to learn more, click [here for the App Store](#).