



## STAY HOME – STAY HEALTHY – STAY CONNECTED

For more COVID-19 Information from the region, including previous issues of this report, click [here](#).

**Published:** April 14, 2020

**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. Any questions, suggestions or concerns can be directed:

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**COVID-19 Nebraska Cases:** As of 5:03 p.m., April 13, 2020. This information is updated daily and can be found by clicking [here](#).

**United States Totals**  
 Total cases 554,849  
 Total Deaths 21,942  
[Link to US CDC](#)

**Nebraska totals**  
 Positive tests 871  
 Negative tests 10,486  
 Total tested 11,384  
 Deaths 18

### Panhandle Cases:

	Panhandle	Scotts Bluff	Kimball	Cheyenne	Box Butte
<b>Total Tests</b>	388*	170	75	42	28
<b>Negative Tests</b>	361	156	65	40	27
<b>Positive Tests</b>	27	14	10	2	1
<b>Deaths</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Recovered</b>	10	3	6	1	0

\* Does not include pending tests. Also does not include National Guard Testing from Scotts Bluff Co.

**Directed Health Measure (DHM)** - The State of Nebraska is currently under a NEW [Directed Health Measure Order 2020-010](#). The DHM expires for the Panhandle of Nebraska on May 11, 2020, unless renewed, extended, or terminated by subsequent order. This DHM orders all beauty/nail salons, barber shops, massage therapy services, gentlemen’s clubs, bottle clubs, indoor theatres, and tattoo parlors/studios are closed until April 30, 2020. All organized team sports, youth and adult, including but not limited to club sports are suspended until May 31, 2020.

## Scam Warning:

There is a scam that was brought to the attention of the Unified Command yesterday. A person received a text from an unknown person stating:

This is regional west medical center of Scottsbluff, NE, regarding results to a possible COVID-19 case confirmation, you have found to be: POSITIVE

WARNING: Quarantine immediately/notify immediate contacts.

For more information please visit:  
[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

There are several clues that this is a scam. Regional West Medical Center is not capitalized, and there are punctuation errors.

Notification for COVID-19 test results would be delivered via phone call from local public health or your local provider. It would never come through text. Please notify public health if you have received a scam of this nature.

## What does it mean to be considered “Recovered”?

**New Information** - Medically, a person must be fever-free without fever-reducing medications for three consecutive days. They must show an improvement in their other symptoms, including reduced coughing and shortness of breath. And it must be at least seven full days since the symptoms began. Ideally, the CDC wants the patient to be retested at the end of their symptoms and have TWO negative tests, 24 hours apart. However, with the shortage of tests, this part of the procedure has not been done. When testing is more prevalent, these retests will become common.

## Regional West Health Services:

**New Information** - As an increased safety precaution, Regional West’s North Plaza Laboratory Services has temporarily moved to a conference room in Scottsbluff’s Hampton Inn and Suites, located at Highway 26 and Avenue B. The conference room is accessible through the hotel’s east entrance and is the first door on the right. All patients seeking blood draws are encouraged to utilize this location instead of at the Regional West campus. Phlebotomy and specimen drop-off services are now available at the Hampton Inn and Suites location Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary. West Nebraska Blood Center has also relocated to the Hampton Inn and Suites location and is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Many Regional West Physicians Clinics are now offering virtual healthcare visits so patients can see their providers from home. Patients can choose to see their provider in person or to stay home and keep their healthcare appointment using an app on a smartphone or computer. Almost all Regional West Physicians Clinic healthcare providers are now offering the virtual visits to provide exams, consultations, and follow-up appointments.

## **Testing for Healthcare and First Responders:**

The Nebraska National Guard arrived Friday morning at the Scotts Bluff County Fairgrounds in Mitchell and tested 50 healthcare and first response personnel in Scottsbluff and Scotts Bluff County. Another 49 were tested on Saturday. These tests were prioritized for healthcare and first response personnel that have had an exposure or potential exposure to people with known or suspected COVID-19. Test results are coming back in soon but are not back yet.

## **News from Surrounding States:**

Goshen County, Wyoming – Goshen County still has three positive cases of COVID-19. Emergency Manager Shelly Kirchhefer says their COVID activity level has leveled off at this point. No new cases in several days. Their main issue early on was what to tell workers that needed to continue to cross the state line for work. They have people who live in Nebraska that work in Goshen County and vice versa. Ultimately, it comes down to stressing social distancing and good hygiene while going about daily business.

Logan County, Colorado – Logan County has 13 active cases. Their first case was back on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. They have climbed slowly but steadily, only reporting one or two cases a day, followed by a few days without new cases. Three days ago was their largest jump at three new cases. However, they have not had a new cases since then. They developed a “Logan County Symptom Tracker” online using Google Forms. Logan County Emergency Manager Jerry Casebolt says he begins his day at 8:00 a.m. with his three County Commissioners and the County PIO. They brainstorm for about three hours each day. They are in the process of developing a Logan County Recovery Task Force with an eye toward how to return to a sense of normalcy.

***New Information*** – Pennington County, South Dakota – In speaking with Emergency Manager Dustin Willett of Pennington County, they have only eight cases with five recoveries. The one case that was reported as a Pennington County COVID death had been out of state for several months. The person neither contracted COVID, nor died from it in South Dakota. But due to the address being in Pennington County, the data reflects this as a Pennington County case. They are finding that with the increase of COVID testing in symptomatic persons, they are detecting 10-20 daily cases of influenza but no real increase in COVID. Mr. Willett says their main tasking is currently locating housing for symptomatic homeless. This has not been an issue yet, but is a potential issue they are planning for. Their second issue is funding sources for local governments to help make them whole again. The CARES ACT does not include much to help local governments. He is looking to the next stimulus package to address that. For now, many governmental departments receive some type of Federal funding and those departments are looking at ways they can leverage those existing funding streams.

**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](#).

How to wear cloth face coverings and CDC guidance on homemade cloth face coverings click [here](#).

To find a Comparison of COVID-19 Loan Programs – Forgiveness Terms click [here](#).

Map of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in U.S. Counties: [March 1 through Today](#).

Small Business Guidance and Loan Resources can be found [here](#).

Nebraska DHHS COVID-19 information can be found [here](#).

For information on Potential Community Exposure Sites, please click [here](#).