



STAY HOME – STAY HEALTHY – STAY CONNECTED

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

Published: April 15, 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:

Kevin Spencer	office: (308) 630-6260	cell: (308) 641-2317
Tim Newman	office: (308) 436-6689	cell: (308) 765-2786

COVID-19 Nebraska Cases: As of 4:45 p.m., April 14, 2020. This information is updated daily and can be found by clicking [here](#).

United States Totals
 Total cases 579,005
 Total Deaths 22,252
[Link to US CDC](#)

Nebraska totals
 Positive tests 901
 Negative tests 10,828
 Total tested 11,757
 Deaths 20

Panhandle Cases:

County	Panhandle	Scotts Bluff	Kimball	Cheyenne	Box Butte	Morrill
Total Tests	520*	291	75	43	28	24
Negative Tests	488	274	65	40	27	23
Positive Tests	32	17	10	3	1	1
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recovered	10	3	6	1	0	0

* Does not include pending tests. **New Information** – Test results returned the night of April 14th added four new positives and 29 new negatives to the Panhandle. The positives are reflected by county above, but the negatives are only reflected in the total Panhandle Cases and not by county. That information is not yet available.

What does it mean to be considered “Recovered”?

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.

Scam Warning:

There is a scam that was brought to the attention of the Unified Command on Monday. 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

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.

Testing for Healthcare and First Responders:

New Information – *The Nebraska National Guard tested 99 health, medical and first response personnel on Friday and Saturday, April 11th and 12th. Those test results were received by Panhandle Public Health District on Tuesday afternoon. Ninety-eight were negative. One person in their teens was positive for COVID-19. The person had been in close contact with a previous positive case. This one positive is reflected in the updated numbers on the first page of this report.*

Regional West Health Services:

New Information – *Regional West announced on Tuesday, April 14th, that they will begin placing some employees on furlough. This is due to the reduced volume of patients being seen for procedures, clinics and tests. This will reduce the financial burden on the hospital along with the federal support programs.*

Agriculture Issues during COVID:

New Information – *Anne Kelley, County Executive Director at the USDA Farm Service Agency Scotts Bluff County Office relayed this information to me. “At this time, our producers are entering planting season and wrapping up calving season which naturally brings with it social distancing as farmers spend long hours in tractors to get fields prepared and planted and ranchers spend long hours checking their herds. Soon ranchers will be moving their herds from corn stalks to pastures, some on horseback and some on ATVs and 4 wheelers, this is work that can be done while maintaining social distance..*

Food Security in Nebraska:

New Information – During the daily press briefing with Governor Ricketts on April 14th, it was announced that certain regulations are being relaxed on restaurants. They will now be able to take bulk foods that they normally receive and repackage it for individual retail resale to help smaller towns that have no grocery store nearby. This will encourage smaller crowds to shop for some specific grocery items from their local restaurants, diners and cafes. This announcement was made by Zoe Olson of the Nebraska Restaurant Association.

News from Surrounding States:

Logan County, Colorado – Logan County has 13 active cases. Their first case was back on March 22nd. 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.

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](#).