

STAY HOME – STAY HEALTHY – STAY CONNECTED

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

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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. Any questions, suggestions or concerns can be directed:

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COVID-19 Nebraska Cases:

As of 4:45 p.m., April 20, 2020. This information is updated daily and can be found by clicking [here](#).

United States Totals

Total cases 746,625

Total Deaths 39,083

[Link to US CDC](#)

Nebraska totals

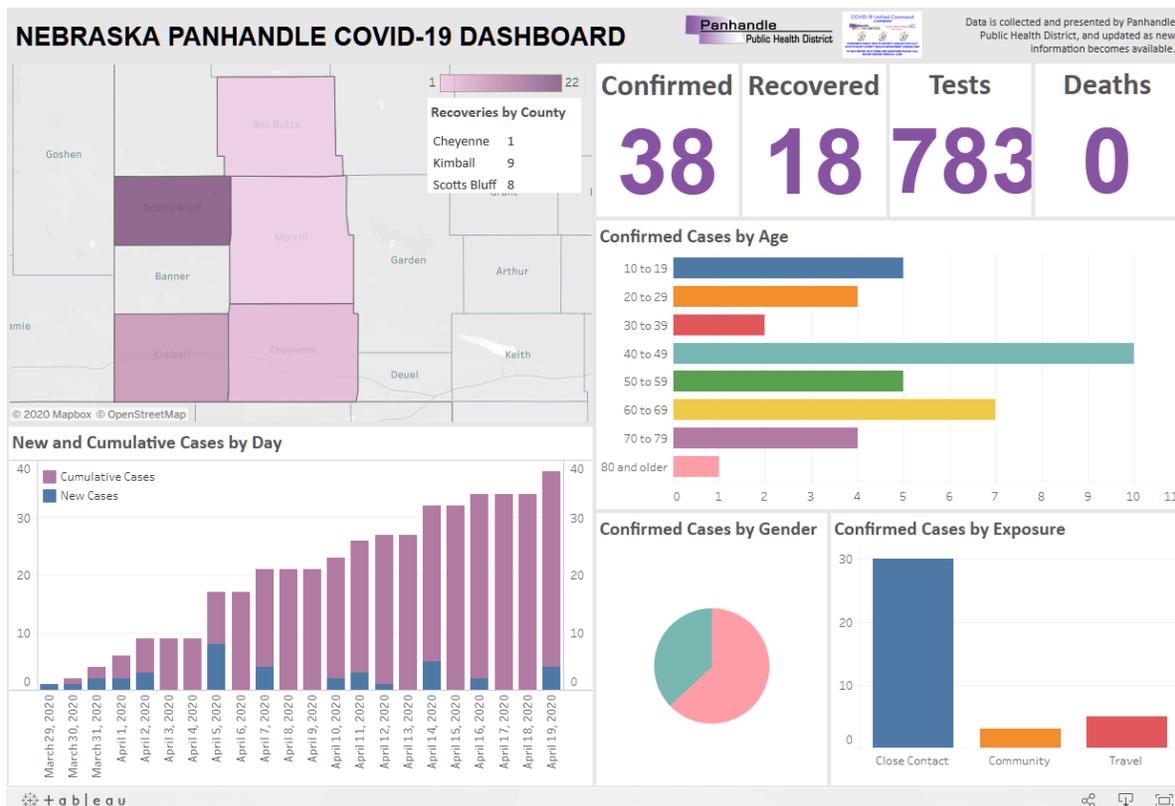
Positive tests 1,648

Negative tests 14,724

Total tested 16,478

Deaths 33

This dashboard is hot-linked to [phd.org](#).



Panhandle Cases:

County	Panhandle	Scotts Bluff	Kimball	Cheyenne	Box Butte	Morrill
Total Tests	653*	251	79	160	42	58
Negative Tests	615	229	69	156	41	57
Positive Tests	38	22	10	4	1	1
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recovered	18	8	9	1	0	0

* Does not include pending tests.

Governor Announces Resumption of Elective Surgeries, Eye, Dental and Veterinarian Procedures:

New Information – Governor Ricketts announced today in his daily press briefing that beginning May 4th, he is relaxing the restrictions on elective surgeries for hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers under certain conditions. First, the hospital must have 30% bed availability. The second condition is that 30% of ICU beds must be available. The third condition is that 30% of their ventilators must be available. The final condition that the facility must have two weeks of PPE on hand. Veterinary, Eye and Dental services are also set to resume on May 4th under similar conditions.

The Governor also announced that a Health Alert Network (HAN) advisory will soon go out to the state's healthcare providers loosening some of the restrictions on COVID testing. It will be left to the provider's discretion whether to test an individual for COVID. Previously, certain parameters had to be present in order to approve a COVID test, including being symptomatic or being a close contact of a confirmed case.

Severe Weather Awareness during a Pandemic:

It is up to every individual to have a plan what they will do in case of severe weather. Make your arrangements NOW. Do not wait until storm warnings are happening to decide what to do.

- There are no actual “community shelters” in the Panhandle with the exception of the Safe Room at Minatare High School. No other “government owned” facilities exist.
 - In Region 22, there is a list of businesses and churches that have agreed to open portions of their buildings as storm shelters, usually during business hours only. This list can be found on the Scotts Bluff County Website under [Emergency Management](#).
 - Those that have agreed to be such places that people can shelter are encouraged to disinfect their facilities now in anticipation of this year's storm season, and again after each use.
 - It would be helpful if those places also had hand sanitizer available.
- If you are sick, or have been a potential exposure, try to shelter privately instead of going to a public shelter.
- Only go to a community shelter as a last resort, when no other shelter options are available.
- Wear a cloth or better mask if available.
- Maintain as much distance from each other as possible, even if six feet is not achievable.
- Shelter from a storm should always outweigh the potential for contracting a communicable disease.
- As soon as it is safe to do so, vacate the shelter and wash your hands and monitor your symptoms for the next 14 days.

Guidelines for Reopening the State

New Information - The proposed Federal guidelines for the reopening of states include certain criteria and phases. To get to each phase, there are certain criteria that needs to be met. A downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) and COVID-like cases reported within a 14-day period must be met. A downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period must also occur. Hospitals must be treating all patients without crisis care and a robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing must be in place. When these conditions are met, the state can move to Phase One. These phases allow the economy to open in a guarded careful manner. To see the phases and criteria, please visit, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>.

Regional West: Call before Going to Any Healthcare Facility

New Information - Regional West is asking anyone 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. You may also call your provider and follow his or her medical advice. Healthcare providers will determine if you can be cared for at home or if screening is necessary. Screeners will guide you to appropriate care.

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](#).

To read the most recent Directed Health Measure (DHM) from the Governor, click [here](#).