



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 21, 2020. This information is updated daily and can be found by clicking [here](#).

United States Totals

Total cases 776,093

Total Deaths 41,758

[Link to US CDC](#)

Nebraska totals

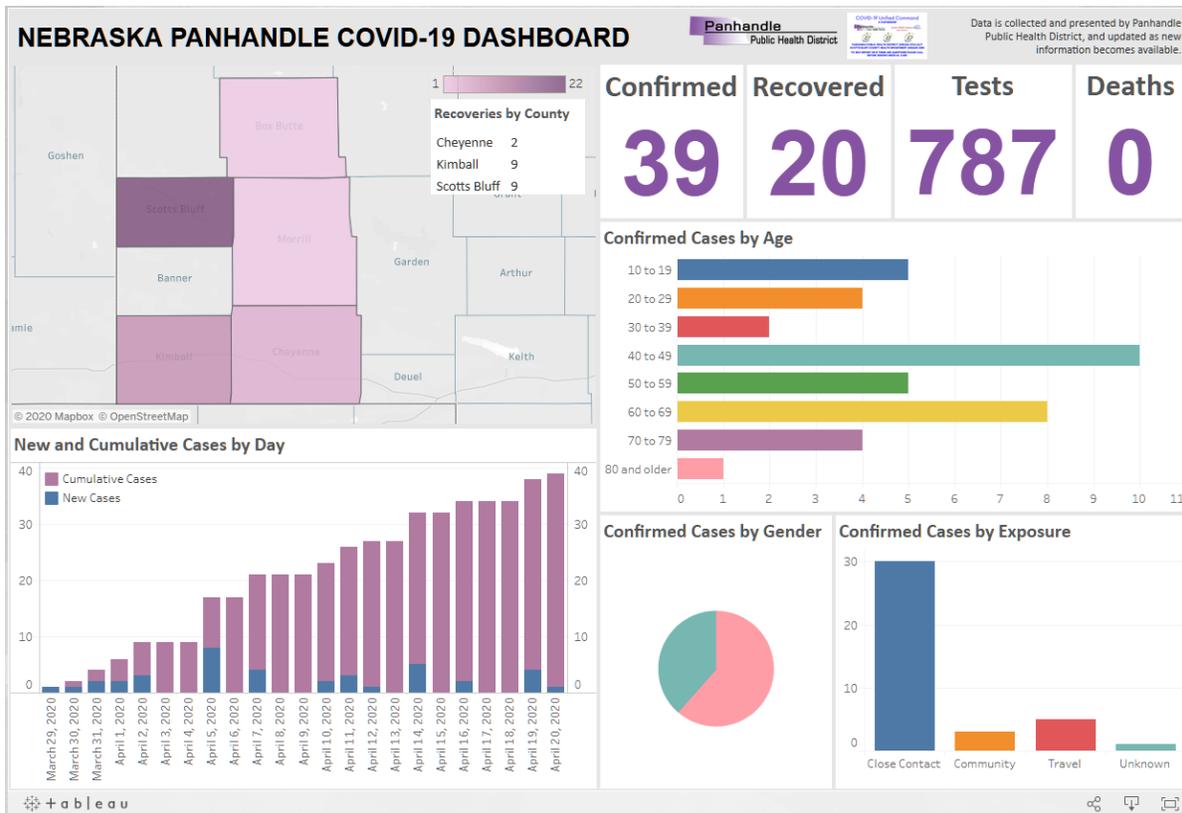
Positive tests 1,722

Negative tests 14,957

Total tested 16,813

Deaths 38

This dashboard is hot-linked to pphd.org.



Panhandle Cases:

County	Panhandle	Scotts Bluff	Kimball	Cheyenne	Box Butte	Morrill
Total Tests	662*	251	79	161	42	58
Negative Tests	615	229	69	156	41	57
Positive Tests	39	22	10	5	1	1
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recovered	20	9	9	2	0	0

* Does not include pending tests.

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

Governor Ricketts announced on Monday 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.

Governor Ricketts Rolls Out "TESTNEBRASKA.COM"

New Information – During his daily press briefing on Tuesday, Governor Ricketts announced a new initiative that will be starting in about 10 days. Partnering with a number of private companies, the State of Nebraska unveiled Test Nebraska. This new initiative has plans to be able to test up to 3,000 Nebraskans per day. For comparison, the State lab currently has a capacity of about 800-1000 tests per day. The public-private partnership will provide Nebraska an additional 500,000 tests than it currently has. Persons are encouraged to go now to www.testnebraska.com to begin an assessment. Testing will take place in phases. Phase one will be the health, medical and first responders. Phase two will be looking for those people who are symptomatic. Phase three will be the long-term phase and will be more asymptomatic population sampling. This testing will be free to the public. The State of Nebraska is paying for this testing.

Playground Equipment

New Information – Questions have been asked about playground equipment and if it is recommended to reopen it. This is due to the fact that sunlight kills the COVID-19 virus. There are a number of problems with opening playground equipment at this time. It can take up to three days for sunlight to kill the virus on some surfaces, including plastic and metals. The National Parks and Recreation Association still recommends leaving playgrounds closed. Finally, the Governor's Six Rules to slow the spread still recommend to not let children visit playgrounds. This is also the recommendation from Unified Command.

Guidelines for Reopening the State

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

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](#).

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Daily Situation Report can be found [here](#). The information on this site is For Official Use Only, not to be shared with the general public.