



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 22, 2020. This information is updated daily and can be found by clicking [here](#).

United States Totals

Total cases 802,583

Total Deaths 44,575

[Link to US CDC](#)

Nebraska totals

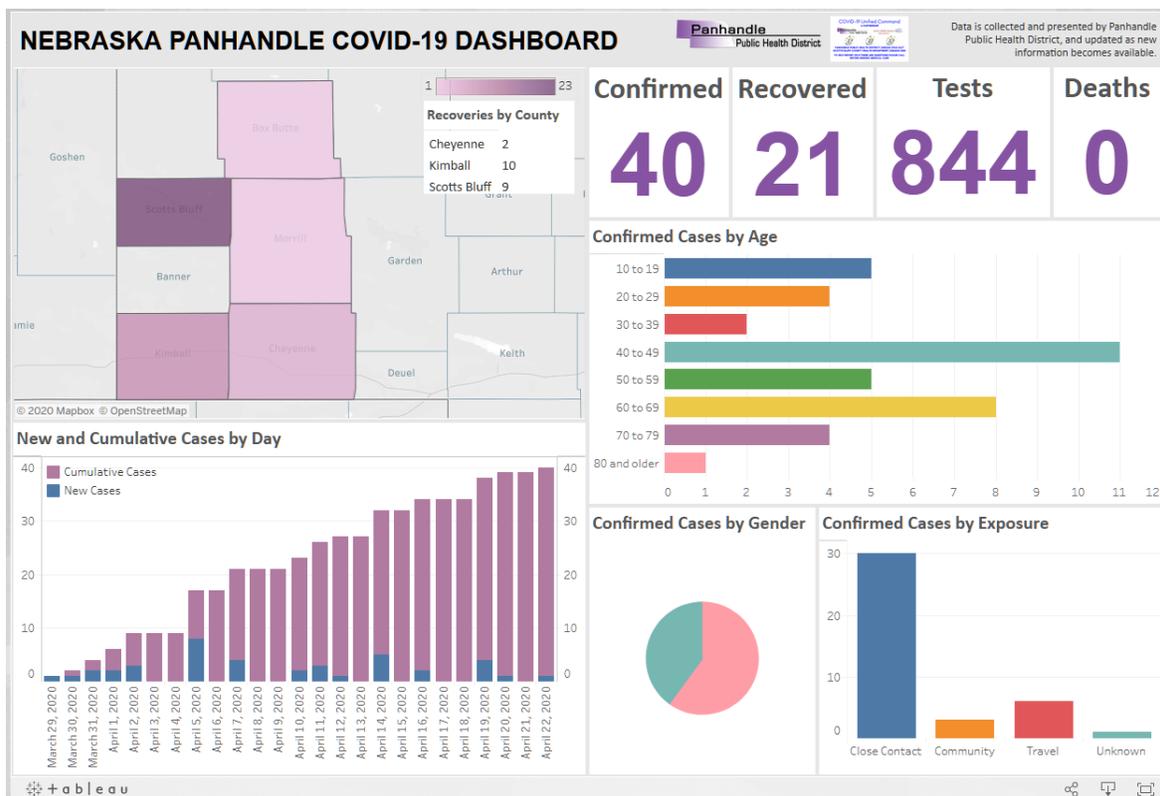
Positive tests 1,813

Negative tests 15,547

Total tested 17,394

Deaths 42

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



Panhandle Cases:

County	Panhandle	Scotts Bluff	Kimball	Cheyenne	Box Butte	Morrill
Total Tests	679*	263	79	162	47	60
Negative Tests	639	240	69	157	46	59
Positive Tests	40	23	10	5	1	1
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recovered	21	9	10	2	0	0

* Does not include pending tests.

Spotlight on Recoveries

New Information – We wanted to bring attention to the fact that, while the Panhandle continues to have positive cases identified, we also have a number of residents that have recovered from the disease and are out of isolation. Of particular note is that Kimball County, a county that once had the highest case count in the Panhandle, now has no active cases. All ten positive cases have recovered and are out of isolation. Panhandle-wide, the recoveries are over 50% of the total cases. And so far, there have been no COVID-related deaths in the Panhandle. The low rate of spread in the Panhandle is a testament to the high adherence to the social distancing guidelines. Keep up the good work!

Scams and Fraud

New Information – Homeland Security reminds everyone to be careful. There are many scams and fraud schemes trying to take advantage of the COVID-19 crisis. Do not click on unsolicited emails or texts. Ensure a secure browser connection. Make sure the URL begins with **https** only. Verify website trust seals before placing any online orders. Official U.S. Government websites end in **.gov** so inspect the URL of the website and verify the destination. Do not assume that an email that seems to come from someone you know is actually coming from them. Look at the sender's actual email address. The FBI has seen a rise in fraud schemes related to the crisis. Scammers are leveraging the COVID-19 pandemic to steal money, personal information, or both. Do research before clicking on links purporting to provide information on the virus; donating to a charity online or through social media; contributing to a crowdfunding campaign; purchasing products online; or giving up personal information in order to receive money or other benefits.

Governor Ricketts Rolls Out “TESTNEBRASKA.COM”

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

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.

New Information – *The CDC has some recommendations regarding parks.*

- *If you are not feeling well, please do not go to the park.*
- *If the park is crowded, please leave and come back another time.*
- *Go to the park closest to your home to avoid traveling long distances and having to stop to use facilities.*
- *As you walk or jog through the park, remember to “social distance” by staying at least six feet away from others.*
- *Do not use or let children use playground equipment.*

Counties and Municipalities

New Information – *During this pandemic, cities and villages are doing everything possible to limit the spread of COVID-19. Municipalities are supporting EMTs, police officers, firefighters, and other first responders. They're also supporting healthcare workers at municipal nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and hospitals. They are grappling with the partial shutdown of government services and protecting their essential workers. Municipal officials are addressing these issues on a regular basis. The League of Nebraska Municipalities has compiled a list of helpful websites that can be found at <https://www.lonm.org/coronavirus.html>*

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.