



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 26, 2020. This information is updated daily and can be found by clicking [here](#).

United States Totals

Total cases 928,619

Total Deaths 52,459

[Link to US CDC](#)

Nebraska totals

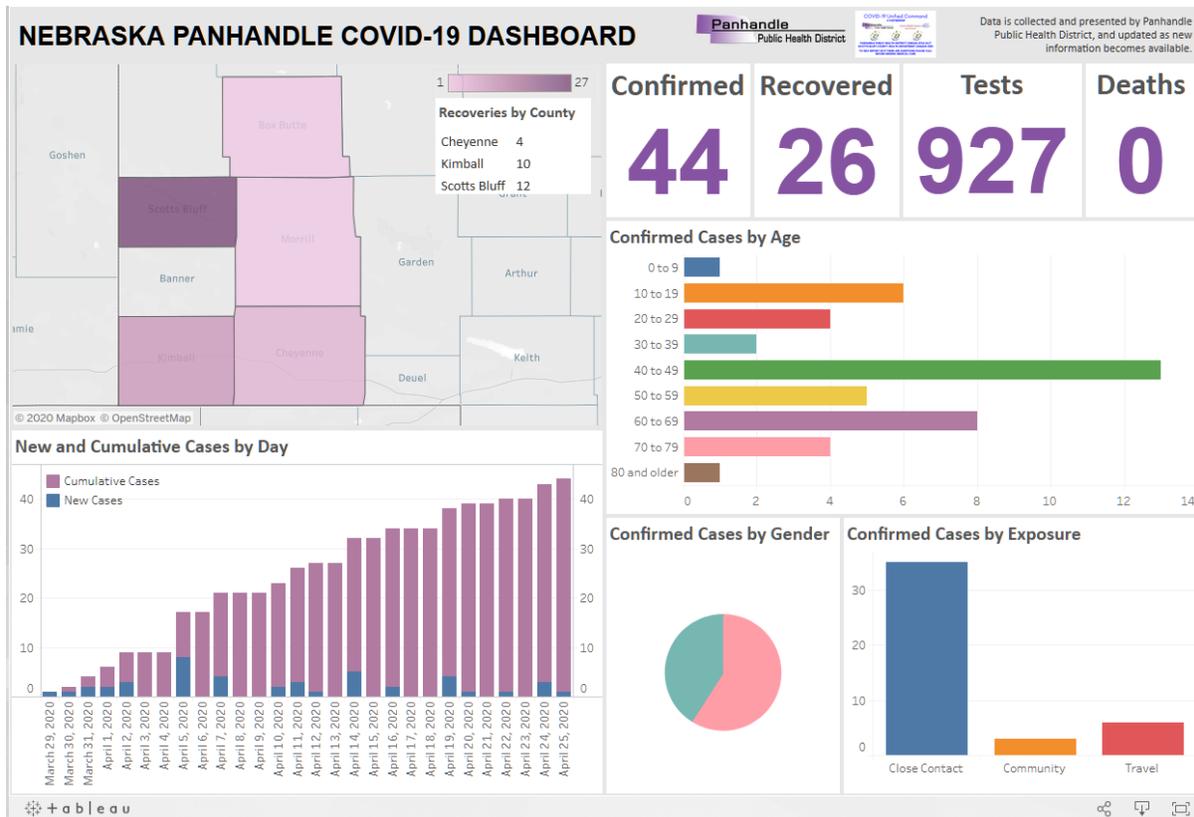
Positive tests 3,028

Negative tests 19,335

Total tested 22,525

Deaths 56

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



Panhandle Cases:

Source: [Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services](#)

County	Panhandle	Scotts Bluff	Kimball	Cheyenne	Box Butte	Morrill
Total Tests	775*	321	82	170	58	68
Negative Tests	671	294	72	165	57	67
Positive Tests	44	27	10	5	1	1
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recovered	26	12	10	4	0	0

* Does not include pending tests.

FEMA Grants Portal

The current COVID-19 crisis in Nebraska has been declared a Major Disaster by FEMA. The Disaster number is DR-4521. This declaration is made for the Public Assistance Program, which allows, states, counties, cities and villages to file a Request for Public Assistance (RPA). This also allows school systems and certain Private Non-Profits to file an RPA as well. All entities should be in the FEMA Grants Portal. If your entity has not yet registered in the Grants Portal, there are instructions and guides located [here](#). Even if your entity does not anticipate having costs associated with this disaster, still register in the portal. There are several pieces of information that needs to be uploaded into the system that can reside there until the next disaster. This includes insurance information, payroll policies, mutual aid agreements, etc. The entity does not have to know your exact costs or final expenditures to file the RPA. FEMA uses the number of RPA filings as a guideline to determine their staffing levels to be sent to the states when the time comes. Once again, that website is <https://nema.nebraska.gov/recovery/nebraska-covid-19-dr-4521>

New Directed Health Measure to go into effect May 4th

New Information - Governor Ricketts will be issuing a separate Directed Health Measures (DHM) for each health district. Panhandle Public Health District's DHM will go into effect May 4th. More details will be released in the next few days, but here are some of the highlights.

- **Elective *medical and dental* surgeries and procedures (including *vision* appointments) will resume as long as the hospitals maintain a 30% bed availability, 30% ICU bed availability, 30% ventilator availability and at least a two week supply of PPE on hand.**
- **Churches will be allowed to reopen with a modified 6-foot separation rule. Churches will need to ensure six feet of separation between different household units. No passing of any items amongst congregants. This will also allow funerals and weddings with more than the current 10-person limit. An expanded guidance document will be provided soon.**
- **Beauty/nail salons, barber shops, massage therapy services, tattoo parlors/studios will be allowed to reopen with certain restrictions. They will be included in the 10 Person Rule and will remain closed until May 4. Both workers and patrons will be required to wear masks.**
- **Restaurants will be allowed to reopen to dine-in options if all of the following conditions are met. They will be limited to 50% of rated occupancy maximum at a time. They will need to maintain six feet separation between seating of different parties. Maximum of six individuals in a dining party (groups larger than six will need to split into multiple tables). Self-serve buffets and salad bars are prohibited. Restaurant staff must serve food directly to customers or implement buffet orders from the customer table. No customer self-service. Bar seating not permitted.**

Patrons may only consume alcohol on premise if also consuming a meal. Bars that do not serve food will remain limited to carry-out sales and delivery only.

- **Daycare Facilities** will expand to not more than 15 kids per room/space. All other state provisions, statutes, regulations, including child to staff ratios, still apply.
- **Bars, Gentleman's Clubs, Bottle Clubs, Indoor Movie Theaters, and Indoor Theaters** will remain closed until May 31st but subject to change before that date.

Strategic National Stockpile

Since mid-March, three shipments of PPE have been distributed from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to each of the four regional states. Quantities were determined based on population recorded in the 2010 U.S. census. To date, the federal government has provided the following quantities from the national stockpile:

- Iowa: Approximately 283,000 surgical masks, 261,000 pairs of gloves, 119,000 N95 respirators, 47,000 surgical gowns, 58,000 face shields and 1,900 coveralls.
- Kansas: Approximately 274,000 surgical masks, 257,000 pairs of gloves, 115,000 N95 respirators, 46,000 surgical gowns, 56,000 face shields and 1,900 coveralls.
- Missouri: Approximately 418,000 surgical masks, 336,000 pairs of gloves, 115,000 N95 respirators, 68,000 surgical gowns, 83,000 face shields and 2,000 coveralls.
- Nebraska: Approximately 227,000 surgical masks, 231,000 pairs of gloves, 96,000 N95 respirators, 39,000 surgical gowns, 47,000 face shields and 1,800 coveralls.

Online Extortion Scams Increasing During the Covid-19 Crisis

New Information – *The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) has seen an increase in reports of online extortion scams during the current "stay-at-home" orders due to the COVID-19 crisis. Because large swaths of the population are staying at home and likely using the computer more than usual, scammers may use this opportunity to find new victims and pressure them into sending money. The scammers are sending e-mails threatening to release sexually explicit photos or personally compromising videos to the individual's contacts if they do not pay. While there are many variations of these online extortion attempts, they often share certain commonalities.*

Scam Commonalities:

Online extortion schemes vary, but there are a few common indicators of the scam. The following characteristics are not all-inclusive but should serve as red flags. It is important to remember that scammers adapt their schemes to capitalize on current events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, high-profile breaches, or new trends involving the Internet, all in an attempt to make their scams seem more authentic.

- *The online extortion attempt comes as an e-mail from an unknown party and, many times, will be written in broken English with grammatical errors.*
- *The recipient's personal information is noted in the e-mail or letter to add a higher degree of intimidation to the scam. For example, the recipient's user name or password is provided at the beginning of the e-mail or letter.*
- *The recipient is accused of visiting adult websites, cheating on a spouse, or being involved in other compromising situations.*

- *The e-mail or letter includes a statement like, "I had a serious spyware and adware infect your computer," or "I have a recorded video of you" as an explanation of how the information was allegedly gathered.*
- *The e-mail or letter threatens to send a video or other compromising information to family, friends, coworkers, or social network contacts if a ransom is not paid.*
- *The e-mail or letter provides a short window to pay, typically 48 hours.*
- *The recipient is instructed to pay the ransom in Bitcoin, a virtual currency that provides a high degree of anonymity to the transactions.*

Tips to Protect Yourself:

- *Do not open e-mails or attachments from unknown individuals.*
- *Monitor your bank account statements regularly, and your credit report at least once a year for any unusual activity.*
- *Do not communicate with unsolicited e-mail senders.*
- *Do not store sensitive or embarrassing photos or information online or on your mobile devices.*
- *Use strong passwords and do not use the same password for multiple websites.*
- *Never provide personal information of any sort via e-mail. Be aware that many e-mails requesting your personal information appear to be legitimate.*
- *Ensure security settings for social media accounts are activated and set at the highest level of protection.*
- *Verify the web address of legitimate websites and manually type the address into your browser.*
- *The FBI does not condone the payment of online extortion demands as the funds will facilitate continued criminal activity, including potential organized crime activity and associated violent crimes.*

Victim Reporting:

If you believe you have been a victim of this scam, reach out to your local FBI field office, and file a complaint with the IC3 at www.ic3.gov. Please provide any relevant information in your complaint, including the online extortion e-mail with header information and Bitcoin address if available.

Resources:

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.