

STAY HOME – STAY HEALTHY – STAY CONNECTED

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

Published: April 28, 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 27, 2020. This information is updated daily and can be found by clicking [here](#).

United States Totals

Total cases 957,875

Total Deaths 53,922

[Link to US CDC](#)

Nebraska totals

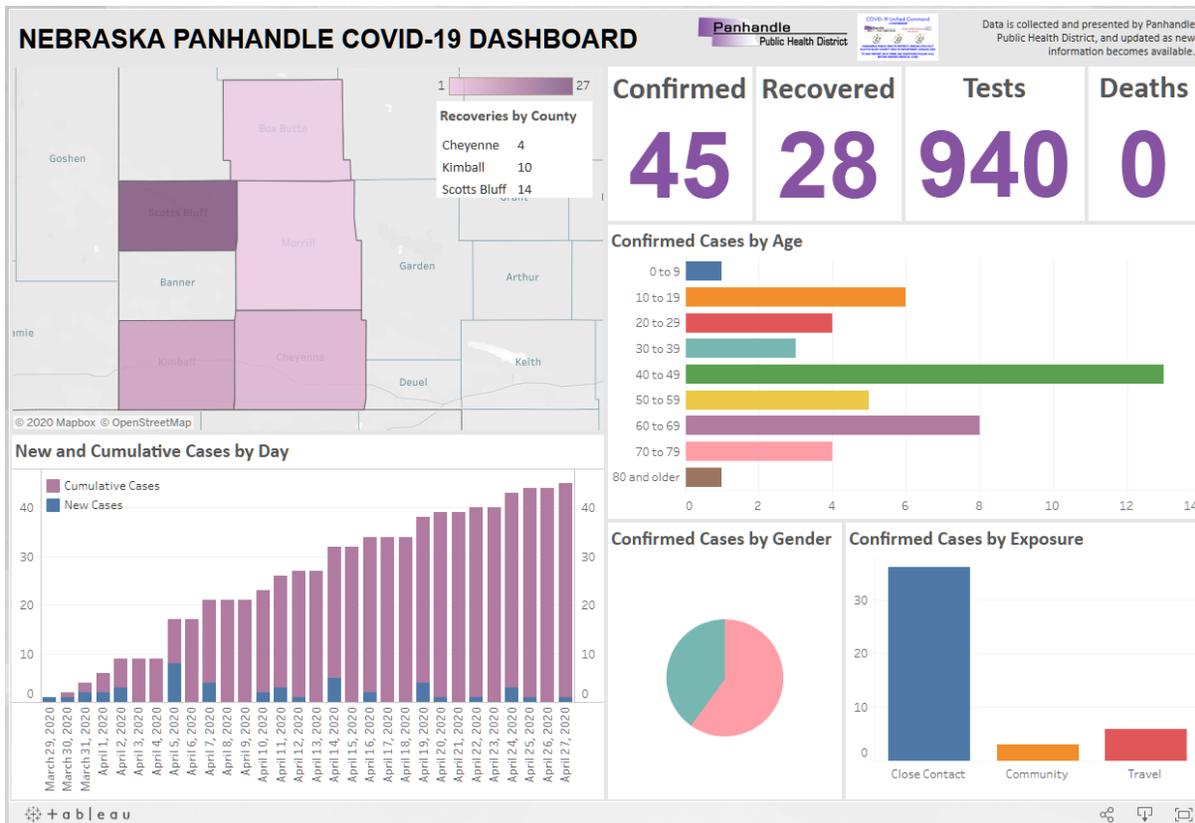
Positive tests 3,358

Negative tests 20,247

Total tested 23,772

Deaths 55

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



Panhandle Cases:

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

County	Panhandle	Scotts Bluff	Kimball	Cheyenne	Box Butte	Morrill
Total Tests	798*	334	83	174	60	69
Negative Tests	671	307	73	168	59	68
Positive Tests	45	27	10	6	1	1
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recovered	28	14	10	4	0	0

* Does not include pending tests.

New Directed Health Measure to go into effect May 4th

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.

Get Nebraska Growing Initiative

New Information – Governor Ricketts announced the formation of a business task force to restore growth to Nebraska's economy. Nebraska Department of Economic Development Director Tony Goins will chair the task force. He joined the Governor at Monday's press briefing to talk about the mission of the task force. The State of Nebraska is working closely with business leaders to restore growth to our economy. Goins said that the state of Nebraska is

working closely with business leaders to restore growth to the economy. He said that the task force is committed to resuming business operations safely and within the public health guidelines.

Goins said the task force has engaged advisors from various industry associations, such as cosmetology, restaurants and retail. He said that they are working closely with the Chambers of Commerce. He said that using clear communication will be key as they start rolling out best practices for various industries.

He also said that the guidelines are being developed to address the needs of communities with varying intensity of the virus. Goins said they are coming up with guidelines that prioritize safety. He asks that if community leaders have ideas, he encourages them to share via email at DED.Info@nebraska.gov. The task force also encourages questions and dialogue. Contact the task force at 800-426-6505 with your input.

Online Extortion Scams Increasing During the Covid-19 Crisis

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.