

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

United States Totals

Total cases 981,246

Total Deaths 55,258

[Link to US CDC](#)

Nebraska totals

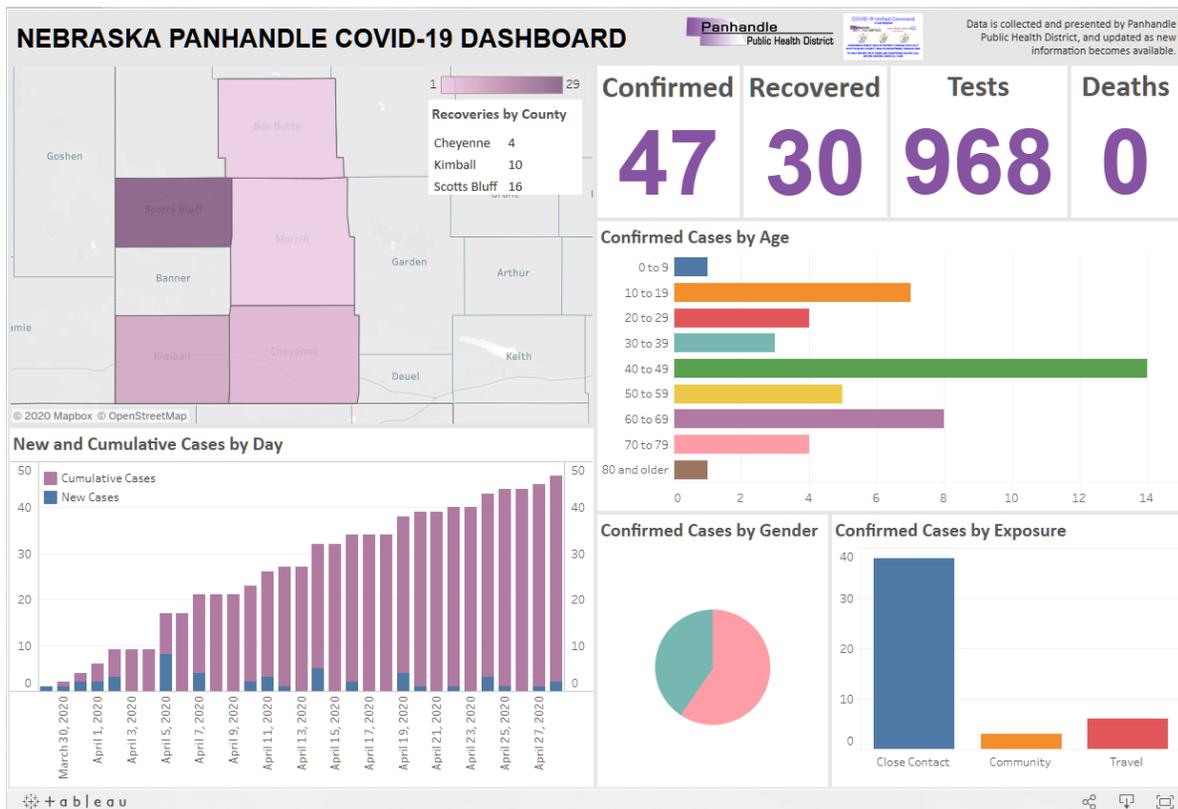
Positive tests 3,374

Negative tests 20,257

Total tested 23,798

Deaths 55

This dashboard is hot-linked to [ppha.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 | 751 | 307 | 73 | 168 | 59 | 68 |
| Positive Tests | 47 | 29 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Deaths | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Recovered | 30 | 16 | 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.

Legal Aid of Nebraska

New Information – I briefly spoke with Shirley Peng, Disaster Relief Project Manager with Legal Aid of Nebraska. I asked her about a number of issues that some of our citizens could find themselves facing. I spoke to her about issues, such as unemployment, rent and mortgage payments, problems with stimulus

payments, and other issues surrounding the COVID-19 crisis. She directed me to their website at Legal Aid of Nebraska specifically established for these issue. That website is:

<https://www.legalaidofnebraska.org/how-we-help/resources/covid-19-coronavirus/>

There are a number of issues covered by the website including questions about the “Families First Coronavirus Response Act”. This is the act that extended unemployment benefits specifically in regards to COVID-19. It also grants certain allowances for child care, sick leave and emergency leave. Other issues covered in the website are the CARES Act and questions concerning Rent, Mortgage and Eviction. This includes information about Housing Authorities. Please visit their website and be prepared to direct questions about the issues covered to Legal Aid of Nebraska.

Get Nebraska Growing Initiative

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.

Restaurant Guidance

New Information – *With the new Directed Health Measure being released that will allow restaurants to begin dine-in options to resume, some guidance has been released by the Nebraska Restaurant Association on best practices. A ten-page booklet from the National Restaurant Association can be downloaded [here](#). The document covers best practices on food safety, cleaning and sanitizing, employee health and personal hygiene, and social distancing. In addition, the Nebraska Restaurant Association released their own guidance and signage with “The Nebraska Restaurant Promise.” That promise is a two-way agreement between the restaurant and the patron. That document can be found [here](#).*

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.