

## STAY HOME – STAY HEALTHY – STAY CONNECTED

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

**Published:** May 15, 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

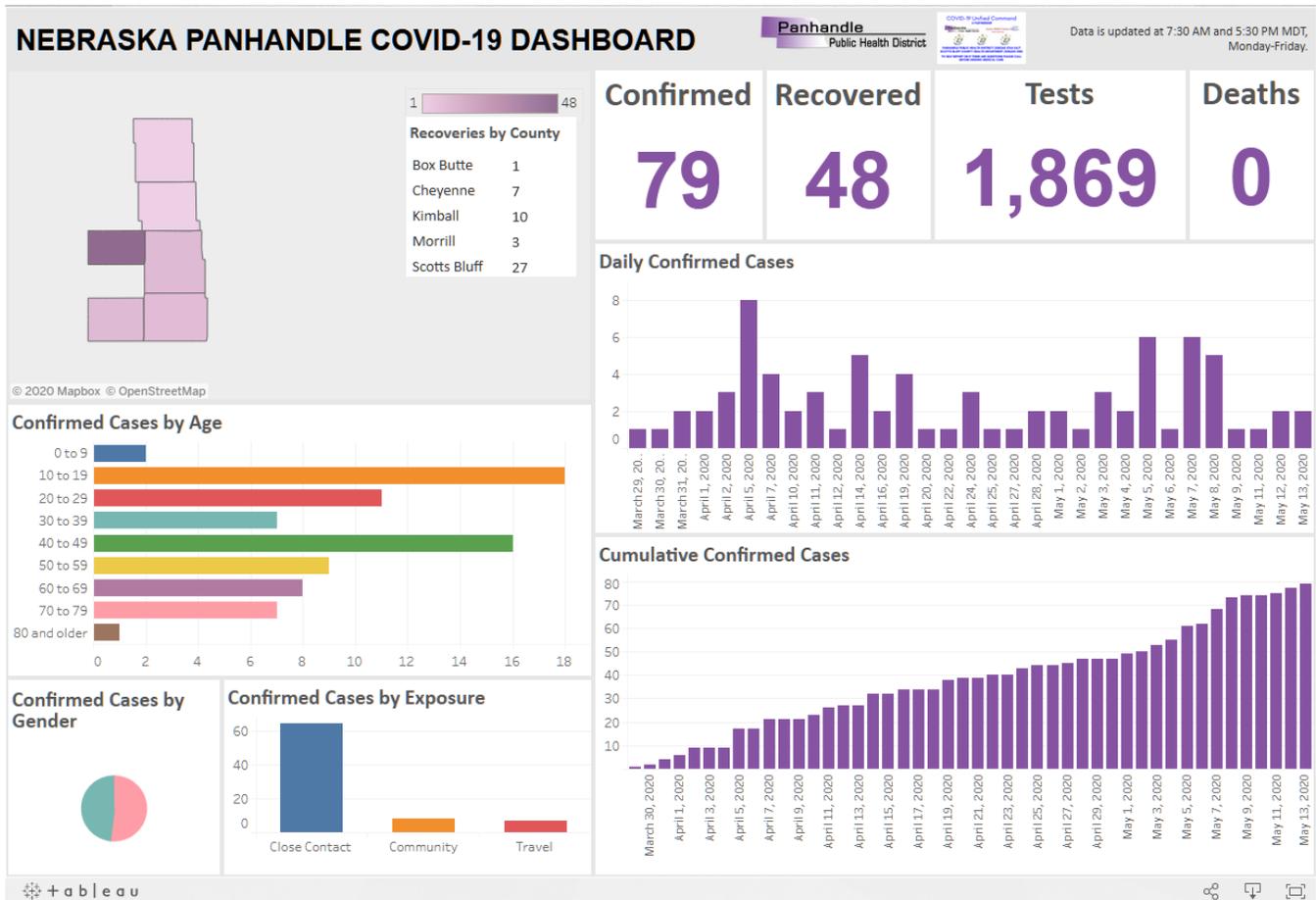
**COVID-19 Nebraska Cases:** As of 5:00 p.m., May 14, 2020. This information is updated daily and can be found by clicking [here](#).

**United States Totals**  
 Total cases 1,384,930  
 Total Deaths 83,947  
[Link to US CDC](#)

**Nebraska totals**  
 Positive tests 9,416  
 Negative tests 47,799  
 Total tested 57,315  
 Deaths 113

**Scotts Bluff Cases**  
 Positive tests 49  
 Negative tests 553  
 Total tested 602  
 Recovered 27

This dashboard is hot-linked to [pphd.org](http://pphd.org)



## Share with Region 22 Neighbors

As each county, city and village works on a plan to return to normal operations, please share your plans, ideas and questions with all other municipalities in Region 22. If you share these with me, I will make sure they are shared with the other entities. Last week, I shared a list of suggestions for reopening. I would like this report to be a way to share the reopening plans for Region 22 entities with each other. You may email any plans, suggestions, ideas or questions to [newman@scottsbluff.org](mailto:newman@scottsbluff.org). Even incomplete thoughts or plans can be helpful. This is a very unique situation and nobody can be expected to have all the answers. If all entities share what they have with each other, this can help build a clearer picture for each other and help everyone develop a better plan.

## First Lady's Comments

During the Governor's daily press conference on Wednesday, First Lady Susanne Shore spoke about the work she has been doing with Nebraska Impact on a COVID-19 Relief Fund. This is an effort to help mitigate some of the impact. It has provided refurbished laptops for children and now will be focused on emergency food supplies. Food boxes are being prepared for those communities that have been hit the hardest such as like meat-packing plant towns. You can donate to your local food bank and contribute face masks. The First Lady put out a call Nebraskans to sew and donate cloth masks. Thanks to community collaborative partners, Nebraska Impact has been successful in reducing the number the kids being removed from homes due to neglect. They work to meet family needs so children remain safe, making sure families are fed and providing information on COVID safety measures. For more information or to donate, visit [www.neimpact.org](http://www.neimpact.org).

## Hydroxychloroquine

**New Information** - A clinical trial has begun to evaluate whether the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine, given together with the antibiotic azithromycin, can prevent hospitalization and death from COVID-19. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, is sponsoring the trial. Teva Pharmaceuticals is donating medications for the study. Approximately 2,000 adults at participating sites across the United States will participate. Study participants must have confirmed infection with SARS-CoV-2, and be experiencing fever, cough and/or shortness of breath. The investigators anticipate that many of those enrolled will be 60 years of age or older or have a comorbidity associated with developing serious complications from COVID-19, such as cardiovascular disease or diabetes. Participants will be randomly assigned to receive short-term treatment with either hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin or matching placebos.

## Remdesivir

Remdesivir is a broad-spectrum antiviral medication developed by Gilead Sciences. It is being tested as a specific treatment for COVID-19, and has been authorized for emergency use in the U.S. and approved for use in Japan for people with severe symptoms. Preliminary results indicate that patients who received Remdesivir had a 31% faster time to recovery than those who received no treatment. The median time to recovery was 11 days for patients treated with Remdesivir, compared with 15 days for those who received no treatment. Results also suggested better survival, with a mortality rate of 8% for the group receiving Remdesivir, versus 11.6% for the group receiving no treatment. Nebraska has received 400 vials of Remdesivir which will be distributed to patients with severe symptoms and on ventilators. Right now, officials say they're working with the healthcare system and putting together a team to figure out how the drug vials will be distributed.

## Gering City Services

***New Information*** - Gering officials have announced a partial reopening of public access to certain offices and facilities, with most starting next week. The City encourages citizens to wear masks in any public space as well as at any City of Gering facility.

- *Gering City Administrative Offices, 1025 P Street: The City Administration building will open to the public on May 18, 2020. City business, such as discussing building permits, planning and zoning regulations, etc. will be conducted by appointment only or by calling City personnel at (308) 436-5096.*
- *Gering City Utility Office: Effective May 18, 2020, Customers may pay their utility bills at the Utility Office counter, online or by using the drop box located in the foyer of the City Administration building or at the drop box located across the street from City Hall. Questions can be directed to the Utility office at (308) 436-6800. Please note that although the Utility Office is open to the public, City personnel will not be accepting credit card payment information over the phone.*
- *Police Department: The Police Department Administration office will be open beginning Monday, May 18, 2020. Community members who have concerns about coming in are encouraged to use phone reports or online reporting.*
- *Gering Public Library: While the library is not exactly open to the public yet, at this time the public can call and request books or schedule a time to come in and browse or use the computer. Library staff can also help with copies and sending a fax. The City is keeping the number of people gathering in the library to ten and under and requesting that patrons maintain social distancing while in the building. The Library plans to go back to normal hours with these limited services on Monday, May 18, 2020. The hours are 9 AM to 7 PM, Monday through Thursday; 10 AM to 5 PM on Friday and Saturday; closed on Sunday. Citizens may call ahead or email to see how Library staff can assist them while phasing back in to reopening. The phone number to call is 308-436-7433, or email [gpl@geringlibrary.org](mailto:gpl@geringlibrary.org). Once again, patrons will be allowed in the library by appointment only.*
- *The Library is working on providing an online summer reading program with more details to follow at a later date. If anyone needs help using online services, for example figuring out how to download eBooks for a reader, or audiobooks, please give the Library a call and staff will walk through the process. For questions please call the Library at (308) 436-7433 and leave a message or email at [gpl@geringlibrary.org](mailto:gpl@geringlibrary.org).*
- *Gering Landfill: The Baler Facility will continue to be closed to walk-in traffic until further notice. All sanitation routes will continue as usual. Residential dumping will be allowed; however, residents may no longer drive into the cell. Please talk to Landfill personnel before dumping. Commercial businesses may dump between 7 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please direct questions to (308) 436-7568. The City will continue to pick up grass clippings. Recycling routes resumed May 13 with the North route; the south route will be picked up on May 20. The single stream boxes at Northfield Church and south of Fresh Foods are back in place.*
- *Parks and Recreation public spaces and Monument Shadows Golf Course are open. The Pro Shop will be closed to walk-in traffic. A service window is located on the northeast side of the Pro Shop where customers may pay green fees and make purchases. Tee-times must be scheduled by calling 635-2277; no walk-up Tee-times will be given. Currently, to follow CDC guidelines on social*

*distancing, one person per cart is required unless persons live in the same household. Monument Grill dining area is open. Call (308) 635-6868 for more information on the restaurant.*

- *Parks are open; playground equipment is closed. Per the Directed Health Measures issued by Governor Ricketts, no gatherings of more than 10 people. Parks restrooms and Civic Plaza restrooms remain closed.*
- *West Lawn Cemetery will open but by appointment only. Funerals are allowed as long as the Governor's guidelines for church and funerals are followed. For questions or to purchase a burial plot please make an appointment by calling (308) 436-6838.*
- *The Robidoux RV Park will reopen Friday, May 15th. The bathhouse will be closed but the laundry facility will remain open.*
- *Common Grounds Dog Park will remain open. The City strongly encourages the public to follow CDC recommendations for hand-washing and social distancing.*
- *Gering Civic Center and Gering Visitors Bureau: Gering Civic Center hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by appointment only by calling (308) 436-6888. The Gering Visitors Bureau will be open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. by appointment only by calling (308) 436-6886.*

### **Resources:**

To find resources from Panhandle Public Health District, click [here](#).

For Wyoming COVID-19 Information, click [here](#).

For Colorado COVID-19 Information, click [here](#).

For South Dakota COVID-19 Information, 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](#).

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.