

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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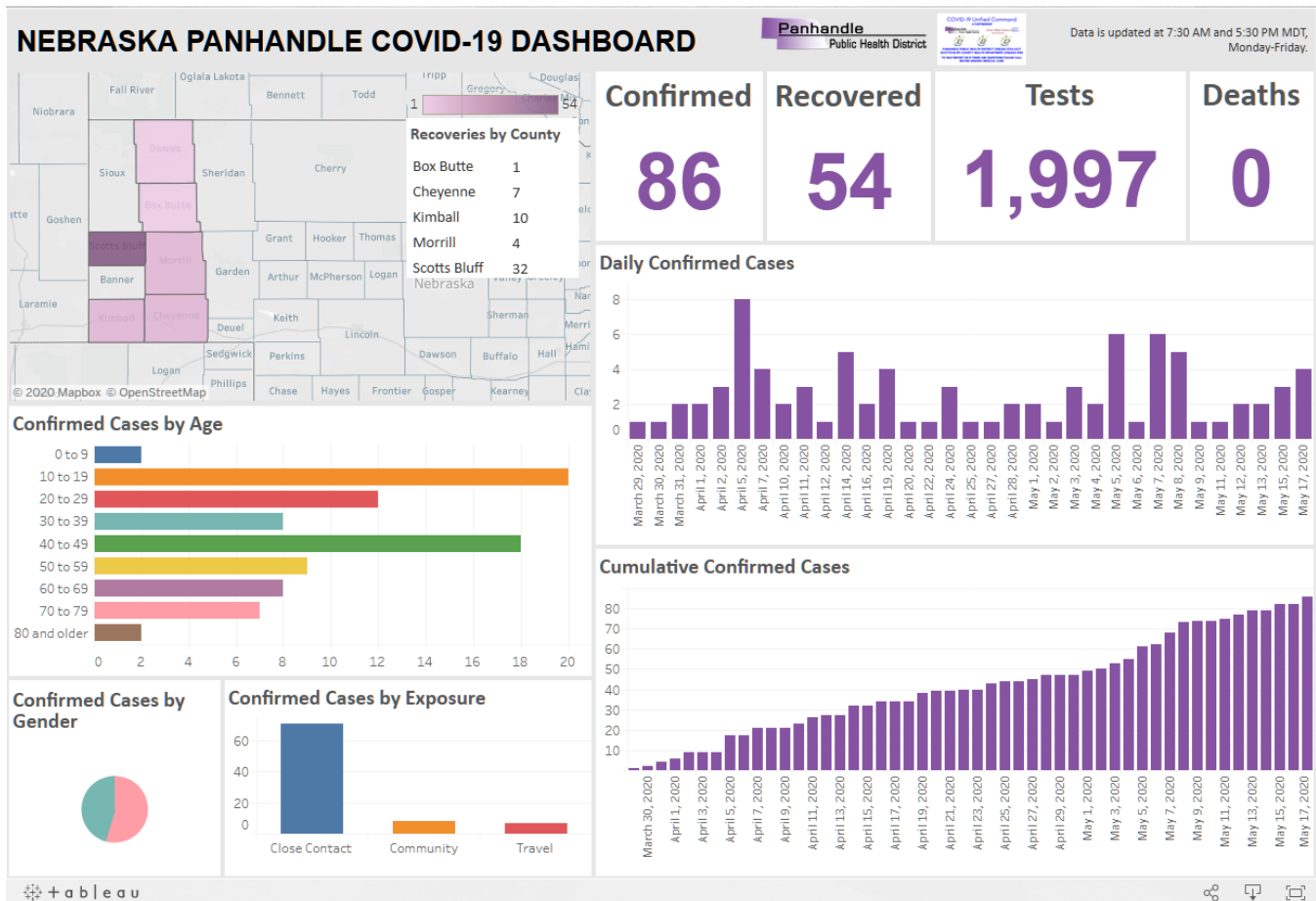
COVID-19 Nebraska Cases: As of 5:00 p.m., May 17, 2020. This information is updated daily and can be found by clicking [here](#).

United States Totals
 Total cases 1,467,065
 Total Deaths 88,709
[Link to US CDC](#)

Nebraska totals
 Positive tests 10,348
 Negative tests 57,153
 Total tested 67,649
 Deaths 123

Scotts Bluff Cases
 Positive tests 54
 Negative tests 654
 Total tested 708
 Recovered 32

This dashboard is hot-linked to pphd.org



Over the Weekend

New Information - Over the weekend, Unified Command reported four new positive cases of COVID-19. A Cheyenne County male in his 40s and three female Scotts Bluff County residents, one in her 30s, one in her 40s, and one in her 90s. All cases are close contacts of previously positive cases. There were no additional community exposure sites. All close contacts have been notified to quarantine and monitor their symptoms.

Throughout the month of May, people are reminded to respect the following to keep Nebraska healthy:

- Wear a mask when possible.
- Wash your hands frequently. Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds and sanitize when available.
- Monitor your symptoms. If you experience a cough, fever, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat, chills, muscle pain, or loss of taste or smell call your doctor, clinic, or our 24/7 line at 308-262-5764 before going.
- Socially distance in public and at work. Use the six-foot rule as much as possible.
- Only sit with people from your household when at church. Stay six feet from other households.
- Stay home. Do not take unnecessary trips outside the home. Respect the ten-person limit. Non-essential out-of-state travel is discouraged.
- Shop alone and only shop once a week. Do not take family with you.
- Help kids follow social distancing. Play at home. No group sports. And no playgrounds.
- Help seniors stay at home by shopping for them. Do not visit long-term care facilities.
- Exercise daily at home or with an appropriately socially-distanced activity.

Hydroxychloroquine

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.

Gering City Services

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. 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.
- 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.

Cases in Adjacent Counties to Region 22

New Information – *The counties that surround Region 22 are in good shape in regards to the number of positive cases and the number of recovered cases.*

- *Goshen County, Wyoming. Four (4) positive cases, all four have recovered.*
- *Laramie County, Wyoming. One hundred eighty-one (181) positive cases, 138 recovered. One death.*
- *Kimball County, Nebraska. Ten (10) positive cases, all ten have recovered.*
- *Cheyenne County, Nebraska. Ten (10) positive cases, seven have recovered.*
- *Morrill County, Nebraska. Ten (10) positive cases, four have recovered.*
- *Box Butte County, Nebraska. One (1) case, that case has recovered.*
- *Sioux County, Nebraska. No cases.*

Scotts Bluff County is at fifty-four (54) cases, with 32 recovered. Banner County has no cases.

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.