

STAY HOME – STAY HEALTHY – STAY CONNECTED

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

Published: May 4, 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:

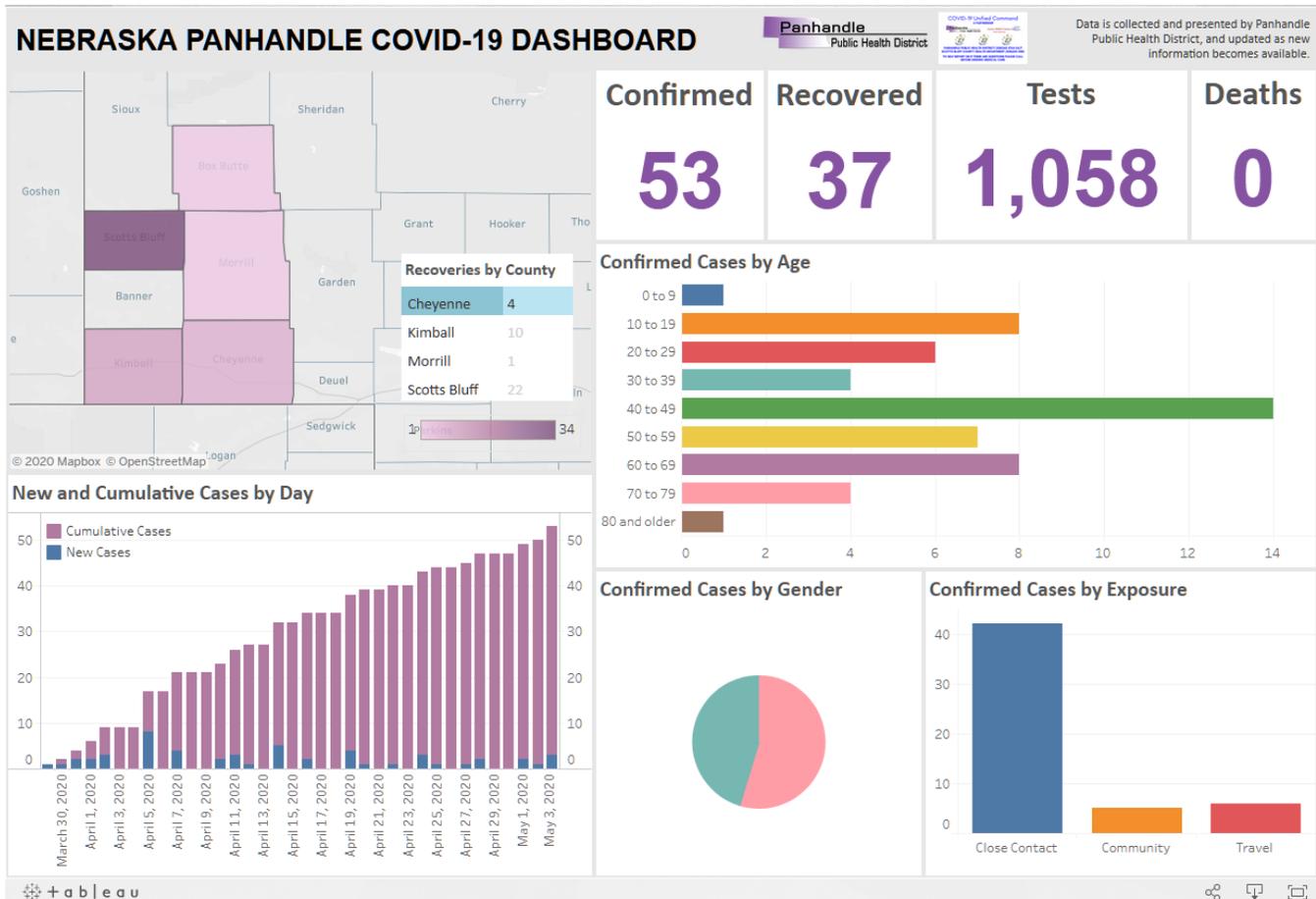
Kevin Spencer office: (308) 630-6260 cell: (308) 641-2317
Tim Newman office: (308) 436-6689 cell: (308) 765-2786

COVID-19 Nebraska Cases: As of 4:45 p.m., May 3, 2020. This information is updated daily and can be found by clicking [here](#).

United States Totals
 Total cases 1,122,486
 Total Deaths 65,735
[Link to US CDC](#)

Nebraska totals
 Positive tests 5,659
 Negative tests 27,071
 Total tested 32,798
 Deaths 78

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	1058*	392	87	189	76	72
Negative Tests	1005	358	77	182	75	71
Positive Tests	53	34	10	7	1	1
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recovered	37	22	10	4	0	1

* Does not include pending tests.

Panhandle Snapshot

New Information – In the Panhandle, the hospitals together have a total of 159 beds. Of these, 60% of all hospital beds are available. As of today, May 4th, only one COVID patient is hospitalized. Out of a total of 29 ventilators in the Panhandle, only two are in use today. None of these are being used by a COVID patient. This snapshot shows that in the Panhandle, there is plenty of capacity within the healthcare system. Many people have been concerned that relaxing the directed health measures would cause a spike in cases. The goal of public health has always been to keep the spike in cases from outstripping the healthcare resources. These statistics will be used to see if the rise in cases threatens to do that.

New Directed Health Measure goes into effect TODAY

Governor Ricketts has issued a separate Directed Health Measures (DHM) for each health district. Panhandle Public Health District's DHM goes into effect today, May 4th. The new DHM has been published and can be read in its entirety [here](#).

- 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 can be found [here](#).
- **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. Both workers and patrons will be required to wear masks. An expanded guidance document can be found [here](#).
- **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. An expanded guidance document can be found [here](#).
- **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.

- **Organized Team Sports**, youth and adult, including but not limited to club sports are hereby suspended.
- **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.

Antibody Testing and What It Means

A blood test to check for COVID-19 antibodies is not providing the clarity it was hoped for. The accuracy and reliability of many of these tests is in question. The presence of antibodies usually indicates some level of immunity. However, the lack of research on this very new virus means there is no reliable information on “how much” immunity a person has. Are they immune for a week? A month? A year? Forever? There is no way to know at this time. As research continues and testing is perfected, these answers will come. But the recommendation is that once a person recovers from COVID, they should act as if they could get it again.

Mild COVID is Still Harsh

***New Information** – Eighty percent of all COVID patients have mild to moderate symptoms. But even those mild to moderate cases can take a toll on one’s body. A person can be contagious 48 hours before they even have symptoms. On average, every person who has COVID will spread it to three others. If a person is 70 years old or older, their chances of dying from COVID goes from 3% to 8%.*

Celeste Morrison, a 37-year-old web developer who lives 60 miles north of Seattle, started to feel run down the evening of Monday, March 2. First came the cough and extreme fatigue. Then her temperature rose to 99.7°F. Nothing too worrisome, so she decided to just work from home for a few days. Morrison said her lungs started to “feel weird” a few days later. Later that week, Morrison’s lips, fingers, and toes were tinged blue. She headed to the local emergency room. Morrison tested negative for the flu, but her X-rays pointed to pneumonia. A nurse said they’d run a COVID-19 test, the results of which would be available in 24 to 48 hours. In the days that followed, Morrison’s fever bounced from 97.1°F to 102.8°F. Her symptoms worsened. She still hadn’t received her coronavirus test results, so she visited a local clinic doing drive-thru COVID-19 testing on people with respiratory symptoms. The clinic looked at Morrison’s medical records and found the ER never ordered the COVID-19 test. They swabbed her nose, and 2 days later the test results came back: She had COVID-19. Morrison quarantined herself in the bedroom and slept through most days. The virus completely wiped her out, zapping away her energy for 12 days.

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.