

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., May 4, 2020. This information is updated daily and can be found by clicking [here](#).

United States Totals

Total cases 1,152,372

Total Deaths 67,456

[Link to US CDC](#)

Nebraska totals

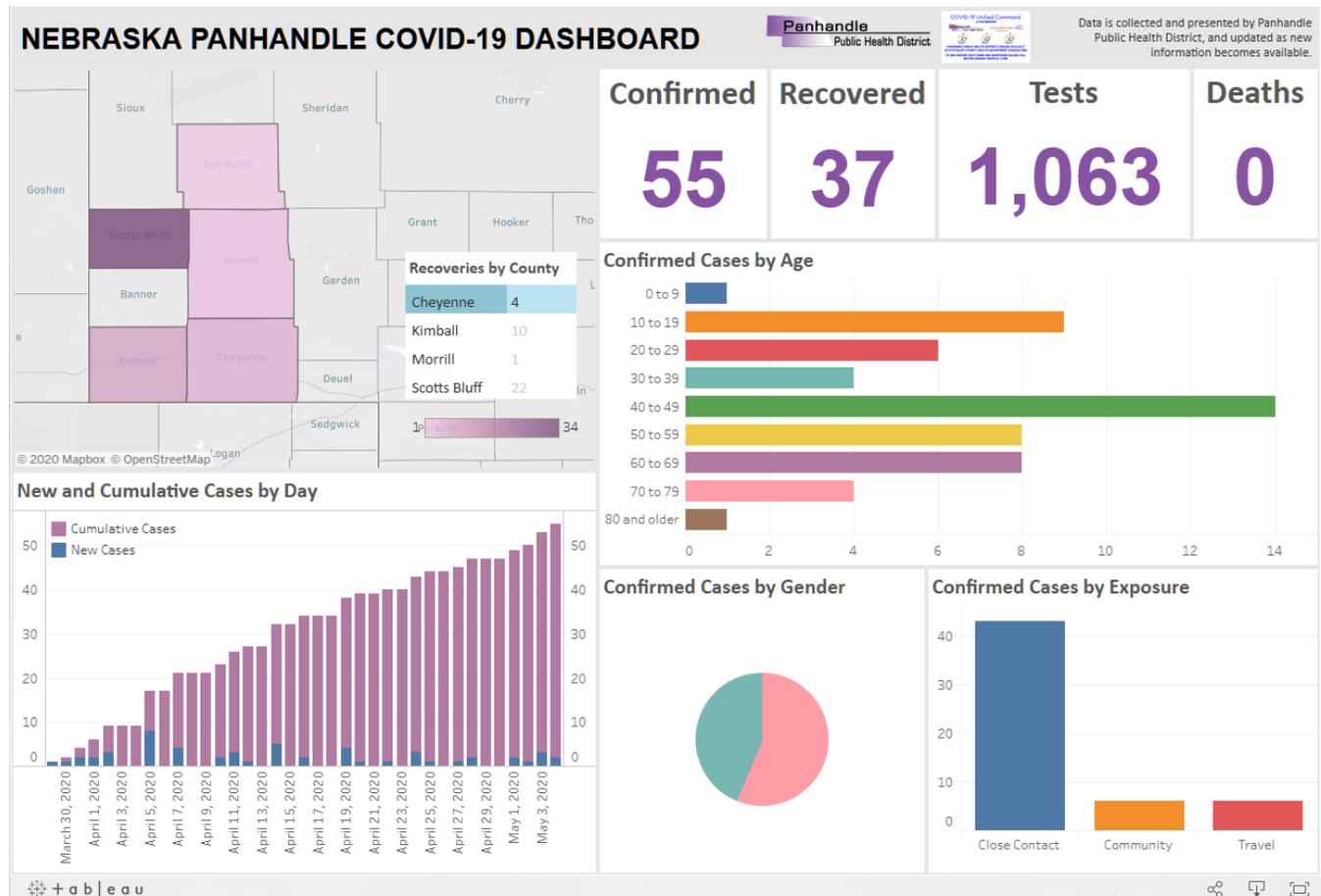
Positive tests 6,083

Negative tests 28,526

Total tested 34,675

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	1063*	392	87	190	76	74
Negative Tests	1008	358	77	183	75	71
Positive Tests	55	34	10	7	1	3
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recovered	37	22	10	4	0	1

* Does not include pending tests.

Panhandle Snapshot

In the Panhandle, the hospitals together have a total of 159 beds available. This is 60% of all hospital beds. As of 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.

Suggested Steps to Take for Safe Reopening of Government Offices

New Information – *These are some items to consider when making the decision to reopen local governmental offices. Many of these suggestions were taken from an article by Marsh Risk Consulting but several are local suggestions from Region 22 Emergency Management.*

1. *Adopt rigorous cleaning procedures for public and employee areas.*
2. *Minimize “Touch Points”, where surfaces are repeatedly touched by different people.*
3. *Change the filter on HVAC units more often.*
4. *Use masks when in close contact with the public or other employees.*
5. *If an employee is sick, do not let them report for work. Be flexible with sick leave to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.*
6. *Monitor employees and the public with short questionnaires about symptoms.*
7. *Discourage sharing of office equipment and supplies.*
8. *Communal office equipment such as copy machines, fax machines and postage machines should be cleaned often. Encourage employees to use hand sanitizer before and after each use.*
9. *Post signs around the offices to encourage social distancing and hand hygiene.*
10. *Consider changing door keypads to a touchless solution such as proximity cards.*
11. *Consider shift schedules that allow for more social distancing that still allows a full-time work week.*
12. *Consider breakroom policies that minimize the number of employees in the room. Encourage employees to disinfect surfaces when they leave the break area.*
13. *Continue to allow work from home to the extent possible.*
14. *Continue to encourage the public to do business by phone or online as much as possible.*
15. *Encourage employees to maintain their distance from others. Do not visit the office space of others unless necessary for work. Do not ride share or carpool. Employees assigned a vehicle should not allow others to ride in the same vehicle.*

16. *Install sneeze guards in locations that do not already have some sort of barrier. Install sanitizer dispensers near entry/exit doors with signage to encourage use.*
17. *Upon the resumption of normal supply levels, stockpile enough PPE and other items for normal operations without resupply for three months.*
18. *Enhance the IT systems to provide for heavy online use in the future.*
19. *Be flexible. Unexpected issues will arise. Be able to adapt.*
20. *Promote your Employee Assistance Program. Many employees have been under lots of stress and this will continue. Encourage them to talk to someone.*

Mild COVID is Still Harsh

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.