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 5, 2020. This information is updated daily and can be found by clicking here.

United States Totals
Total cases   1,171,510
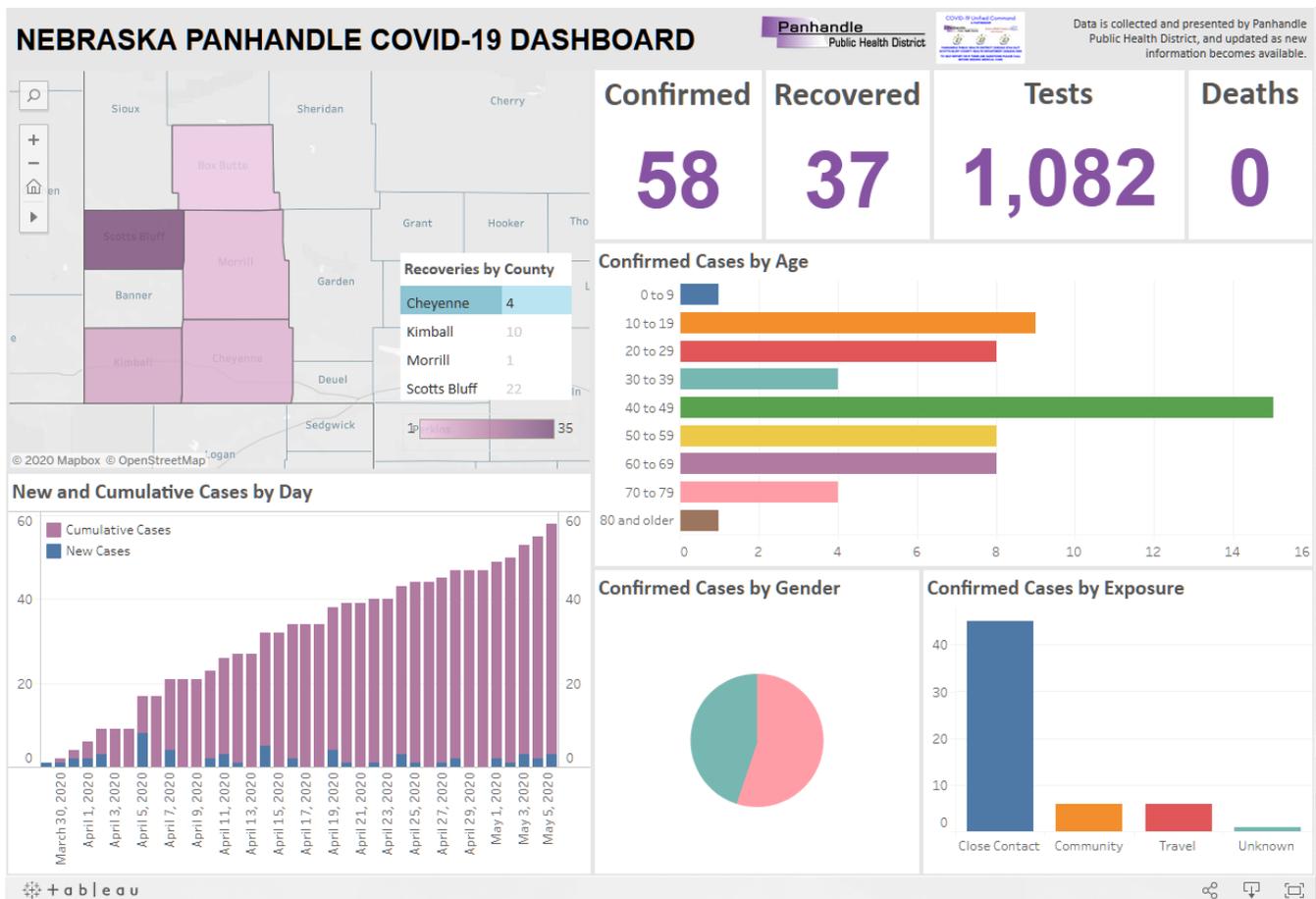Total Deaths   68,279
Link to US CDC

Nebraska totals
Positive tests   6,438
Negative tests 29,690
Total tested   36,194
Deaths   82

This dashboard is hot-linked to pphd.org

Panhandle Cases:

County	Panhandle	Scotts Bluff	Kimball	Cheyenne	Box Butte	Morrill
Total Tests	1082*	400	87	192	77	76
Negative Tests	1024	365	77	185	76	71
Positive Tests	58	35	10	7	1	5
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recovered	37	22	10	4	0	1

* Does not include pending tests.

Suggested Steps to Take for Safe Reopening of Government Offices

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.

The Difference between Quarantine and Isolation

New Information – Many people are confused about the definitions of quarantine and isolation. Here are differences and what to do if you are asked to quarantine or isolate at home.

Quarantine *means the separation of a person or group of people reasonably believed to have been exposed to a communicable disease but not yet symptomatic, from others who have not been so exposed, to prevent the possible spread of the communicable disease. People are put in quarantine when they are not currently sick, but have been exposed or possibly exposed to a communicable disease. This can help stop the spread of the disease. Originally, a quarantine was for forty days. The origin of the word comes from Italy and is derived from the Italian word "quaranta" which means forty.*

Isolation *is the separation of a person or group of people known or reasonably believed to be infected with a communicable disease and potentially infectious from those who are not infected to prevent spread of the communicable disease. Isolation for public health purposes may be voluntary or compelled by federal, state, or local public health order. Isolation happens when a person is infected with a communicable disease, and is separated from people who are healthy. This also helps stop the spread of the disease. Think of isolation as solitary confinement, not as a punishment, but as a prevention tool to keep those around them from being infected. Isolation is usually much shorter in duration.*

During quarantine or isolation, a person should do the following:
- *Stay Home – Do not go to work, school, or other public places.*
- *Monitor Symptoms – Watch for symptoms of COVID-19 and check temperature twice daily.*
- *Call Healthcare Provider – If one needs to go to a doctor, call them ahead of time so they can prepare, to prevent infecting persons in the waiting room, or the healthcare provider themselves.*
- *For Medical Emergencies – Make sure to let the 911 dispatcher know of any symptoms.*
- *Cover your cough and sneezes – COVID is spread through respiratory droplets, but can be transferred from surfaces if someone coughs or sneezes onto a surface, then another person touches the surface and touches their mouth or nose.*
- *Wash your hands often – Wash hands for 20 seconds each time. Use soap. Use hand sanitizer when washing is not possible.*
- *Stay away from other people as much as possible – This is especially true of those who are sick and need to isolate.*
- *Avoid sharing personal items – Don't drink from another's cup, eat off their plate or share towels.*
- *Clean all surfaces – Clean any place that is touched often such as countertops, doorknobs, etc.*

Resources:

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.