



Important Update Regarding COVID-19

Date: August 3rd , 2020

Time: 4:00 pm CST

Agenda

- ❖ **Welcome from the Commissioner**
- ❖ Initial Comments from the Governor
- ❖ Process & Partners for Safely Returning to Schools
- ❖ Comments and Thoughts from the LHDs
- ❖ ESU Updates
- ❖ NDE Highlights

Return to School Plan-Guiding Principles

- **Transparent.** We will share what we know and what we don't know. We will be clear about what we can control and what is outside of our control.
- **Equitable.** We will center decisions on what is best for all students, families, and educators, especially those most impacted by educational inequities and COVID-19.
- **Listen.** We will bring together diverse stakeholders and experts to a) understand the realities on the ground and b) surface creative solutions.
- **Safety first.** We will leverage science, data, and public health leadership to inform the choices we make.
- **Decisive.** Given the size and scope of the challenge, we must move deliberately and make tough choices. We will make mistakes, and we will adapt quickly as variables on the ground change.



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Initial Comments from Governor

Coronavirus COVID-19 Nebraska Cases by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Total Positive Cases

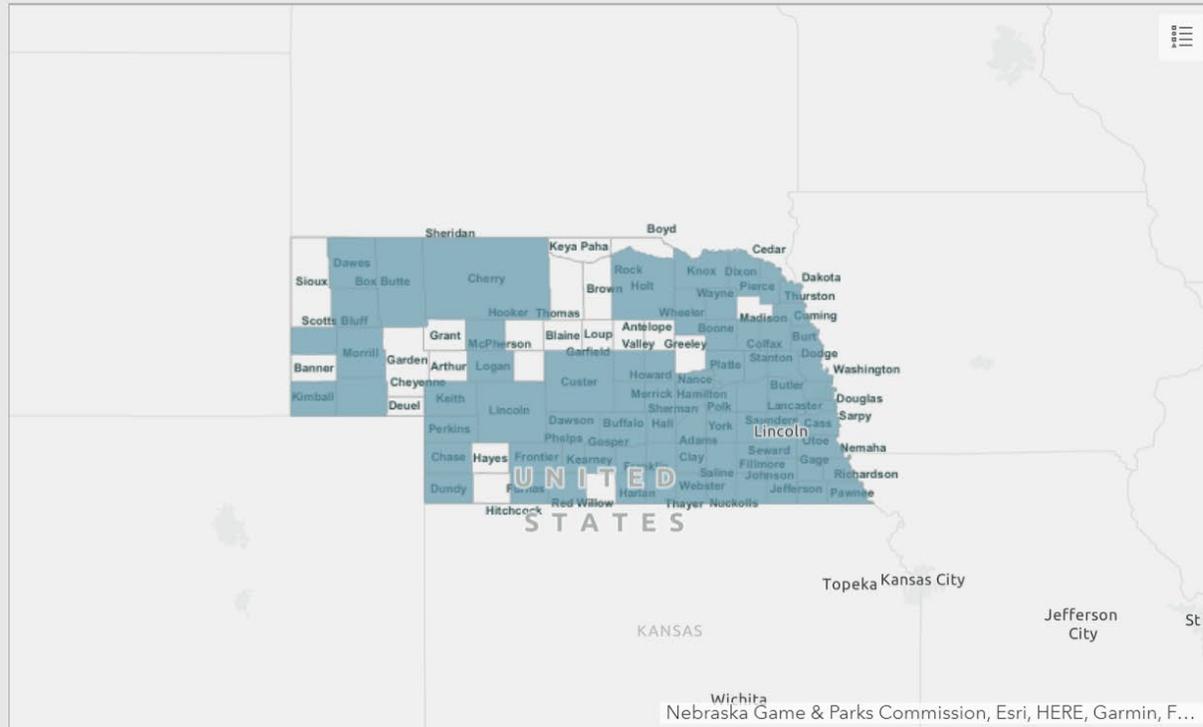
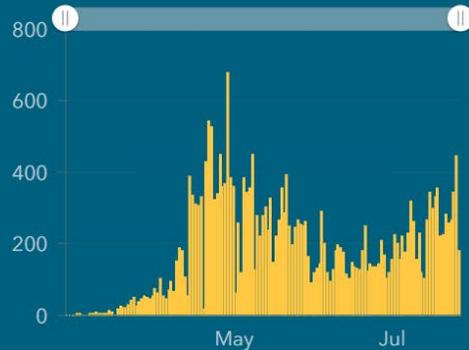
26,391

Total Tested
277,526

Tested: Not Detected
250,852
*Does not include inconclusive results

Deaths
332

New positive cases by date results were received



Number of positive tests by county in the last 14 days

- 1,785 Douglas
- 651 Lancaster
- 511 Sarpy
- 102 Buffalo
- 66 Hall
- 63 Dawson
- 53 Platte
- 47 Cass
- 42 Dodge
- 39 Seward
- 39 Scotts Bluff
- 34 Dakota
- 30 Lincoln
- 29 Washington
- 28 Saunders
- 26 Madison

Last Updated: 8/1/2020, 6:10:00 PM CDT

Last 14 Day Positive Cases

Contact Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/coronavirus>

Information Line: (402) 552-6645

Data are representative of Nebraska residents, are provisional and data reported by the local health department should be considered the most up-to-date.

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

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Leveled Guidance



Green	Yellow	Orange	Red
Minimal Spread	Minimal to Moderate	Moderate	Significant
"New Normal"	Enhanced Mitigation Strategies	Reduce Number of Students in Building	Remote Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced screening At home screening procedures Planning for responding to positive cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face coverings when feasible* Physical distancing Limited gatherings and reduced size Planning for responding to positive cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considerations of alternative scheduling to reduce number of students in building Pivot to hybrid model of instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools return to remote learning environment Extracurricular activities and athletics discontinue

Roles and Responsibilities for Safely Reopening Schools

- Local Health Department (LHD)
- Local School District / School Authority for Non- Public
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Education
- UNMC and other consulting partners

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Local Health Departments Roles

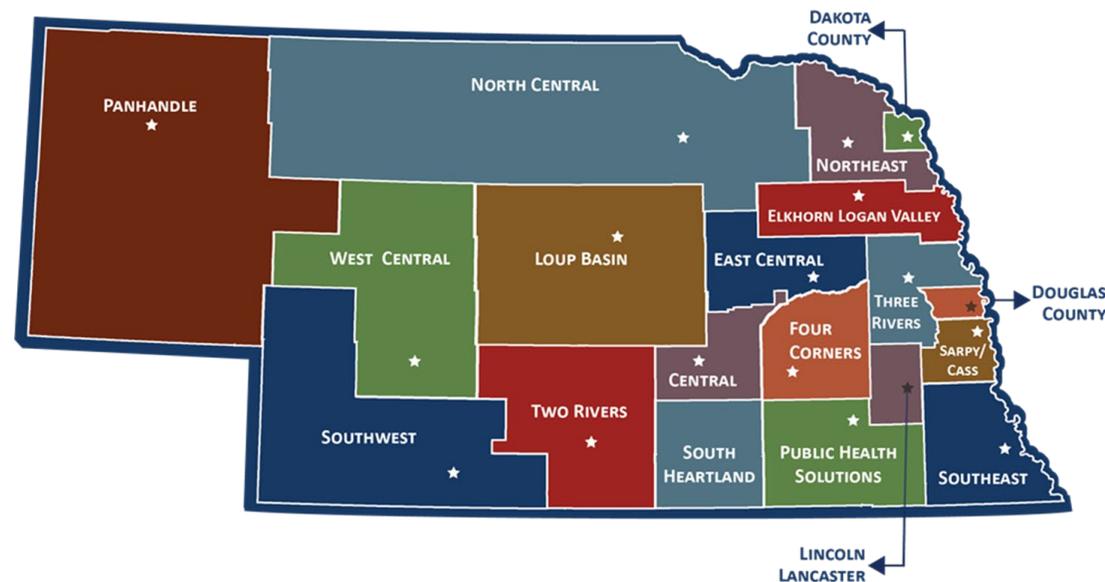


COVID-19 RESPONSE

Working with Schools

Below are shared core principles that local health departments (LHDs) in Nebraska consider when making recommendations and advising our local schools about how to safely reopen and stay open during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- LHDs statewide are monitoring and evaluating public health data related to COVID-19 in our local jurisdictions daily.
- LHDs want Nebraska schools to open and stay open. We recognize the unique nature of schools and the education system's role in the economic and mental wellbeing of children and adults.
- LHDs work closely with our local schools and ESUs to develop reasonable plans for social distancing and masking in school facilities to reduce the spread of COVID-19. These plans need to be locally-responsive and aim to create school environments that will minimize the impact on the school community and the student learning experience when students or staff test positive for COVID-19. **Key recommendations that these plans will include** when community spread is occurring include:
 - All staff and students wear cloth face coverings over their nose and mouth whenever possible.
 - General physical distancing of 6 feet between individuals whenever possible.
 - Frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing.
- When a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed in a school, that individual will be excluded and allowed to return based upon current guidance from CDC at the time. LHDs will work with schools to consider the following questions when determining how that case will impact others in their classroom and/or school building.
 - What is the level of community spread outside the school building?
 - Was the individual with COVID-19 wearing a mask most of the time?
 - Were other students and staff who were within 6 feet of the individual with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes masked?
 - Was the individual with COVID-19 part of a cohort within the building or did they interact with a large number of students and staff throughout their day?
 - To what extent is the school community implementing other non-pharmaceutical interventions (hand washing, hand sanitizers, etc.)?
- The answers to these questions will determine 1) the number of close contacts, 2) if the close contacts who are not symptomatic may stay in the classroom, and 3) the number of other students and staff who will need to be quarantined.



Joined by Susan Bockrath, Executives Director of Nebraska Association Local Health Directors

Local Health Departments Approach to COVID-19 Cases in Schools

Local Health Departments (LHDs) consider the latest scientific evidence when approaching any public health issue—including case investigations related to COVID-19.

LHDs continue to monitor the fast-emerging science about how COVID-19 is spread and contained. We also consider applicable plans and guidance of valued experts in our state and nationally. Finally, all of our case investigations take the specifics of every situation into account.

In a K-12 school setting, when everyone has been appropriately wearing a mask or face covering over their nose and mouth *and* practicing physical distancing, it is less likely that a whole class will need to quarantine and be excluded from in-person school activities.

Local Health Departments Approach to COVID-19 Cases in Schools

- Risk Level Discussions
- Understanding guidance on opening

Joined by

Michele Bever: South Heartland DHD

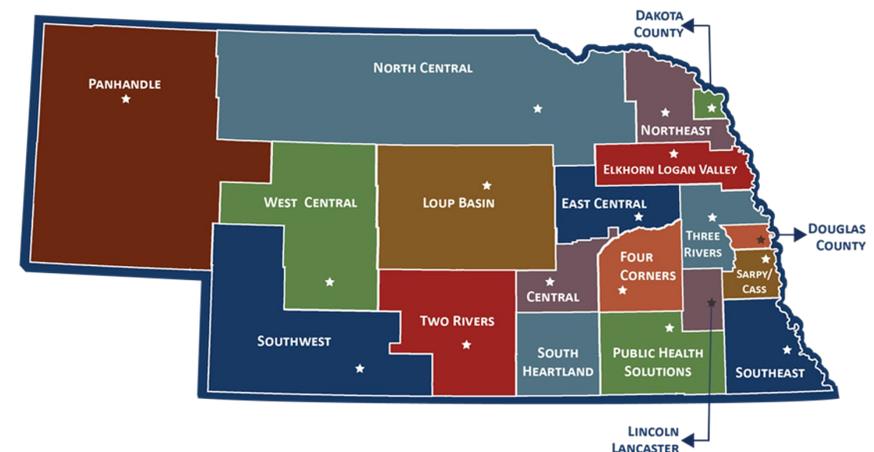
Myra Stoney: Southwest Nebraska PHD

Jeremy Eschliman: Two Rivers PH

Kim Showalter: Public Health Solution

Kim Engle: Panhandle PHD

Teresa Anderson: Central District HD



Agenda

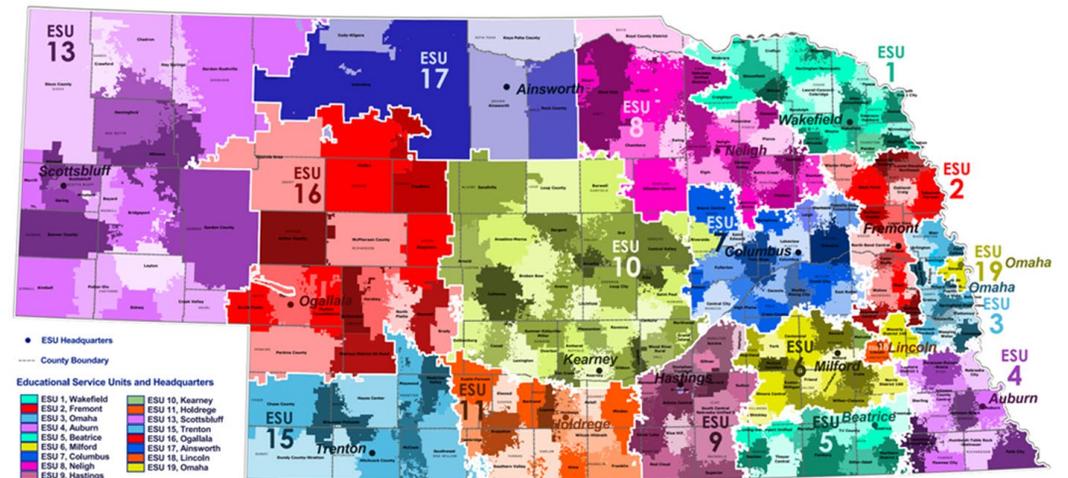
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ESU Update

- Update regarding PPE
Joined by Mr. Craig Peterson



2017-18 Nebraska Public School Districts and Nebraska Educational Service Units



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NDE Highlights



Coming Soon:

- CTE Compendium
- Fine Arts Compendium

[Early Childhood Guidance and Considerations \(7/24/20\)](#)

[Student Attendance: Flexibilities and Opportunities for the Fall \(7/23/20\)](#)

[Human Capital Considerations: Flexibilities and Opportunities for the Fall \(7/23/20\)](#)

[Planning a Safe Return to School in Nebraska \(7/20/20\)](#)

[School Re-entry Process: Scenario Planning \(7/15/20\)](#)

[Learning Guidance for Students with Disabilities \(6/8/20\)](#)

NDE Highlights

❖ Student Attendance and Human Capital Considerations-NDE regulations

Joined by Brian Halstead

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Student Attendance: Flexibilities and Opportunities for the Fall

The mission of the Nebraska Department of Education is to lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living. As Nebraska schools begin the complicated transition into the fall, it is critical to address considerations for student and attendance in the fall. *The purpose of this document is to outline questions encountered and highlight flexibilities and opportunities.*

Foundational

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Human Capital Considerations: Flexibilities and Opportunities for the Fall

The mission of the Nebraska Department of Education is to lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living. As Nebraska schools begin the complicated transition into the fall, it is critical to address many human capital considerations. *The purpose of this document is to outline questions encountered and to highlight flexibilities and opportunities.*

Foundational Values:

- **Equity** - We must ensure our students, especially those who have been historically underserved, maintain access to high quality teaching.
- **Quality** - While flexibility and innovation must be pursued, we must not back down from our standards for quality.
- **Flexibility** - We must pursue flexibilities in regulations and innovations to ensure students have access to high quality teaching.
- **Safety** - Learning cannot occur if the school community does not feel safe in their environment.
- **Decisive** - Given the size and scope of the challenge, we must move deliberately and make tough choices. We will make mistakes, and we will adapt quickly as variables on the ground change.

Where do we even start?

- The [Launch NE](#) Operations Section offers a process to engage multiple stakeholders in scenario planning.
 - Given the fluctuation of the pandemic, we are asking schools to prepare for [three scenarios](#):
 - In-person learning - teachers and students physically in schools
 - Remote learning - teachers and students not in school buildings
 - Hybrid learning - a mix of in-person and remote learning
 - Through scenario planning, schools are able to determine the staffing needs to meet student learning needs.
- Utilize the newly-revised [Nebraska Teacher and Principal Performance Standards](#) as the foundation for educational decisions.

What professional learning should I consider for my staff?

- Rule 10 [Section 007.07](#) requires 10 hours of Professional Development per year. Schools may consider their professional learning hours being used to address instructional delivery changes and models of teaching being used specifically during the 2020-21 school year and COVID context. There are no limitations per Rule 10 regarding the use of virtual professional development.

NDE Highlights

❖ NE P-EBT Project Update

Joined by Sharon Davis

Sharon.I.davis@Nebraska.gov

- Total number of students who received benefits: 81,480
- Unmatched FRL students: 1,628
- Requests to verify FRL eligibility

Wrap- UP

- As always, visit the www.education.ne.gov/publichealth page for additional information.
- Staff at the NDE are working to address key FAQs and other topics as we know them.
- Please continue to submit your questions to <https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/contact/>



Thank you!