

City of Fremont Update

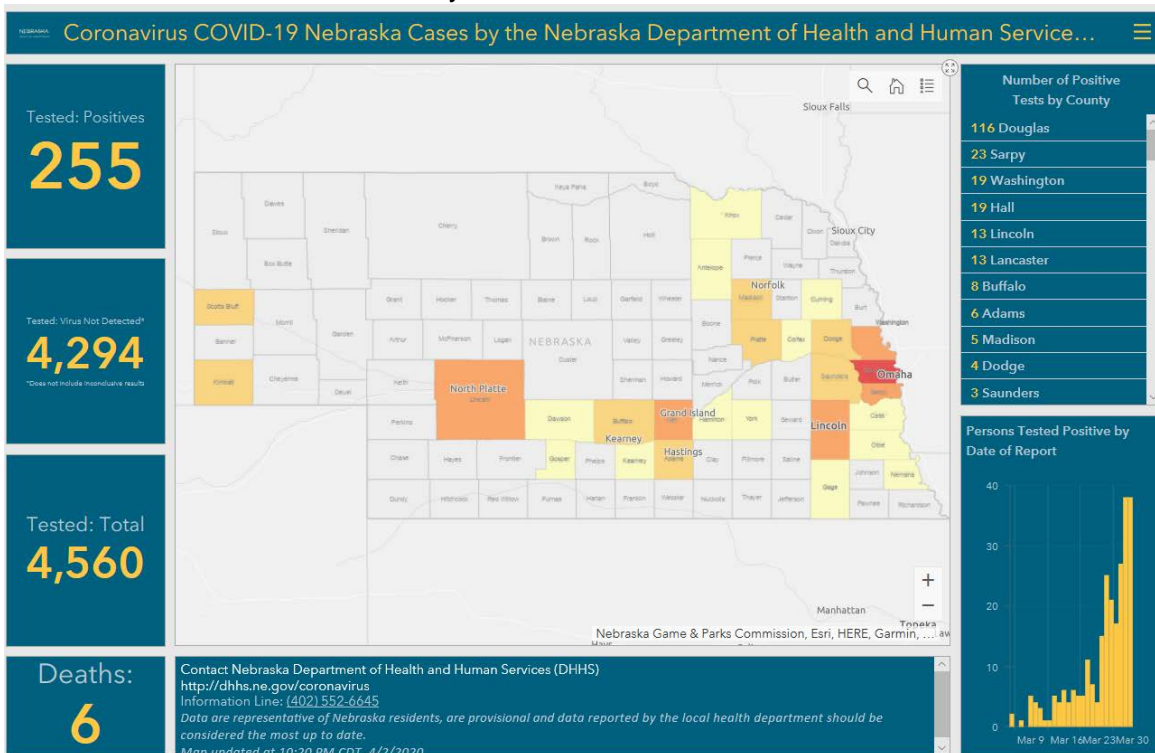
Date: April 3, 2020

To: City Employees/ City Boards/ Mayor & City Council

COVID-19

This week Governor Ricketts extended the statewide social distancing restrictions through April 30 and many more counties to the directed health measure. That brings the count to 56 or 60% of Nebraska's 93 Counties are under a directed health measure.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) launched a new data dashboard that provides daily updates to the state's COVID-19 case totals. You can find it at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/coronavirus>. Below is a view of the DHHS data dashboard showing Nebraska's case information as of today.



The City remains under a Level 2 Yellow condition (see chart below) where City services are relatively unchanged.

Level	Definition
1. Green	Delivery of Services are normal, with minimal staffing impacts.
2. Yellow	Minimal impact to delivery of services.
3. Orange	Delivery of services are impacted and many of the non-essential services will be temporarily discontinued.
4. Red	Only essential services are maintained with minimum staff.

As of today, there are 1,039,166 confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide. That is up 560,518, which again is more than double from last week. Total worldwide deaths from the COVID-19 virus are 55,092; again more than double from the 22,030 deaths last week.

The U.S. has 245,646 confirmed COVID-19 cases, which is now the highest in the world and 3.5 times more than last week. The total number of deaths in the U.S. from the virus is 6,069 or

There is no job so important and no service so urgent that we cannot take the time to do the work safely!

six times more than last week. The Johns Hopkins website for the Coronavirus Resource Center is <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>.

Care and Share Program

With so many of Fremont's residents out of work because their employer has been shut down or placed under severe operating restrictions, helping people pay their utility bills is now more important than ever. The City of Fremont in cooperation with the Fremont Area Coalition, has a voluntary program called Care & Share to help those needing assistance paying their utility bill. Anyone wanting to help can make a one-time donation or may make ongoing donations by simply adding a dollar or two to their monthly utility bill.

Please call our office at 402-727-2600 to make a donation or to find out more information about the program. A Care & Share signup form can also be found on our website (www.fremontne.gov) under Residents, Utilities, Products & Services, and Care & Share. Now is a good time to sign up and help people who are affected by the economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Census Field Operations on Hold

Based on continuing assessments of guidance from Federal, State and local health authorities, the Census Bureau is suspending 2020 Census field operations for two additional weeks to April 15, 2020. The Census Bureau is taking this step to help protect the health and safety of the American public, Census Bureau employees, and everyone who will go through the hiring process for temporary census taker positions.

Real ID Deadline Pushed Back

In 2005, in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, Congress passed the Real ID law to tighten national standards for driver's licenses and identifications cards. The goal of the ID card is provide documentation of a person's identity, residency, and legal status in the U.S. Currently, about two-thirds of the 276 million Americans with driver's licenses lack a Real ID compliant card. The deadline for states to comply with the Federal directive has now been pushed back until October 1, 2020.

Nebraska driver's licenses ARE already Real ID compliant. That means Federal agencies can accept Nebraska driver's licenses and identification cards at Federal facilities.

Nebraska Public Service Commission Ban on Natural Gas Disconnections

The Nebraska Public Service Commission, who oversees natural gas safety and delivery in the state, has temporarily placed a ban on the disconnection of natural gas service to residential customers for non-payment. The ban is in place until June 1, 2020 or until modified by the commission.

Like other utilities, the City will not disconnect residential accounts for non-payment of utility services during these difficult times. Even though a delinquent account will not be disconnected, customers are still be responsible to pay their bill. Customers wanting help are encouraged to call us to make payment arrangements rather than waiting until the COVID-19 pandemic subsides and they find themselves with a sizable outstanding balance.

Lawmakers Improvising to Keep Government Running

Although many of the nation's legislatures have adjourned or cancelled sessions, others are improvising to keep a safe distance from one another. In Arkansas, lawmakers convened inside a basketball arena, Ohio legislators voted from separate rooms, New York senators passed a resolution to vote by electronic means, and Wisconsin legislators prepared to hold sessions over Skype. A Wisconsin official said they are showing the public that no matter what comes their way, the government is going to keep running.

There is no job so important and no service so urgent that we cannot take the time to do the work safely!