

City of Fremont Update

Date: April 17, 2020

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

COVID-19

The Governor issued an Executive Order on April 7 suspending certain state laws to enable dispatchers statewide to inform first responders when they are being sent to the address of a person with COVID-19. Emergency 911 dispatchers are now asking the caller if they or anyone in the home is quarantined with the virus, so the information can be passed on to the fire and police personnel.

On April 9, the Governor issued a Directed Health Measure requiring all beauty/nail salons, barbershops, massage therapy services, gentlemen's clubs, bottle clubs, indoor movie theatres, indoor theatres, and tattoo parlors/studios across the state to close until April 30, 2020. In addition, all organized team sports, youth and adult, including but not limited to club sports, are suspended until May 31, 2020.

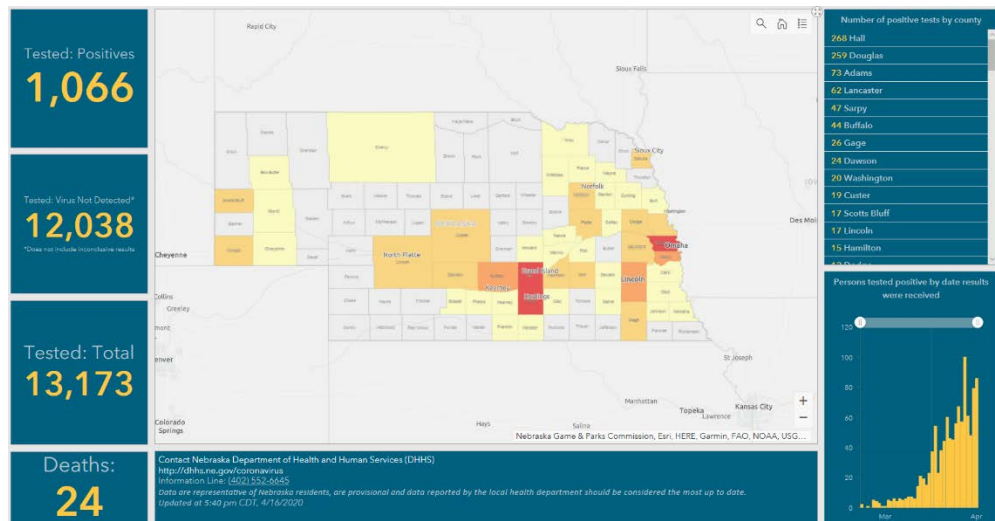
Governor Ricketts also announced regulatory changes to allow restaurants to sell packaged foods to consumers. This include such things as loaves of bread, cartons of eggs, meat, milk, toilet paper, paper towels, and disinfectants. These items may not be labeled for retail sale.

The City received a little more than \$24,000 from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of the initial \$30 billion in relief under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act recently passed by Congress and signed by President Trump. Although HHS has not said what the payment is for, we believe it relates to the ambulance billings we make under Medicare. Until we know for sure, we are recording the money as a federal grant award for the City's Fire Department.

Below is today's view of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services data dashboard (<http://dhhs.ne.gov/coronavirus>) showing Nebraska's case information.

Hall County now has the highest number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 268, followed by Douglas County with 259. Dodge County has 13 cases or the fourteenth highest number of cases in the state.

The U.S. has 671,425 confirmed COVID-19 cases, which is 205,000 more cases than last week and we remain the highest in the world. Spain remains at number two with 184,948 cases and then Italy with 168,941. The total number of deaths in the U.S. from the virus is 33,286. The Johns Hopkins website for the Coronavirus Resource Center is <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>.



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

National Lineworker Appreciation Day – April 13, 2020

As we deal with the new realities of COVID-19, it is important to say thank you to the heroes who work every day to keep the power on. Monday was National Lineworker Appreciation Day, so please take a moment to thank a City lineworker for a job well done!



National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week – April 12-18, 2020

Please join me in thanking our City/County 911 Dispatchers for the job they do every day and wish them a “Happy National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.” The dispatchers play a key role in the City’s COVID-19 Essential Service Plan and are part of our first response team. Thanks to these men and women, we can rest assured that a professional will answer our call for help and that help will come.



Effects of COVID-19 Expected to Take a Hit on City Receipts

The novel coronavirus is having an impact on Fremont businesses and that impact will certainly affect the City too. We estimate a decline in City receipts of almost \$1 million from the economic downturn related to the virus. Here is how we arrived at that number:

- \$100,000 reduction in Food & Bev and Lodging tax (estimated at 20%) from the impact on restaurants in Fremont.
- \$275,000 reduction in sales tax receipts (around a 5% decline) from people staying at home and many businesses shutting down.
- \$175,000 reduction in gas tax (10% decrease) because people are staying home and not traveling.
- \$375,000 reduction in KENO receipts (90% decrease) because bars and restaurants offering KENO are closed or only offering takeout or delivery services.



We do not expect to see a decline in property taxes revenues, but may see a delay in getting the funds.

The City playground that has been tapped off from public use, in the picture shown above, is a good example of the impact that the virus is having on the public and to the City. Let’s hope and pray it is short lived.

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