

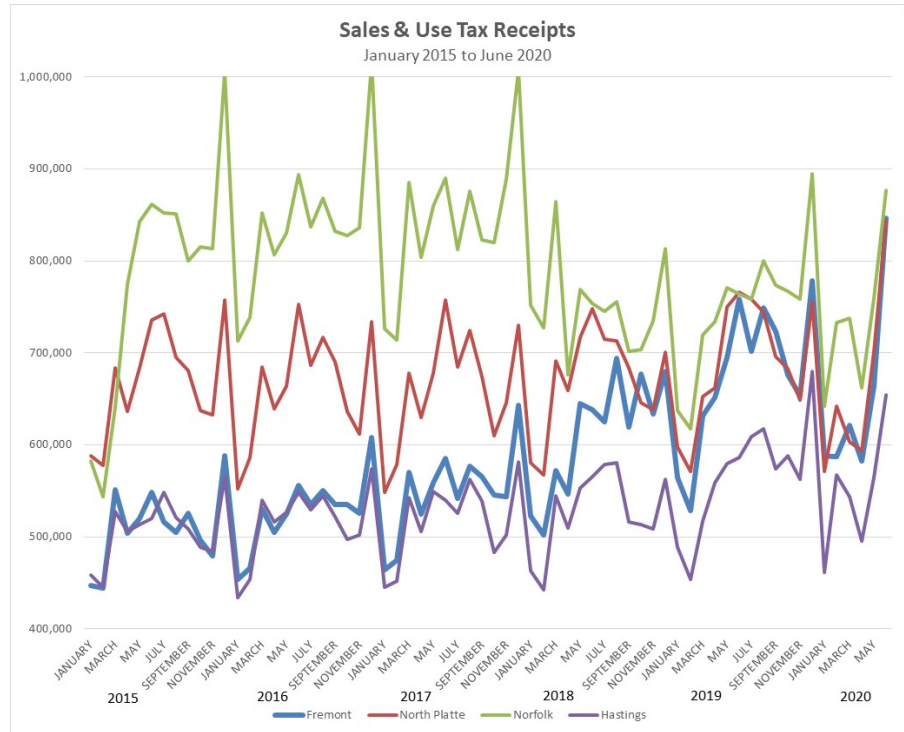
City of Fremont Update

Date: September 4, 2020

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

Fremont's Economy Soaring

After the Fremont Area Chamber released June's Economic Indicators, I thought it would be interesting to see how Fremont's sales and use tax receipts compares to other cities our size. The graph on the right compares sales and use tax receipts from Fremont, North Platte, Norfolk, and Hastings. From this data, let's look at a couple of different comparisons that show the strength of Fremont's economy.



First let's start with a comparison from June 2015 to June 2020. Here we see Fremont's overall receipts have risen 154%, North Platte's receipts have grown by 115%, Norfolk's receipts increased by 102%, and Hastings grew by 126%. Fremont's sales and use tax receipts grew from \$548,279 in June 2015 to \$846,860 in June 2020. In fact, this June, Fremont's overall receipts were only \$30,000 less than Norfolk's tax receipts, while in June of 2015, Fremont's receipts were \$312,953 less than Norfolk's sales tax receipts.

Next, let's look at growth in the second quarter (April to June) between Fremont and the three communities. Fremont's receipts grew 145%, North Platte's grew by 142%, and Norfolk and Hastings receipts grew by 132%. All four communities experienced very similar growth during the first few months of the pandemic.

Next, let's look at the growth in receipts in the past year. In June 2019, Fremont's receipts were \$758,257. This June's receipts were \$846,860, a growth of 112%. During the same time period, North Platte and Norfolk's receipts grew 115%, and Hastings grew the most at 126%.

Finally, let's look at the growth in sales and use tax receipts over the past month. Here Fremont's receipts grew 128% (\$663,400 to \$846,860); North Platte's receipts increased by 120%; Norfolk's grew by 115%; and Hastings receipts grew by 116%.

Sales and use tax receipts are a good indicator of a community's economy and from data shown above, Fremont's economy is not only strong, but growing quite rapidly when compared to several communities our size.

If you would like to look at Fremont's data, as well as other city's data, the information can be found on the Nebraska Department of Revenue's website. Here is the link to the data:

<https://revenue.nebraska.gov/research/statistics/local-government-data>. In addition to sales and use tax data, the website also contains information on certified populations, estimated municipal aid, and lodging taxes remitted to counties.

Why Do Some People Get Infected by Coronavirus but Don't Get Sick?

One of the reasons Covid-19 has spread so swiftly around the globe is that for the first days after infection, people feel healthy. Instead of staying home in bed, they may be out and about, unknowingly passing the virus along. But in addition to these pre-symptomatic patients, the relentless silent spread of this pandemic is also facilitated by a more mysterious group of people: the so-called asymptomatics.



According to various estimates, between 20 and 45 percent of the people who get Covid-19—and possibly more, sail through a coronavirus infection without realizing they ever had it. No fever or chills. No loss of smell or taste. No breathing difficulties. They don't feel a thing.

Asymptomatic cases are not unique to Covid-19. They occur with the regular flu, and probably also featured in the 1918 pandemic. But scientists aren't sure *why* certain people weather Covid-19 unscathed. The prevailing theory is that their immune systems fight off the virus so efficiently that they never get sick. But some scientists are confident that the immune system's aggressive response, the churning out of antibodies and other molecules to eliminate an infection, is only part of the story.

These experts are learning that the human body may not always wage an all-out war on viruses and other pathogens. It may also be capable of accommodating an infection, sometimes so seamlessly that no symptoms emerge. This phenomenon, known as disease tolerance, is well-known in plants but has only been documented in animals within the last 15 years. Researchers view asymptomatic infections as evidence that disease tolerance occurs in humans. At least 90 percent of those infected with the tuberculosis bacterium don't get sick. The same is true for many of the 1.5 billion of people globally who live with parasitic worms called helminths in their intestines. Despite the fact that these worms are very large organisms and they basically migrate through your tissues and cause damage, many people are asymptomatic. They don't even know they're infected. And so, then the question becomes, what does the body do to tolerate these types of invasive infections?

Much is still unknown about why there is such a wide range of responses to Covid-19, from asymptomatic to mildly sick to out-of-commission for weeks at home to full-on organ failure. Experts believe disease tolerance may at least partially explain why some infected people have mild symptoms or none at all. This may be because they are better at scavenging toxic byproducts or replenishing their lung tissues at faster rates.

News in Numbers: \$600 million is the amount that the state of Michigan will pay to more than 25,000 victims of the Flint water crisis. The settlement stipulates that nearly 80 percent of the funds would go to children exposed to the contaminated water, amounting to \$45,000 per child.

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