

City of Fremont Update

Date: September 18, 2020

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

State Moves to Phase IV Reopening Guidelines

Starting Monday, all Nebraska Counties are in Phase IV of the State's Reopening Plan through October 31, 2020. That means bars, restaurants, childcare, churches, gyms, fitness centers and clubs, health clubs and spas, salons, barber shops, massage therapy, tattoo and body art parlors, weddings and funeral receptions, and sporting events are no longer under the Directed Health Measures (DHM). Instead, people are encouraged to voluntarily use the DHM guidelines.

Only gatherings remain under a DHM restriction; however, gathering restrictions have relaxed too. Indoor gatherings are now limited to 75% of rated occupancy, up from 50%.

According to the latest Risk Dial (shown above) from Three Rivers Public Health Department, all three counties remain in the moderate risk category.

Michigan Mulls Eliminating License Plate Registration Tags

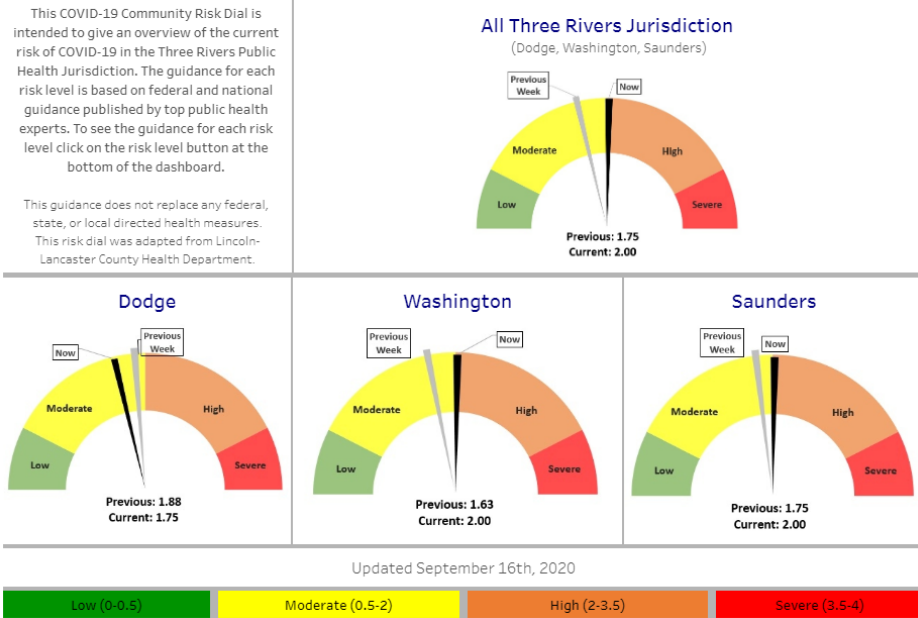
Michigan could be the next state to get rid of license plate registration stickers under proposed legislation that would save around \$500,000 per year. The bill, introduced last fall, would change the state's vehicle code to eliminate stickers on license plates that indicate when a car's registration expires. It would also do away with a requirement that drivers carry a physical copy of their car's registration, instead requiring law enforcement officers to verify registration information manually.

The policy is projected to save the state roughly \$500,000 per year by eliminating costs needed to produce and mail vehicle registration tabs to drivers and reduce wait times at branches of the Secretary of State, where almost two-thirds of people in line are seeking to renew their car registrations.

Connecticut ditched registration stickers in 2010 for an estimated annual savings of around \$800,000, and Pennsylvania, which did away with them in 2017, saves around \$3.1 million each year, with \$2 million coming from mailing and postage costs alone. (Pennsylvania and Michigan, the analysis notes, have a comparable number of registered drivers.)



Three Rivers Public Health Department COVID-19 Community Risk Dial and Guidance



Twin Digesters

The second egg-shaped digester is nearing completion at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, east of Fremont on Morningside Road. The second digester was needed as part of plant expansion to meet the new State required ammonia standards.

Like the first digester, the new digester's tank is made of steel and covered with insulation and a protective coating. The benefits of being egg-shaped are threefold; it has a large volume, sits on a small foot-print, and has a uniform mixing pattern.



So...what does a digester do and how does it work? A digester breaks down organic, biodegradable waste material, or in our case, it breaks down sewage sludge. The process is called anaerobic digestion where microorganisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen. Biproducts of anaerobic digestion is biogas (methane, carbon dioxide, and other trace gases) and digestate. The biogas will be treated and sold as clean renewable natural gas and the digestate is ran through a centrifuge to remove excess water before being mixed with wood chips and grass clippings and composted. The resulting compost is then land-applied as biosolid soil conditioner and fertilizer.

New Canopy at Friendship Center Complete

The picture on the right is the new canopy built over the Friendship Center Entryway at the Christensen Field House. Although slightly smaller than the canopy at the main entrance at Christensen, the canopy is large enough to provide shelter from the weather for seniors getting dropped off at the Friendship Center.



R&D Construction of Fremont constructed the canopy at a cost of \$62,300. The funds to pay for the canopy are part of a re-purposed Community Development Block Grant.

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