



To Protect, Promote and Prioritize the Health of Our Entire
Community

For Immediate Release: October 29, 2020

Plan Ahead for Safe Voting

For those of you who are planning to vote in person on Tuesday, the Douglas County Health Department (DCJHD) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are suggesting a few basic precautions to reduce the likelihood of spreading COVID-19.

- Please wear a mask.
- You can bring your own items if you like. That includes a pen and hand sanitizer. Polling places in Douglas County are prepared with new pens for everyone, hand sanitizer and wipes.
- If you use public transportation, open windows if you can and wear mask.
- While waiting in line to vote, keep your distance from others, even if the other people are wearing masks.
- Avoid touching anything you don't need to while in the polling place.

On another matter, TestNebraska is opening a new site in Douglas County at the Metropolitan Community College Fort Omaha Campus. The operation is set to begin on Saturday, and testing will be offered Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.

On Thursday, October 29, DCHD reported 296 new cases of COVID-19 that were received over the past day, ending at midnight. This makes 22,365 total cases in Douglas County since the outbreak began in March. Over the past 14 days we have had 149 cases reported in schools, including 90 staff and 59 students. Schools report 174 staff and students are in quarantine with 448 self-monitoring.

The Health Department received five new death certificates during the past day related to COVID-19. We sadly have lost three men, one in his 60s and two men more than 80 years old, and two women, both over 70 years of age. The number of deaths in the county connected to the pandemic has increased to 231. DCHD has confirmed 15,251 county residents have recovered from the illness.

As of this morning, metro area hospitals had 221 medical and surgical beds available for an 85% occupancy rate with 59 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds available for an 81% occupancy rate. There were 231 individuals hospitalized who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, 91 of whom are receiving adult ICU level care. There are also 50 more persons of interest (generally waiting for test results). Twenty-four individuals who were confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 were on ventilators.

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